

Jean Baptiste Paul Henry (“Henri-Paul”) PINOT DE MOIRA

1786 - 1855

*Soldier, cloth manufacturer, print shop proprietor,
commissaire de police, tax collector.
Resident of Saint-Junien, Montauban,
Rouen, Manneville-la-Goupil & Breauté*



AND HIS WIFE

Marie Jeanne Felicité (“Féliés”) DE VILESTIVAUD DE LAPEYROUSE

1789 - 1864

Four-Times-Great-Grandparents to G D Audcent

ID number: 111165

The Early Life of Jean Baptiste Paul Henry PINOT DE MOIRA: He was born in the town of Saint-Junien in the Limousin (Haute-Vienne), on 30 August 1786, the son of Paul PINOT (alias PINOT DE MOIRA) (*entrepouseur des tabacs* at Saint-Junien, and former military engineer in South America) and his wife Marguerite ESTIENNE DE LA RIVIERE.¹ He was baptised the same day in the eglise de Notre-Dame-du-Moutier, at Saint Junien, by Canon Regent ESTIENNE DE LA RIVIERE with permission of the parish priest. For godparents he had Sieur Jean Baptiste SENEMAUD, *entrepouseur des tabacs* (at Bellac, this would be his uncle-by-marriage), who was represented by Joseph PINOT, and Marguerite POUILLOT, wife of Sieur PINOT DE LAULERIE.

He was baptised with the names of ‘*Jean Baptiste Paul Henry*’ although he was known to his family as ‘*Henri Paul*’.² His surname, according to his acte de baptême, was ‘PINOT’ - but he often added the particule “DE MOIRA”, such in 1825 when he was referred to as “*Sieur Pinot de Moira*”.³

The family were of bourgeois status but fiercely loyal to the King. Henri-Paul was born during the final years of the Ancien Regime, and despite his tender age he can scarcely have been untouched by the terrible events of the French Revolution - his father wrote to Louis XVI in 1790 expressing counter-revolutionary sentiments; one of his uncles was a physician to a brother of Louis XVI at the start of the revolution; another uncle was imprisoned by the National Assembly as a counter-revolutionary and then murdered by a mob in 1792 ; and one of his cousins (who later also became a brother-law) was injured fighting with the émigré armies. With such antecedents it is hardly surprising that the PINOT DE MOIRA family continued to support the BOURBON cause until the 1870s.

¹ Evidence for his parentage is (a) the record of his baptism (b) his acte de mariage and (c) his death registration, each of which name both his parents.

² He is referred to as “Henri-Paul Pinot de Moira” in various records (see AD-SM 2 T 5/Pinot), as well as in the marriage acts for his daughter in 1835 and son in 1845, at the birth of his granddaughter in 1836, and in the papers submitted by his nephew Paul François Pinot de Moira in 1874 (in connection with the reconstitution of birth registers at Paris (after the original registers were destroyed in 1871): Archives de Paris).

³ In a letter to the Mayor of Rouen, dated 15 May 1825, Archives Départementales de la Seine-Martime, at Rouen, reference 4M/29.

Henri-Paul's military service in Germany 1806-7

Henri-Paul himself claimed to have served as a commissioned officer in the French Imperial Army, but no records to corroborate his claim can be found in the French military archives despite several searches. The only evidence comes from subsequent documents, as well as a portrait of him in uniform.⁴

In 1831, when applying for a printing licence, Henri-Paul described himself as a former officer in the military engineers of Napoleon's grand army - "*ancien officier du Génie militaire a la grande armee*".⁵ In his son's *acte de mariage* (of 1846) and in his own *acte de deces* (1855) he was described as an "*ancien officier du Génie*." *La grande armee* was the name given to Napoleon's principal French army, starting with the campaigns of 1805 and 1807 where it gained considerable prestige.

A portrait, believed to be a self-portrait, also exists which depicts him in an officer's uniform (with spurs, sword and epaulettes) and the insignia of the corps of engineers on his shako (hat). He is shown standing on a hill above the town of Stralsund with a plan of the town in his hand.⁶ Attached to the back of the painting were found a number of handwritten notes, written by his granddaughter (Marguerite) reiterating details of his military career as far as she understood them.⁷ His granddaughter's notes provide further information on his army service: that he had been a staff officer (*officier d'état-major*) and had entered Berlin the same day as Napoleon - this was took place on 21 October 1806 following Napoleon's famous victory at the Battle of Jena. She also understood that her grandfather had been assigned responsibility for preparing a plan of the town of Stralsund after its captured by the French in August 1807, hence him being depicted with a plan of the town in his hand.⁸

However, any military career was relatively short since in 1810 he was described in his *acte de mariage* as a cloth manufacturer ("*fabriquant de draps*").

It is strange that there is no reference to any military service or rank in his *acte de mariage*, and equally strange that no mention of him as a commissioned officer has been found in the military archives. The mystery deepened following an analysis of the portrait carried out

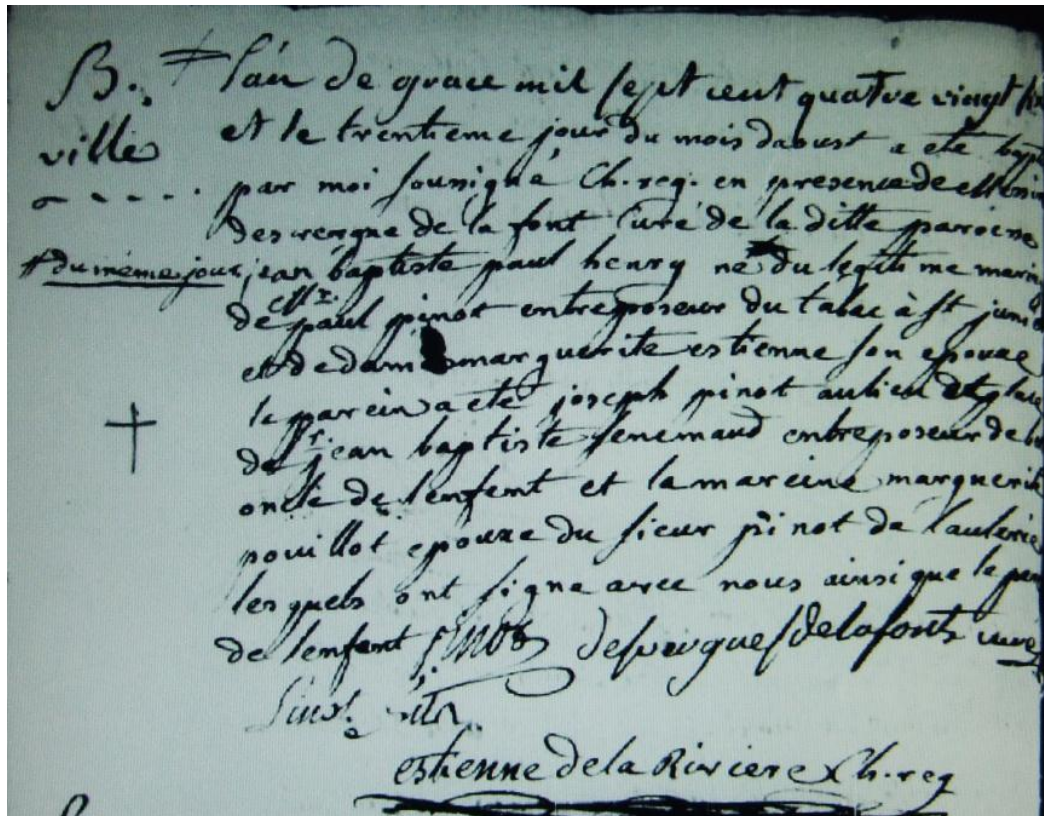
⁴ The Directeur of the Centre de Documentation et de Recherches (Alain Fougeray) at the Ecole Supérieure et d'Application du Génie, was unable to uncover any record of his military service following when researching an article for the journal 'Vauban, la lettre du génie'.

⁵ Archives Départementales de la Seine Maritime, ref SM 2 T 5/Pinot (1831).

⁶ The painting is discussed in journal 'Vauban, la lettre du génie', No 6 2008, December 2007/January 2008 (publication of the Ecole supérieure et d'application du Génie), which contains an article by Alain Fougeray entitled 'A propos d'un portrait inédit...Le siege de Stralsund'. page 86-87.

⁷ The oil painting is now in the possession of David B Audcent, who found several pieces of paper attached to the rear of the painting with the following notes: (a) "*Notre grandpere etait officier d'Etat-Major. Il entra, avec Napoleon dans Berlin le 21 Octobre 1806 apres la bataille d'Jena*" Signed by Marguerite Pinot de Moira, (b) "*Il tient a la main le plan de Stralsund, prise par les Francais en 1807. Ce plan avait fait par lui.*" Signed M. P de M, (c) a newspaper cutting which reads "*1806. NAPOLEON, emperor of the French, made his public entry into Berlin, the capital of the King of Prussia's dominions in Germany,*" with additional handwritten comments "*Le 27 Octobre*" and "*Mon grand-pere Jean Baptiste Pinot de Moira y est entre le meme jour*" and (d) two tiny scraps of paper which placed together read: "*P Pinot ... Moira*" and below "*...d, en ... peint par lui-mem...*", which appears to indicate that he painted the portrait himself. Indeed, when the painting was cleaned, the vestiges of Henri-Paul's signature were discovered in the bottom right hand corner, confirming that the painting was indeed a self-portrait.

⁸ The French operations along the Baltic coast - part of northern Germany (then known as Swedish Pomerania) during 1806/7 were important in consolidating the French occupation of Germany, but were overshadowed by Napoleon's 1807 campaign in Eastern Europe. The Hanseatic town of Stralsund was captured by French forces under Marshals Brune and Mortier, on 20 August 1807, following a siege supervised by General Chasseloup-Laubat, a highly regarded engineers officer.



**Baptism of Jean Baptiste Paul Henry PINOT DE MOIRA
 in the eglise de Notre-Dame-du-Moutier, at Saint Junien on 30 August 1786**



Napoleon's triumphant entry into Berlin on 21 October 1806

It was believed by the family that Henri-Paul arrived in the Prussian capital
 on the same day

Painting by Charles Meynier (1810) in the collection of the National Museum of the Palaces of Versailles and the Trianon



A portrait of Henri-Paul (believed by the family to be a self-portrait) showing him as an officer in Napoleon's Grande Armée, at Stralsund, Germany, in 1807

In his hand he is holding a plan of the town which he had prepared. It is not known when the painting was produced. It is today in the possession of David Audcent

by military historians at Ecole Supérieure et d'Application du Génie, which concluded that it was not a faithful depiction of an engineering officer's uniform of the date claimed, 1807.

One must suppose that Henri-Paul had some military experience since without a knowledge of the military lifestyle and the German campaign it would have been difficult to pass himself off an ex-soldier later in life. The available evidence together with the gaps in the historical record would suggest that Henri-Paul, on a balance of probabilities, served as an ordinary soldier or young subaltern in Germany during 1806 and 1807 (he would have been around twenty years old), and that his subsequent claims to have been a commissioned officer in the engineers were merely a convenient exaggeration for social or professional purposes (since most of his fellow commissaries de police would have been former army officers). However, this requires further research.

The Early Life of Marie Jeanne Félicité de Vilestivaud de Lapeyrouse

The Early Life of Félicité DE VILESTIVAUD DE LAPEYROUSE: She was born in *la Cité* quarter of Limoges on 4 June 1789, the daughter of Monsieur Louis Joseph 'Alexis' DE VILESTIVAUD DE RUFFIER (*bourgeois and conseiller aux colonies*) and his wife dame Louise Simone MAURY DE LAPEYROUSE.⁹ She was called 'Félicité' and 'Féliés' by her family.¹⁰

At the time the family resided in rue Sainte-Affre, behind Limoges cathedral, and she was baptised in the parish church, the eglise de St-Julien-et-St-Affre, on 10 June 1789. Her godfather was her great-uncle Mr Gabriel DE VILESTIVAUD, Sieur du Breuil, resident of St Vaury, who was represented by Gabriel DE VILESTIVAUD (her uncle). Her godmother was her aunt, dame Marie Jeanne DE VILESTIVAUD, resident of Grand-Bourg and wife of Mr Estienne LAVAUD, Sieur de Condat, who was represented by Catherine Alexandrine DE VILESTIVAUD (sister). Her parents had only recently settled in Limoges. Although her father was from a bourgeois family with strong connections to Limoges, he had spent twenty years in the Caribbean, whilst her mother was a 'creole' (a West Indian of European descent) whose aristocratic forebears had from 1632 played a prominent role in the colonisation of the New World.

The year of Félicité's birth witnessed the start of the French Revolution. Whilst her future husband was born into a staunchly royalist and counter-revolutionary family, Félicité was born in a household holding extreme republican views. Despite her mother's nobility, her father joined the local Jacobin Club at Limoges and became a revolutionary leader in the city during the Reign of Terror. Her father also became a city magistrate and later a district judge. By 1802 the family moved closer to the commercial heart of Limoges, and were living in rue Croix-Neuve (*section de la Liberté*). Rue Croix-Neuve now forms the stretch of rue Adrien Dubouché running between its junctions with rue Monte-à-Regret and rue Turgot.

During the 1790s Félicité also spent time at Veyrac, a small village around 14 kilometres west of Limoges, where her father purchased the Abbaye de Boeuil and converted it into a *maison de champagne*.

Félicité had just turned thirteen when she suffered the death of father in 1802. Following a family council, her mother was awarded legal guardianship, and Félicité continued to live with her mother in rue Croix-Neuve until marrying in 1810.

⁹ Evidence for her parentage is (a) her death registration which names which her parents, (b) an original act of guardianship in respect of her and her siblings which identifies her date and place (la Cité de la ville de Limoges) of birth in the margin notes, in possession of Geoffrey D Audcent, and (c) her acte de mariage and contrat de mariage.

¹⁰ Her brother, Alexis, referred to her as 'Féliés' in a letter dated 12 March 1846 to her son Henri. The letter is now in the possession of Geoffrey Audcent.



Views of Limoges in 2010

(Left - rue Sainte-Affre, the street in which Felicité was born in 1789.

Above - the section of rue Adrien Dubouché that was formerly known as rue Croix-Neuve, where Felicité lived from at least 1802 until her marriage in 1810.)



Views of the town of Saint-Junien, beside the River Vienne

(Left: Faubourg Saler at the junction of Place de la Bascule (today renamed Place Joseph Lasvergnas), and rue Defaye. Below: Bridge over the River Vienne)



Early years of married life in Saint-Junien

The Married Life of Henri-Paul and Felicité: The couple were married at Limoges on 17 December 1810, following a contract signed before GUERIN-LESE, a notaire of Limoges, on 2 December.¹¹ The marriage was probably celebrated in church at Limoges or Saint Junien, but the record has not yet been found. However, there are two interesting points to note about the wedding:

- the couple were half-first-cousins-one-removed: the groom being the grandson of Jean Baptiste ESTIENNE DE LA RIVIERE, bourgeois of Limoges (by his second wife), and the bride being the great-granddaughter of the same man (by his first wife).
- the father of the groom and the late-father father of the bride had been very much on opposite sides of the barricades during the Revolution, but seventeen years later such political differences appear to have been long forgotten; and

Felicité received the sum of 10,000 francs under the terms of the marriage contract - made up of 4,000 francs as an inheritance from her late-father and a further 6,000 francs as an advance of the future inheritance from her mother. The marriage contract also made provision for Henri-Paul to receive his father's house in the Saler neighbourhood of Saint-Junien ("*faubourg saler*"). In return he undertook to look after his elderly father, allowing him exclusive use of the ground-floor rooms and taking care of his cleaning, laundry, heating, lighting and meals. In addition to the house and garden, Henri-Paul was given the contents of the property, which were valued at 2,600 francs.

The family home was of generous size and was well furnished, containing six or more beds including one for a domestic servant. The ground-floor included a kitchen, cellar, salon, small study, and two other rooms, with additional rooms upstairs. Faubourg Saler is a neighbourhood on the western side of Saint-Junien, stretching from Place de la Bascule (today Place Joseph Lasvergnas) to rue Saler (today faubourg Liebknecht) in the direction of Angoulême. The precise location of the family home is not known, but the family continued to live in faubourg Saler until around 1823.

Henri-Paul and Felicité had at least four children born at Saint-Junien between 1813 and 1820:¹²

1111651 - Paul Henri PINOT. Born 4 October 1811 at Saint-Junien. Nothing else is known of him - he is not mentioned in the PINOT genealogy or in any family papers. He probably died young;

1111652 - Louis Felix Henri Leopold PINOT DE MOIRA. Born 9 June 1813 at Saint-Junien. Nothing else is known of him - he is not mentioned in the PINOT genealogy (although perhaps his nephew Louis Felix Henri AUDCENT was named after him). He probably died young;

1111653 - Anne Marie Louise Henriette Sylvie ('Fanny') PINOT DE MOIRA. Born in 1815 at Saint-Junien. She married Prosper AUDCENT (a lithographic printer and later

¹¹ Contrat de Mariage passed before Guillaume Guérin-Lésé, notaire at Limoges, 2 December 1810, Archives Départementale de Haute Vienne, reference 4E 11, article 28 (12 pages).

¹² Only two children are mentioned in the official Pinot genealogy and the family were unaware of any others until Murielle Jacob (of 18 allée de Beaumine, 33160 St Medard-en-Jalles) advised David Audcent that she had found a birth registration for L F H L Pinot de Moira). In his application for a licence to become a printer, in 1831, Henri-Paul says that he was "the father of a large family for whom he must provide", and that "his eldest son has the talents necessary to assist in the lithographic business". It is possible the couple had other children after leaving Saint-Junien. A search of the birth and death registers at Montauban and Rouen might provide more information.

actor) at Rouen in 1835 and lived at Rouen, Paris, Bordeaux, Clermont-Ferrand and Madrid. She was legally separated from her husband in 1847 and became a government inspector of nursery schools. She died in 1859 at Saint-Dier d'Auverge, having had three children. She is an ancestor of the AUDCENT family; and

1111654 - Hippolyte 'Henri' PINOT DE MOIRA. Born at Saint-Junien in 1820. Self-styled Comte de Rochepaule (adopted on the basis of a false genealogy). Lawyer, notaire, banker and linguist. Mayor (maire) of Lillebonne (Seine-Maritime). Resident of Montivilliers, Manneville-le-Goupil, Lillebonne, Paris, Bleda (Algeria), Taunton and Bristol (England). Convicted of fraud and deception in 1864 (Belguim), and emigrated to England the same year. Granted British nationality in 1879. Conducted experiments in 'geomagnetiere' (application of electricity to plant growth), author of French verb text book, columnist in The Clifton Chronicle. In 1846 he married Aimée 'Hélène' DE SAINT OUEN D'ERNEMONT, at Rosay, in Normandy. He died at Bristol in 1909. His daughter Blanche married his nephew Arthur AUDCENT (and they are ancestors of the AUDCENT family).

The family cloth manufacturing business

At the time of his marriage in 1810 Henri-Paul was working as a cloth manufacturer (described as a *fabriquant de draps* at his acte de mariage, and again at the birth of his sons in 1813 and 1820). It seems he had joined his father's business in Saint-Junien, and then carried on the business after his father's death (in 1814). The enterprise seems to have been a fairly substantial undertaking, and in 1817 Henri-Paul was mentioned by Joseph JUGE in a list of new businessmen (*nouveaux entrepreneurs*) who were bringing greater prosperity to the district: JUGE refers to "Pinot" at Saint-Junien as a manufacturer of cloth and other articles from Montauban, blankets and fashion items from Orleans ("*Pinot, á St Junien, fabrique de draps, et autres articles de Montauban, couvertures, façon d'Orléans*").¹³

Nothing more is known about the enterprise, other than the family business came to an end around 1823. For some reason Henri-Paul took up the relatively arduous and poorly-paid position of a *Commissionnaire de Police* in the town of Montauban. It can only be assumed that the family textiles business had been sold after encountering financial difficulties, perhaps because Henri-Paul lacked his father's entrepreneurial flair ?

Henri-Paul's police career 1823-1830

In September 1823, aged 37 years, Henri-Paul left Saint-Junien, having secured a position as a '*commissionnaire de police*' in the town of Montauban, in the département de Tarn-et-Garonne. He served in this capacity until April 1825, being then promoted to a better paid position in Rouen, where he served from May 1825 until dismissed in October 1830. The post of commissaire de police was an honourable position of some prestige. Commissaires de police wore a smart uniform and were of equivalent rank to an army captain, although the work was demanding and poorly paid in comparison to other professions. During the Restoration period commissaires de police were usually former army officers, nobles or émigrés who had fallen on hard times, and who were appointed through patronage and family connections.¹⁴ They were appointed by the Minister of the Interior on the recommendation of the local Prefet and they had to be loyal to the restored Bourbon monarchy. It is likely that Henri-Paul owed his appointment to his family's loyalty to the crown during the Revolution and the heavy price paid they had as a

¹³ 'Changemens survenus dans les moeurs des habitants de Limoges, depuis une cinquantaine d'années' by J J Juge (published by J.B. Bargeas, 1817, Limoges), page 60.

¹⁴ Information on Henri-Paul's police career comes from his personnel file in the AD-SM, reference 4M/29, as well as from 'Police stories – Building the French State, 1815-1851' by John Merriman (Oxford University Press, 2006), pp74-75. His file at the Centre Historique de Archives Nationales has not been consulted yet.

result (a letter from his father was discovered amongst the papers of Louis XIV in 1792, his father was twice left facing penury during the Revolution, one of his uncles was a royalist hero who was charged with treason by the National Assembly before being murdered by a mob, and a cousin was wounded whilst serving with the émigré armies).

In addition to routine work such as enforcement of municipal regulations, detection of crime and maintenance of public order, the commissaires de police also carried out an important function on behalf of the Ministry of the Interior, by undertaking political surveillance under the direction of the Prefet.

Henri-Paul's first appointment as a commissaire de police was to a poorly paid post at Montauban. The task of policing the red-brick town of 26,000 people, where the fanatical royalists detested the town's Protestants, was divided between two commissaires. Henri-Paul was recruited to replace a commissaire who had been dismissed because of frequent absence and uneven application of the law. Appointed in September 1823, Henri-Paul arrived in the town with high expectations. Unfortunately he found that his colleague, Monsieur DAVID-CLARET, was a former émigré aged 71 years, who regarded his position as a reward for the suffering he had endured during the Revolution.

Henri-Paul was annoyed to find that his colleague had neither the interest nor aptitude for police work. "In the first days after my arrival," wrote Henri-Paul, "M. David didn't do anything, appearing in our office only very rarely, claiming to be sick. I went along with his absence and inactivity easily in good faith." This meant that Henri-Paul had to work late into the night to single-handedly complete what should have been the work of two men. Before long he realised that his colleague was an utter incompetent ("*nullilté*") and felt that some of his colleague's actions were verging on theft. He was disgusted with the way that Monsieur DAVID had walked off with items saved (by someone else) from a house fire, and that he "visited" local bakers - not to inspect their supplies, weights, and prices, but to collect large, expensive cakes for his family, which he insisted on being given. Whilst visiting the grocers he also filled his pockets with goods he did not pay for. When Monsieur DAVID did show up at the police office, it was only to spy on Henri-Paul and to take what paper and pens he could find.

Unfortunately, there was very little that Henri-Paul, or even the Mayor, could do about this incompetent and corrupt police officer, because of his friends in high places - not only the Prefet but also Baron PORTAL, who was the Minister for the Navy and Colonies. Even if a *nullilté* could be dismissed it would be difficult to find a suitable replacement because the salary attached to the post was so low. The likely candidates included a man whose business had recently failed, a usurer, a debtor lucky enough to enjoy the protection of his creditor, and a man renowned for living the good life and with a fondness for drinking songs ! With such an appalling prospect it is hardly surprising that Henri-Paul decided to leave Montauban in April 1825, after only nineteen months in post.

In May 1825 Henri-Paul moved to a better paid post as a commissaire de police in Rouen, which was a well-deserved reward for his hard work at Montauban. The required *ordonnance du Roy* was signed by the King at the Tuileries palace on 13 April 1825, and his appointment was then officially confirmed by the mayor of Rouen on 19 May 1825.



The town of Montauban

Henri-Paul was one of the two
Commissaires de Police for the town
between 1823 and 1825.



The uniform of a Commissaire de
Police during the Restoration in the
1820s

Rue de la Vicomte, Rouen.

The actual house in which the Pinot de Moira
family lived stood at the far end of the street
and no longer exists - probably destroyed in the
Second World War.



On arrival in Rouen Henri-Paul took over as *commissaire de police* for the 3^e Arrondissement of the city, in succession to Sieur BAILLE.¹⁵ As before, he succeeded an officer who had been dismissed for incompetence, which included demanding gifts from visiting merchants and borrowing money from local prostitutes. However, Henri-Paul was altogether more honest, conscientious, capable and ambitious. He was well respected by the mayor of Rouen, as demonstrated on 14 February 1826 when the mayor informed the Prefet de la Seine Inferieure, that ‘Sieur Pinot de Moira’ would temporarily assume additional responsibilities as commissaire de police for the 7^e Arrondissement following the death of the incumbent. He was equally popular with fellow officers, as evidenced by the fact that the deputy police chief acted as a witness at his daughter’s wedding.

One of the first issues to concern Henri-Paul after his arrival in Rouen, was unrest amongst the workers in the local cotton mills. During the 1820s cuts in pay and increased working hours led to frequent threats, intimation, illegal coalitions of works, strikes and occasional outbreaks of violence. On 11 August 1825 Henri-Paul submitted a report on the situation to the directeur général de la Police in Paris. On 11 August 1825 Henri-Paul submitted a report on the situation to the directeur général de la Police in Paris.¹⁶

If Henri-Paul had any faults it seems he could on occasion be over-zealous in upholding the law. His handling of one particular incident, in 1829, showed a particular lack of judgment, and backfired badly - leading to a public outrage and ridicule of him in the local press.¹⁷ The incident occurred on the opening night of a new opera, entitled *Les Deux Nuits*, at the Théâtre des arts in Rouen on 15 October 1829. The opera was written by the celebrated composer François-Adrien BOIELDIEU (“the French Mozart”) who had returned to Rouen, the city of his birth, to preside over the rehearsals. At the end of the performance and amid wild applause the conductor of the orchestra (*chef d'orchestre*) - Monsieur SCHAFFNER - announced that he would lead his musicians to rue de Fontenelle, where BOIELDIEU was staying, so that they could show their appreciation by serenading him from the street.

The orchestra and theatre audience, with hangers on, would have formed a large and boisterous crowd as they made their way to rue de Fontenelle. In Henri-Paul’s opinion this constituted a serious breach of the peace. It was certainly contrary to articles 471 and 479 of the penal code and a local ordinance of 1820, and he knew that large uncontrolled crowds, however jubilant, always had the potential to degenerate into disorder. To avoid any repeat he decided to bring a prosecution against Monsieur SCHAFFNER, issuing a procès-verbal eight days later on 22 October.

The case went before the magistrate (juge-de-paix) in the Tribunal de Police Municipale at Rouen for a preliminary hearing on 29 October 1829, with Henri-Paul in the role of public prosecutor. Details were reported in the local press the next day, with Le Journal de Rouen claiming that Henri-Paul was certainly no lover of music (“*Ce fonctionnaire, dont au fond on ne saurait dire: ‘Cet fonctionnaire assurément n’aime pas la musique’*”). The report also noted how Henri-Paul had attempted to mitigate the severity of his conclusions by praising the talents of Monsieur

¹⁵ A letter to the Mayor of Rouen, dated 15 May 1825, refers to the proposed appointment of “Sieur Pinot de Moira, Commissaire de Police a Montauban” to a position in Rouen, and “Il doit arriver prochainement a Rouen.” Various papers relating to his career at Rouen are preserved in the Archives Départementales de la Seine-Martime, reference 4M/29.

¹⁶ See ‘Le coton et ses patrons, France, 1760-1840: France, 1760-1840’ by Serge Chassagne (page 503) reference is made to a report in the Nationale Archives by commissaire de police Pinot de Moira: “AN, F7 9787, rapport du commissaire de police Pinot de Moira au directeur général de la Police, 11 aout 1825”

¹⁷ The developing story was reported in the pages of Le Journal de Rouen: the preliminary hearing was reported on 30 October 1829, pages 2-3; the main trial on 13 November 1829, pages 2-3, and the opening of the souscription harmonique on 24 November 1829, page 3.

BOELDIEU in the most flattering way, comparing him to the heroes of ancient Greece, but that ultimately he had sacrificed his own affections to his sense of duty.

The trial followed two weeks later on 12 November 1829, with many witnesses called to give evidence. It seems the crowd had been well behaved, traffic was hardly obstructed, there were no complaints from the public, and that local residents had been enchanted by the serenade as it enabled them to hear the beautiful music of Monsieur BOELDIEU without paying. However, as far as Henri-Paul was concerned the law was the law and the circumstances made no difference. *Le Journal de Rouen* reported his appearance in court thus: ¹⁸

M. Pinot de Moira, commissaire de police, stood up and said:

“Whilst sharing in many respects the opinion of the defendant, we cannot help but observe that in many circumstances crowds have disturbed public tranquility. Good music is not something that bothers, but at eleven o'clock at night, regardless of the pleasure it provides, it disturbs the peace, and even when it is the case that the serenade in question would not cause trouble it is nevertheless an offence. It is similar to the case of a young man who, despite a law prohibiting passage on horseback, mounts a spirited horse and goes riding through the streets: would it be admissible for him to say: I did not injure anyone ? Certainly not.....The intention of the musicians was very laudable, but notwithstanding that, there was no need for them to break the law: the law is universal, and should always be observed.”

The defendant (and the local press) seized on this by asking, if the law applied to everyone equally, why had the authorities ignored serenades given previously to a colonel of the National Guard and a commissaire de police ? After deliberating for twenty minutes the magistrate fined the conductor 11 francs for obstructing the free circulation of the highway and causing a night time breach of the peace. The local newspapers were outraged, with *La Journal de Rouen* (which the previous year had fallen under radical liberal ownership) and even *Le Neustrien* (a more moderate liberal paper) decrying this ‘*petite comedie*’.

Following the preliminary hearing the *Journal de Rouen* mockingly commended the zeal shown by the police, observing how when the opportunity had finally arisen for the city's artists to pay a special tribute in honour of an illustrious compatriot on the opening night of a new opera dedicated to the people of Rouen, an offence had been committed...but at least the free circulation of traffic in the streets had been assured for the future.

The owners of *Le Neustrien* went even further and opened a public subscription fund, called *la souscription harmonique*, to pay the fine that had been imposed. The fund was well supported by sympathisers, and the surplus was used to print a celebratory pamphlet detailing the affair, which was circulated to subscribers and sold in the city's bookshops. The sixteen page pamphlet was entitled *Précis du procès de la sérénade, donnée le 15 octobre 1829 à M. Boëldieu, jour de la première représentation, à Rouen, de l'opéra des "Deux nuits" ; suivi de la souscription*

¹⁸ Translated by G D Audcent from: *Le Journal de Rouen*, 13 November 1829, page 2: “...M. Pinot de Moira, commissaire de police, se lève et dit: “En partageant sous bien des rapports l'opinion du défenseur, nous ne pouvons nous empêcher d'observer que dans plusieurs circonstances des rassemblements ont trouble la tranquillité publique. Une bonne musique n'est pas chose qui dérange, mais, à onze heures du soir, quel que soit le plaisir qu'elle procure, elle trouble la tranquillité publique, et quand la serenade dont il s'agit ne l'aurait pas trouble, elle n'en pas moins une contravention. Il est de cela comme d'un jeune homme qui, sous l'empire d'une loi qui défendrait d'aller à cheval, monterait un cheval fougueux et le ferait caracoller dans les rues : serait il recevable à venir dire : Je n'ai blessé personne ? Non sans doute. L'intention des artistes est très-louable, mais quelle qu'elle soit, il ne fallait pas pour cela violer la loi: elle est une, l'obéissance lui est toujours due.”

*harmonique, ouverte par le "Neustrien" pour payer les amendes, frais et faux frais, auxquels a été condamné, pour ce fait, M. Schaffner, chef d'orchestre du Théâtre des arts.*¹⁹

In reality everyone knew that this local *cause célèbre* was about much more than an over-zealous police officer trying to maintain free circulation of traffic through the streets of Rouen. It occurred against the backdrop of a growing wave of Liberal opposition to King Charles X and his ultra-royalist government. The theatre was a bastion of the Liberal opposition whilst commissaires de police were appointed by, and loyal to, the central government in Paris. Henri-Paul's intervention was inevitably viewed by moderate and radical Liberals in Rouen as an example of government oppression which served to illustrate why the police needed to be brought under local democratic control. Henri-Paul was in a no-win situation because although his intervention had made him unpopular, he had no option but to clamp down hard on the assembly of large crowds, as they undoubtedly represented a serious threat to law and order. His concern was no over-reaction because France was on the verge of revolution. The last Bourbon king would soon be toppled from the throne, and Henri-Paul would soon be dismissed.

Later the same month Henri-Paul had a further run in with the Théâtre des arts, when a disturbance arose after the refusal of the principle singer, Madame DENGREMONT, to perform. Henri-Paul therefore brought a prosecution against Madame DENGREMONT in the Tribunal de police municipal. Despite the fact that she failed to attend court on 26 November 1826, the case against her was dismissed by the magistrate. This was reported in *Le Journal de Rouen* the following day.²⁰

Despite his hard work Henri-Paul was abruptly dismissed as a commissaire de police by the Minister of the Interior on 2 October 1830. The papers in his personnel file at the Archives Départementales de Seine-Maritime make no reference to his dismissal (the files in the Archives Nationales in Paris have still to be consulted). However, the mayor of Rouen was later to confirm that the dismissal was unrelated to his morality or political views, and we know that Henri-Paul remained on good terms with his former police colleagues (since the deputy police chief acted as a witness to his daughter's wedding in 1835).²¹

The explanation for his dismissal (*revocation*) lies in the purge of the police which followed the 'July Revolution' of 1830. This insurrection led to the overthrow of the Bourbon monarchy and to the creation of a new constitutional monarchy under a new (and liberal) King Louis-Phillippe. The change of government was followed by a purge of state employees, and many commissaires de police were thrown out of their jobs. This was usually because of their political opinions, although on 12 October the Minister of the Interior admitted that "some intelligent and active commissaires de police, who have good opinions, were nonetheless replaced after the events of July, only because they were obliged to carry out unpopular measures and thereby lost the influence necessary to subsequently exercise their functions in the locality where they were serving." Henri-Paul must have been one of the unfortunate officers. Having earned the enmity of the Liberals in Rouen the previous year, it seems he was dismissed to appease them.

¹⁹ The events surrounding the serenade given to Monsieur Boieldieu were later mentioned in a number of works: Jules Edouard Bouteiller in *Histoire complète et méthodique des théâtres de Rouen*, (1860) pages 403-404; Alfred Bouchard in *La langue théâtrale* (1878), page 209; and *Historia*, (1963 - amongst issues 200-205), pages 662-3.

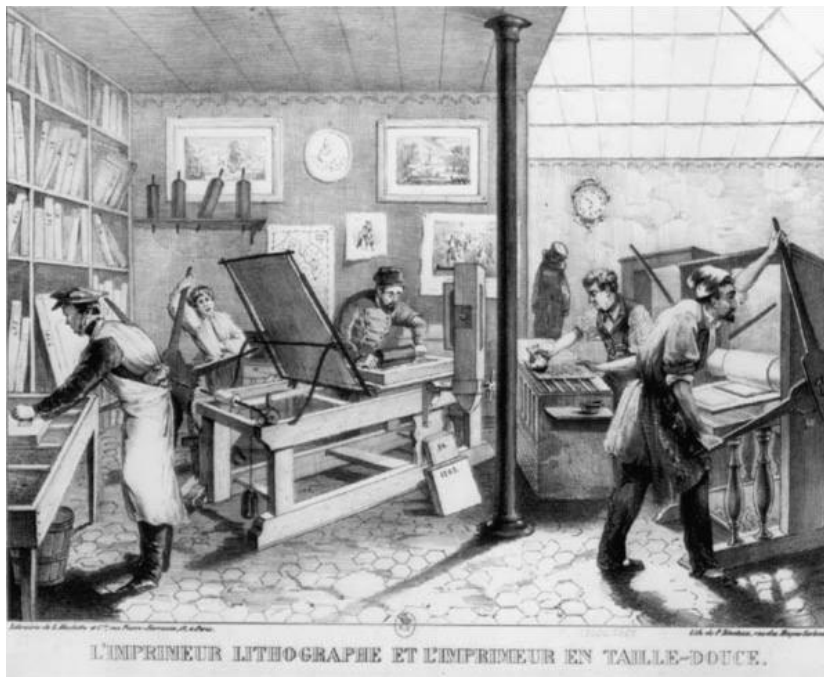
²⁰ *Le Journal de Rouen*, 27 November 1829, page 2 - "Hier, le tribunal de police municipale s'est occupé d'un process intenté a Mme. Dengremont comme ayant, par son refus de jouer lundi dernier, occasionné du trouble au spectacle. Malgré l'insistance de M. Pinot de Moira, remplissant les fonctions du ministère public, la prévenue, quoiqu'elle ne fut ni presentee, a été renvoyée de la plainte, attend, dit le jugement, que rien ne constatait qu'elle eut été mise en demeure de jouer. Au reste, il paraissait que M. le juge-de-paix n'a point entendu prononcer une absolution complete; car le ministère public a été seulement declare quant a present, non recevable."

²¹ Information on his dismissal as a Commissaire de Police comes from his application for a printing license at the AD-SM, reference 2/T5 - see below.

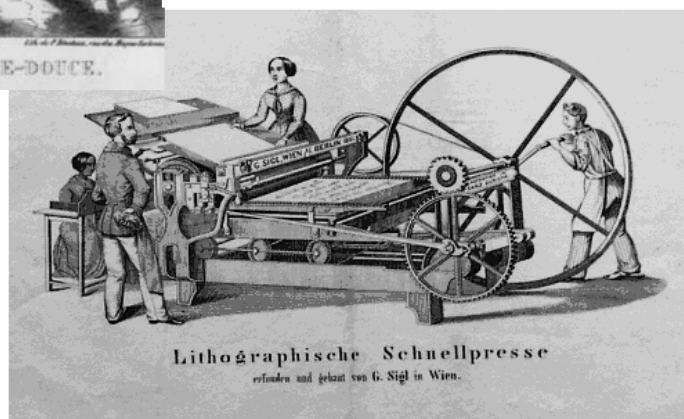


A winter scene by Henri-Paul Pinot de Moira (signed, and painted in the 1820s)

Possibly depicting the ruined Abbaye de Boeuil, at Veyrac (25 km east of Saint Junien) which was the childhood home of his wife (painting now in possession Geoff Audcent)



A contemporary depictions of a printing workshop and lithographic printing press



Above - Signatures of Henri-Paul Pinot de Moira (left) in 1810 on his marriage contract, and (right) on his application for a printing brivet in 1831.

Below - Signatures of Felicité de Vilestivaud de Lapeyrouse (left) on her acte de mariage and (right) on her marriage contract (both 1810).

Although police work was demanding, Henri-Paul still found time for leisurely pursuits and in particular he enjoyed painting. Only two oil paintings survive, and these reveal that he was an accomplished artist, with a good grasp of composition and perspective. One painting is a self-portrait of him in an army officer's uniform standing before the town of Stralsund (with a scroll labeled 'Plan de Stralsund' in his hand). The second painting to survive depicts a winter scene with two men warming themselves around a camp-fire amongst the ruins of a derelict monastery. It was painted during the 1820s and might well depict the former abbaye de Beuil, located in the commune of Veyrac, which had been a childhood home of his wife during the 1790s, after the monks were expelled during the Revolution.²²

On 15 August 1826 Henri-Paul visited Gueret (near Limoges) on family business and signed a legal document which was registered in the town on the same day.²³

The printing business in Rouen 1831-1836

After losing his police salary Henri-Paul decided to go into business as a lithographic printer. He already had commercial experience from his years as a cloth manufacturer and he may have gained an insight into the printing industry through his work as a commissaire de police. Every printing workshop (*imprimerie lithographique*) had to be licensed by the Minister of the Interior and could expect regular police inspections because of the potential for it to be used to disseminate anti-government propaganda. Henri-Paul's application for a licence (*brevet*) was submitted the Minister of the Interior via the mayor of Rouen on 12 February 1831. In his application he explained that he was a retired army officer, without a fortune but with a large family to support, and that his eldest son (who could this be ?) had acquired the necessary talents.

The mayor supported the application and forwarded it to the Ministry of the Interior in Paris, certifying that Henri-Paul had lived in Rouen for several years, and testifying to his good conduct. Officials in the Ministry noticed that Henri-Paul's had been dismissed as a Commissaire de Police and enquired about the reasons - but were reassured that it had not been for reasons related to his morality or political opinions. On 9 March 1831 the Prefect de Seine-Inferieure was asked to forward Henri-Paul's birth certificate and eventually, on 4 May 1831, the license to operate a printing business (*brevet d'imprimeur lithographe*) was finally granted by the authorities in Paris (*Le Ministre Secrétaire d'Etat au Department du Commerce et des Travaux Publique, Ministere de L'Interieur*).²⁴

²² The painting is signed "*J B H Pinot de Moira*" (just below the ground floor windows of the ruin) and on the reverse is a handwritten note (in an unknown hand) which reads "*L'Hiver peut par M le Comte J B H Pinot de Moira vers 1827*". There is good reason to believe that the ruined monastery depicted in the painting is the abbaye de Beuil, at Veyrac, because (1) the abbaye de Boeuil was located in rolling countryside just 10 km from Saint Junien, where Henri-Paul lived until the 1820s, (b) the abbaye de Boeuil was where his wife had lived as a child in the 1790s, (c) the painting depicts people skating on frozen lakes and extensive ponds and water courses were constructed at the abbaye de Boeuil by the monks; (d) the abbaye de Boeuil was built of the same honey-coloured stone found at Veyrac; (f) the abbaye de Boeuil was demolished in the early Nineteenth Century, and (g) the religious buildings depicted in the painting bore a resemblance to the parish church at Veyrac and to the only other known depiction of the abbaye de Boeuil – reproduced in contained in 'Moines en Limousin - l'aventure cistercienne' by Bernadette Barrière (1998), page 145.

²³ This document has not yet been found in the Archives Departementales de la Creuse, but it is referred to in the papers submitted by Paul Francois Pinot de Moira in 1874 in connection with the reconstitution of civil registration records at Paris (after the original birth registers were destroyed in 1871): Archives de Paris.

²⁴ Papers relating to his application for a licence to become a lithographic printer are preserved in the AD-SM, reference 2 T 5/Pinot. The application is dated "12 February 1830", but the dates of all other papers in the file suggest this is an error, and should be 1831. His file (F/18/2073/B, No 395) at the Centre Historique de Archives Nationales has not been consulted yet, although see abstracts at www.archivesnationales.culture.gouv.fr/chan/chan/fonds/edi/sm/sm_pdf/F18%202072%20-%202073%20Rouen.pdf.

It was the printing trade that brought Henri-Paul into contact with Sieur Prosper AUDCENT. Sieur AUDCENT was a trained lithographic printer from Paris and presumably the two men were in business together. In 1835 Henri-Paul was resident at 41 rue St Eloi (in the centre of Rouen), from where he ran his lithographic printing business. However, after five years in the printing trade he resigned his license on 26 November 1836, being succeeded by Monsieur Alexandre DETURGIS (to whom he had presumably sold the printing workshop). That same year, Henri-Paul moved out of the house at 41 rue St Eloi (which was then occupied by his son-in-law Prosper AUDCENT) and moved to a nearby property at 41 rue de la Vicomte, still in the centre of Rouen.²⁵

Henri-Paul's work as a tax collector

By June 1836 Henri-Paul had begun working as a tax collector (*receveur des contributions directes*) although he did not officially surrender his licence as a printer until 26 November. His new position must have offered a relatively modest but reliable salary, and the work probably made good use of his experience as a police officer. Henri-Paul remained a tax collector for the rest of his life. Around this time he left the hustle and bustle of Rouen and moved to the Normandy countryside, since by 1841 Henri-Paul and his wife were residing at Manneville-la-Goupil, where he was the *receveur municipal* for the Commune.²⁶ In 1846 (at his son's wedding) he was recorded still living at Manneville-la-Goupil with the occupation of *Receveur des contributions Directes*. The following year (at his grandson's birth) he was described as a local tax collector ("*percepteur*").

Sometime after 1846, the now-elderly couple moved from Manneville-la-Goupil to the nearby village of Bréauté, where they spent the final nine years of their married life, and where Henri-Paul continued to work as a collector of local taxes ("*Percepteur and Receveur Municipal for the Commune of Bréauté*"). Such duties in a small rural community like Breaute would not have been onerous, and in reality he was probably semi-retired.²⁷

Henri-Paul died at his home in the village of Bréauté at 10.30am, on the 29 August 1855, aged 69. He was described as a property owner (*propriétaire*). His death was registered a week later by his son (Henri) and a friend who was a local doctor. He was probably buried in the churchyard at Bréauté, but the records have still to be checked.

The family's unfounded claim to a noble title



In 1845 Henri-Paul's son (Henri) began research into the PINOT family history. In 1846 the results of this research were written up, in a document entitled 'Généalogie de la famille Pinot', which falsely claimed that the PINOT DE MOIRA family were of noble descent. The false genealogy was authenticated and certified by Monsieur BOREL D'HAUTERIVE as being based on printed documents, original manuscripts and titles of nobility. It was also countersigned by the Mayor of the 2nd Arrondissement of Paris, the Préfet for the Seine and finally by an official from Ministry of the Interior. The genealogy attributes the title of a '*Marquis*' to his (deceased) father, and describes Henri-Paul as the '*Comte de Rochepaule*' ! Henri-Paul must have known that this noble title was false, and there is no evidence to suggest that he ever made use of it, other than at the marriage of his son

²⁵ Occupations and addresses in 1836 from the birth registration of Henri-Paul's first grandchild on 15 June 1836.

²⁶ M. Pinot de Moira is mentioned four times in 'Manneville-la-Goupil: mémoire d'un village cauchois' by Gérard Leterc (published by the Mairie de Manneville-la-Goupil, 2005), as both a tax collector from 1841 onwards, and - apparently - as an architect.

²⁷ He is described as a percepteur in his death registration act and as "receveur municipal for the commune of Breaute" in the legal papers (of the same year) relating to his daughter's separation (AD-SM 2E/196)

Henri, in 1846. The genealogy also described the arms of the PINOT DE MOIRA family as “*D’az. au chevron d’or, accomp. de 3 pommes de pin du mesme*” (as shown above).

Felicité’s Final Years: She survived her husband by almost nine years, but moved away from the village of Bréauté. In February 1856 she was staying at Fecamp with Monsieur DURY (*imprimeur*) in place St Etienne. He was probably an old friend and business associate of her husband.²⁸ Later she moved back to Rouen, residing by 1861 at No. 6 rue Saint-Nicaise, with her granddaughter (Armandine AUDCENT), and subsequently at No. 11 place du Boulingrin (where she died). On 5 June 1861 Felicité attended Armandine’s wedding to a notary’s clerk, at the Town Hall in Rouen. Felicité subsequently moved to

The very last year of Felicité’s life was marred by family tragedy: In January 1864 her eldest grandson (Arthur AUDCENT) was detained in the French naval prison at Granville in Normandy, and two months later in March her son (Henri PINOT DE MOIRA) was convicted of fraud and deception, being sentenced to three years imprisonment by a Belgian court (although he fled Belgium and escaped to England before the sentence could be imposed). Perhaps the stress and worry of these events made Felicité unwell because later that year, on 23 July 1864, she died at her home in Place du Boulingrin, Rouen, aged 74. The death was registered by Auguste Arthur FAUCONNET (her granddaughter’s husband) and by Hidore BOIQUET, a mason who lived at the same address as Felicité (perhaps as a lodger).

Postscript: Some years later, in 1874, one of the couple’s grandsons married one of their granddaughters, and as a result of this marriage the AUDCENT family are descended from Henri-Paul and Felicité through two separate lines of descent.

Henri-Paul figures in a number of modern history books:

- In 2006 an account of his experience as a Commissaire de Police in Montauban was published in a book by John MERRIMAN entitled ‘*Police Stories - Building the French State, 1815-1851*’ (Oxford University Press, 2006, pages 74-75);
- In 2008 an article on the Siege of Stralsund and Henri-Paul’s self-portrait appeared in the journal ‘*Vauban, la letter du génie*’, (No 6 2008, December 2007/January 2008, publication of the Ecole supérieure et d’application du Génie, article by Alain Fougeray entitled ‘A propos d’un portrait inédit...Le siege de Stralsund’. Pages 86-87); and
- In 2005 a local history book entitled ‘*Manneville-la-Goupil: mémoire d’un village cauchois*’ by Gérard Leterc, was published by the Mairie de Manneville-la-Goupil. This mentions him as a tax collector from 1841 onwards.

²⁸ Evidenced by an envelop to “Madam Pinot de Moira, chez Monsieur Dury Imprimeur, place St Etienne à Fecamp, ~~Bréauté, canton de Godreville (Seine-Inf. Can du Harve)~~”. Postmarked.?, 27 Fevr 1856. In the Audcent family archives (with G D Audcent).



The village of Manneville-la-Goupil where Henri-Paul and Felicité resided in the early 1840s.

The village of Bréauté where Henri-Paul and Felicité resided from 1846 to 1855, and where Henri-Paul died.



Place du Boulingrin, Rouen, where Felicité died in 1864

Chronology

1786	Born and baptised at Saint-Junien (Haute-Vienne) France
1806	Engineers officer in Napoleon's Grande Armée. Entered Berlin on the same day as the Emperor following the Battle of Jena
1807	Participated in French operations in Swedish Pomerania (North Germany), stationed in the Baltic town of Stralsund following its siege and capture on 20 August
1810	Married at Limoges
1810-1823	Resident Faubourg Saler in Saint Junien, and cloth manufacturer
1823-1825	Commissaire de Police at Montauban
1825-1830	Commissaire de Police at Rouen, until dismissed following the 'July Revolution'
1831-1836	Proprietor of printing business in Rouen
1836	Tax collector in Rouen
1846	Uses false noble title ('comte de Rochepaule') at wedding of his son Henri
1846	Resident and tax collector for the Normandy villages of Manneville-la-Goupil and subsequently Breaute
1855	Died at Breaute aged 69. Felicité then moved back to Rouen, where she died in 1864.

Extract from the Genealogie de la famille PINOT

His entry in the 'Genealogie de la famille Pinot', registered by his son, Henri PINOT DE MOIRA, in 1846 reads:

Jean Baptiste Paul Henri Pinot de Moira, ne a Saint Julien (Haute Vienne) le 31 aout (1) 1786 a ete accorde par contrat de Mariage reçu par Guérin Lese, Notaire a Limoges, le 2 Decembre (2) 1810, avec demoiselle Marie Jeanne Felicite de Vilestivaud, nee a Limoges le 7 Juin 1789, fille de Messire Louis Alexis de Vilestivaud de Ruffier (3) seigneur de Laumiere et de dame Louise Simonne de Maury de la Peyrouse; fille de Jean Baptiste Maury de la Peyrouse (4) ancien officier au regiment d'Eu et de dame Marie Anne Felicite d'Aillebout d'Argenteuil; Louis Alexis de Vilestivaud etait fils de Messire Charles de Vilestivaud, seigneur de Laumiere et de dame Valerie Estienne de la Riviere.

Jean Baptiste Paul Henri Pinot de Moira a eu de son alliance un fils dont l'article suit et une fille Marie Silvianne Fany Pinot de Moira a M. Prosper Audcent.

Footnotes:

(1) Extrait du contrat de mariage qui fut enregistre a Limoges, le 10 du mois de decembre 1810, produit par copie collationne sur l'expedition originale par Lauredan Lefebvre, notaire a Montivilliers, le 11 Novembre 1845.

(2) Meme note

(3) Les armes de Vilestivaud de Ruffier sont: d'azur a trois gerbes d'or.

(4) Les armes de Maury de la Peyrouse sont: d'or d'une montagne de 6 coupeaux de sinople mouvante de la pointe de l'écu surmontée de deux têtes de Maures de sable tortillées d'argent

Extract from 'Police Stories - Building the French State, 1815-1851' by John Merriman (Oxford University Press, 2006), pages 74-75:-

The story of Jean-Baptiste David-Claret in Montauban illustrates the tension between royalist pedigree and competence during the Restoration. The task of policing the red-brick town of 26,000 people in which fanatical royals hated Montauban's Protestants was divided between two commissaires. Jean-Marie Ansas lasted from December 1815 until September 1823, when he lost his job because of complaints of frequent absences and uneven application of the laws. But if some people in Montauban viewed the dismissal of Ansas as inevitable, many, including the mayor himself, considered the survival of his colleague Jean Baptiste David-Claret to be nothing short of miraculous.

Because of his unwavering loyalty to the Bourbon cause and his reputation as something of a man of letters, David had acquired patronage in the highest places, including - perhaps - the Comte d'Artois, the future Charles X. To listen to David tell it - which few in Montauban could avoid - "the fatal and infernal Revolution" had cost him some 80,000 livres and his house. He had been "a distinguished master of writing" before 1789, an "associate" of the Bureau académique d'écriture, teaching orthography in Paris. The Revolution found him in Montauban, where he formed a force of 150 "elite citoyens," who attacked "vigorously those cannibals, who were carrying out their orgies" in a chateau near Montauban. After being imprisoned in 1791, he had made his way to Spain, where he continued to voice his strong hatred of the Jacobins, denouncing them in French, English, Spanish, and Latin.

David thus saw his nomination as commissaire in Montauban in December 1815, through the support of the department's deputies, as a modest reward for suffering the purgatory of Spain. Named in September 1823, Pinot de Moira arrived in Montauban with all good intentions, hoping to find an able, energetic colleague. Instead he found David. "In the first days after my arrival," Pinot de Moira reported, "M. David didn't do anything, appearing in our office only very rarely, claiming to be sick. I went along with his absence and inactivity easily in good faith." But Pinot de Moira soon learned that David was a spry man of seventy years. Pinot de Moira worked far into the night to accomplish the work of two men. He soon became convinced of the inability and absolute nullité of David.

Yet the prefect still wanted David to stay on. Thus, the municipality found itself helpless before the authority of the state. Prefect Charles-Antoine Limairac, former deputy from the Haute-Garonne, ignored David's obvious incompetence, as well as certain habits that bordered on theft. David walked off with some items saved (by someone else) from a house fire. And while ignoring almost all of his duties, he did "visit" the bakers, not to check on their supplies, weights, and prices, but to pick up large, expensive cakes for his family that he insisted be given him. It was the same at the grocers of Montauban, where he filled his pockets with goods. When he did show up at the police office, it was only to spy on his colleague and take what paper and pens he could find there.

When Montauban's mayor again complained, David assured him that the prefect would protect him. So the mayor was left musing about possible replacements, any of whom would have been better than David. These included "a type of saltimbanque" without talent, a man whose business

had recently failed, a usurer, a debtor lucky enough to enjoy the protection of his creditor, and someone who lived the good life and crooned drinking songs. Even if David left, the relatively low salary attached to the post would discourage most competent candidates. David was protected by not only the man the mayor referred to as “this monkey of a prefect,” but such Restoration luminaries as Baron Portal, the minister of the navy and colonies. Moreover, the prefect thought it would be barbaric to loss out an elderly gentleman “blanchi dans la fidelité,” particularly in a town in a town which even the Catholic lower classes supported the monarchy with fervent passion.

At last the prefect found a solution that allowed David to leave with his dignity more or less intact. He named five new members to the municipal council willing to offer the colorful, aged policeman an annual pension of 200 francs. David resigned in January 1826. This eccentric old man with the flamboyant handwriting had been one of the notable survivors of the system of pure political patronage.³⁸

Footnotes

³⁸ F7 9872, prefect of the Tarn-et-Garonne, March 12, 1922, July 26, 1823, and April 27, 1825; David, December 20, 1815, and January 11, 1826, and, particularly, his amazing letter to the Comte d’Artois, December 27, 1821; Pinot de Moira, who was reassigned to Rouen in April 1825, and January 26, 1825.

Death registration of Jean Baptiste Paul Henri Pinot de Moira - in the registers of the Commune de Breaute, Departement de la Seine Inferieure:

Du vingt-neuvieme jour du mois d'Aout, l'an mil-huit-cent-cinquante-cinq, a cinq heures du soir.
Acte de Deces de Monsieur Jean-Baptiste Paul Henri Pinot de Moira, decede en la commune de Breaute aujourd'hui a dix heures et demie du matin, Ancien Officier du Genie, , age de soixante-neuf ans, ne a Saint-Junien departement de la Haute Vienne, le trente-un aout mil-sept cent-quatre-vingt-six demeurant a Breaute, fils de Monsieur le Marquis Paul Pinot de Moira, en son vivant, inspecteur des ouvrages du Roi en Amerique et de Madame Marguerite Estienne de Lariviere, decedes; epoux de Mme Marie Jeanne Felicite de Vilestivaud-Lapeyrouse sans profession demeurant a Breaute, ayant contracte mariage a Limoges, departement a la Haute-Vienne, le dix-sept decembre mil-huit cent-dix.
Sur la declaration a nous faite par Mr. Hippolyte Henri Pinot de Moira, proprietaire, age de trente-ans, demeurant a Lillebonne, fils du defunt, et par Mr. Louis Victor Robin, docteur medecin, age de soixante-un ans, demeurant a Goderville, ami du decede.
Lesquels ont signe, apres lecture faite, le present acte qui a ete fait double en leur presence, et constate, suivant la loi, par nous Pierre Francois Chicot, Maire de la commune susdite, remplissant les fonctions d'Officier public de l'Etat civil. Signe au Registre: Pinot de Moira, Robin et P. Chicot. Pour extrait certifie confirme au dit Registre, delivre par nous, Pierre Francois Chicot, Maire, Officier public de l'Etat civil de la commune de Breaute. En Mairie, le cinq septembre 1855, Signed Le Maire, P Chicot.
Vu par nous, President du Tribunal civil .

Further research

1. Search of the parish and civil registers at St Junien, Montauban and Rouen for his any births/deaths of his children
2. Search notarial records for (a) the marriage contract of his daughter in 1835, (b) the sale of his printing business in 1836, (b) succession following his death

3. Obtain details of his church wedding
4. Look for any police personnel records at Tarn-et-Garonne (Montauban)
5. Police personnel records at Centre Historique de Archives Nationales
6. Papers relating to the application for, and resignation of, his printing brevet, at Centre Historique de Archives Nationales (reference F/18/2073/B) – see www.archivesnationales.culture.gouv.fr/chan/chan/fonds/edi/sm/sm_pdf/F18%202072%20-%202073%20Rouen.pdf.
7. Census records
8. Find burial place/record.
9. Double check the archives of the Service Historique de l'Armée de la Terre to confirm David Audcent's findings that no records exist there.
10. Find the dispensation for his marriage from the Bishop (Limoges)
11. Obtain birth certificates at Rouen for Henri Auguste FAUCONNET (1862) and Fernand FAUCONNET (1864) to see if Felicité spent her final years living with Armandine AUDCENT and Auguste Arthur FAUCONNET)

Series of E-mails concerning Henri-Pauls military service

From: David Audcent [mailto:david@audcent.com]
 Sent: 11 April 2008 10:56
 To: Audcent, Geoff (MFB)
 Subject: Re: P H Pinot de Moira

Dear Geoff,

Just to advise that the two copies of "Vauban" that you sent have arrived safely this morning.

Examining the text, it seems the writer was not up-to-date with the results of your own enquiries!! I wonder if the article will raise any comment from elsewhere. One does wonder if he was involved at all, perhaps the scene at Stralsund is totally imaginary!!! It certainly would be nice to know.

Just to confirm, we know it was a self-portrait, not only did his Granddaughter TaGuite confirm that with a note she attached to the portrait; before it was cleaned for me by a specialist in Bath, his signature appeared faintly in the lower right corner of the painting. I think it must have been restored earlier, but sufficient was left to identify the signing as identical to one on a document I had in my possession. I have never questioned a date, the picture referred to the event in 1807, but if he was involved, I would imagine he hardly had time to paint it whilst there. The other thing is that cousin Jean Lefebvre advised that as an "Etat Major" they could dress as they liked, but certainly he was concerned about the badge on the shako - as an official badge of the engineers as confirmed by you, it may perhaps confirm the earliest date at which it could have been painted. One might perhaps consider it acceptable for an amateur painter to reinforce his association with the Engineers by using an up-to-date badge of recognition.

I intend to scan the pages and turn them into a PDF.

Uncle David

From: David Audcent [mailto:david@audcent.com]
Sent: 28 March 2008 12:01
To: Audcent, Geoff (MFB)
Subject: Re: FW: P H Pinot de Moira

Dear Geoff,

Its amazing what one can find! What an interesting set of events for Prosper to be in a poor house in 1855, yet in 1861 he was supposed to be of independent means.

Of course we have no objection to the use of the portrait. I do wonder, however, if the Genealogy was known to be false to Henri and his Dad, whether the portrait also is a fantasy. At no time, as far as I know, have we as yet found an official army record of his service in the Engineers. When I visited the records in Paris, I set out to search for Arthur Audcent, and took the opportunity to look for any relating to Pinot de Moira, they could find none at the time (except that of Louis Joseph son of Paul Pinot de Moira elder brother of Jean Baptiste), though we are advised that Paul, and Jean Baptiste both were in the Engineers. Perhaps we should attempt to verify their role as officers, for if they were officers, records are definitely kept, only enlisted men and nco's are difficult and often their records are lost or destroyed. The only comment I have on the portrait, is that Jean Lefebvre our cousin by marriage, was very interested in it as it didn't look right, but after investigation, which you also did, he confirmed that the the badge and uniform were genuine though not absolutely au fait. Apparently staff officers could wear what they liked.

Kind regards, Uncle David

From: M. FOUGERAY [mailto:culture-arme.esag@esag.terre.defense.gouv.fr]
Sent: 26 March 2008 08:11
To: Audcent, Geoff (MFB)
Subject: Re: P H Pinot de Moira

Monsieur,

L'article que j'ai écrit sur le siège de Stralsund vient de paraître et je souhaite vous envoyer quelques exemplaires de la revue Vauban-La Lettre du Génie pour laquelle vous avez accepté la reproduction du portrait de votre ancêtre.

Merci de me donner l'adresse à laquelle je peux envoyer cette revue.

D'autre part, l'école va publier en mai un ouvrage sur le siège de Dantzig. Nous autoriseriez-vous à reproduire à nouveau ce portrait afin d'illustrer la tenue d'un officier du Génie de cette époque?

Je vous en remercie. Je vous souhaite une très agréable journée.

Alain Fougeray
ESAG
Angers

From: Audcent, Geoff (SLR)
To: culture-arme.esag@esag.terre.defense.gouv.fr
cc: David Audcent
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2007 6:19 PM
Subject: P H Pinot de Moira

M. Alain Fougeray,
Directeur
Centre de Documentation et de Recherches
Ecole supérieure et d'application du Génie
106 rue Eblé
B.P. 34125

Monsieur

Merci de votre message plus récent.

Nous serions enchantés pour que vous vous serviez de la photographie de la peinture de Henri-Paul Pinot

de Mora dans le journal. Mon oncle (M. David Audcent) est heureux de donner son consentement (voir ci-dessous) (vous avez besoin de n'importe quoi davantage de lui confirmer ceci ?).

Nous demanderions que vous reconnaissez copyright de la photographie (à David Audcent). Aussi, il est soit possible pour nous obtiennent (ou l'achat) deux copies d'un article - un pour moi et un pour mon oncle (pour rester avec la peinture à l'avenir) ?

Pour votre information ci-joint est une biographie détaillée de Henri-Paul Pinot de Mora (écrit conjointement par mon oncle et moi-même). On lui écrit en anglais, mais si vous avez n'importe quelles questions ou liek de woukd plus de détails satisfont me dissent.

Geoff Audcent

From: David Audcent [mailto:david@audcent.com]
Sent: 13 January 2007 17:44
To: Audcent, Geoff (SLR)
Subject: Re: More Pinot developments !

Dear Geoff,

Thanks for copy of biography. No problem in giving permission for the portrait to be reproduced. I concur that the badge on his shako is the one you have found.

With regard to the siege of Stralsund. It was a very quick affair and hardly anyone was hurt, I remember an article on the siege is somewhere on the Internet and was quite informative. Trouble is I'm finding it difficult to locate my former information now, as the filing system has become somewhat chaotic. I might break of now, just to see if I can locate it!!! Try the following

http://www.napoleon-series.org/reviews/military/c_brunes.html (NB author is a St Junien aristocrat).

http://www.napoleonic-lit Felicité's erature.com/Book_25/Chapter_4.htm

Kind regards,
David

From: M. FOUGERAY Alain [mailto:culture-arme.esag@esag.terre.defense.gouv.fr]
Sent: 12 January 2007 09:02
To: Audcent, Geoff (SLR)
Subject: Re: From Geoff - Various Matters !

Monsieur,

Recevez tous mes voeux pour cette nouvelle année et mes plus chaleureux remerciements pour la splendide photo de JB Pinot de Moira.

L'Ecole du Génie publie trois fois par an une revue intitulée *Vauban-La Lettre du Génie*.

Je souhaiterai y faire un article sur le siège de Stralsund en y joignant la photo du portrait que vous m'avez transmis, si bien sûr vous (ou plutôt M. David Audcent) nous en donne l'autorisation. Ce serait l'occasion, à la fois de commenter le portrait et les particularités d'uniforme qu'il présente et de lancer un appel aux lecteurs au cas où l'un d'eux saurait quelque chose sur lui.

Le conservateur du musée du Génie était hier au Service historique de la Défense pour une recherche sur Vauban. A ma demande, il a regardé s'il y avait des dossiers concernant Pinot de Moira. Il a su qu'il y avait plusieurs dossiers, dont il aura la liste en fin de mois quand il retournera à Vincennes. Mais il sait également qu'aucun dossier ne correspond aux prénoms de vos ancêtres. Je vous tiendrai informé.

J'ai regardé le travail de généalogie que M. David Audcent a publié sur Internet. Les quelques indications relatives au marquis Paul Pinot de Moira me laissent à penser que, peut-être, il y aurait des documents le concernant dans les archives d'Outre-Mer dont le dépôt se situe à Aix-en-Provence. En effet son activité en Amérique du Sud (sans doute en Guyane) m'orientait vers les fonds d'archives des colonies. Les Archives de France ont publié, voici plusieurs années deux volumes d'inventaire sommaire de la correspondance de la Guyane. Il faudrait prendre le temps de parcourir ces deux livres (de 500 pages chacun), car il n'y a pas de table des noms de personnes.

Voici les coordonnées des Archives d'Outre-Mer:

Centre des archives d'outre-mer

29 chemin du Moulin Detesta, 13090 Aix-en-Provence

www.archivesnationales.culture.gouv.fr/caom/fr/index.html

Lu.-Ve. 9 h à 17 h

Fermeture annuelle : se renseigner

Directeur : Martine Cornède
tél. : 04.42.93.38.50
télécopie : 04.42.93.38.89
courriel : caom.aix@culture.gouv.fr

Vous pouvez contacter Mme Martine Cornède de ma part; j'ai travaillé avec elle lorsque j'étais chargé de communication de la Direction des Archives de France.

C'est une piste de recherche dont je ne garantis pas les résultats mais qui me semble nécessaire d'explorer pour ce qui concerne le marquis Paul Pinot de Moira.

Bonne journée et encore tous mes voeux pour 2007.

Alain Fougeray

From: M. FOUGERAY Alain [mailto:culture-arme.esag@esag.terre.defense.gouv.fr]
Sent: 15 December 2006 05:39
To: Audcent, Geoff (SLR)
Subject: Re: Le Corps du genie

Monsieur

Grand merci pour le portrait qui est très intéressant sur le plan de l'uniforme.
En effet, mes renseignements sont erronés car il existe un autre officier du génie de Napoléon du nom de Pinot (voir notice ci-jointe), mais qui est le seul figurant dans les Etats du Corps du Génie.
Après les vacances de Noël, je poursuivrai la recherche, mais je sais d'ores et déjà que votre ancêtre Jean-Baptiste Paul Henri a obtenu un brevet de lithographe à Rouen dans les années 1830. Il y a un dossier aux archives nationales. Je vous communiquerai la cote et les quelques éléments trouvés.
Bonne journée.

Alain Fougeray

From: Audcent, Geoff (SLR)
To: M. FOUGERAY Alain
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2006 12:06 PM
Subject: RE: Le Corps du genie

Monsieur.

Merci pour de votre réponse rapide et utile. Je suis naturellement désolé pour entendre que Paul Pinot de Moira ne figure pas dans le dictionnaire. En votre expérience pensez-vous ceci est significatif ? Peut-être il signifier que les références à lui étant un officier du Genie sont probablement incorrectes ? Ou, est ce-que le dictionnaire est connu pour contenir quelques lacunes ?

Son fils était Jean Baptiste Paul Henri Pinot de Moira a été ne a Saint Junien dans le département de Haute-Vienne le 31 août 1786. Cependant, je suspecte qu'il ne soit pas le M. Pinot qui était à Toulon en 1823 parce que cela signifierait qu'il avait seulement 14 ans quand nommé lieutenant en an 9. Aussi, mon ancêtre a été nommé commissaire de police à Montauban en septembre 1823 (et transféré à Rouen en 1825). Il a été écarté a Rouen après la révolution de 1830 et est mort en Normandie en 1855. En 1815 il est enregistré comme fabricant dans sa ville indigène de Saint Junien. De manière significative, aucun des documents postérieurs ne se rapporte à lui étant un d'honneur de de la Légion de chevalier ou chevalier de Saint-Louis. Je note également que le base Léonore n'inclut pas un Jean Baptiste Paul Henri Pinot (de Moira).

Cependant, beaucoup documents (fonctionnaire et de famille) se rapportent au Jean Baptiste Paul Henri Pinot (de Moira) comme étant «ancien officier du Genie». Nous savons également qu'il était chez Stralsund en 1807 en raison de la peinture (qui le montre jugeant une carte avec le «Stralsund» nommé clairement évidente). En outre, pendant la restauration de la peinture plusieurs morceaux de papier ont été trouvés attachés à l'arrière comme suit:-

« Notre grandpere etait officier d'Etat-Major. Il entra, avec Napoleon dans Berlin le 21 Octobre 1806 apres la bataille d'Jena » Signé by Marguerite Pinot de Moira.

« Il tient a la main le plan de Stralsund, prise par les Francais en 1807. Ce plan avait fait par lui. » Signé M. P de M.

Un petit morceau de papier avec un découpage de journal qui lit « 1806. NAPOLEON, empereur du Français, a transformé son entrée publique en Berlin, le capital du roi des dominions de la Prusse en Allemagne, » avec les commentaires manuscrits additionnels « Le 27 Octobre » and « Mon grand-pere Jean Baptiste Pinot de Moira y est entre le meme jour ».

Deux chutes minuscules de papier qui ont placé ensemble lu : « P Pinot... Moira » et au-dessous « ...d, en ... peint par lui-mem... » Ceci semble indiquer qu'il a peint le portrait lui-même (à un inconnu de date).

Un reproduction de la peinture (qualité inférieure) est contenue dans le dossier joint de Word, mais je demanderai à mon oncle (qui possède la peinture) de t'envoyer une photographie de meilleure qualité.

Je suis très reconnaissant pour n'importe quel conseil ou aide que vous pouvez offrir, parce que je voudrais découvrir plus au sujet de leurs carrières mailitary (si possible). Si vous considérez que les archives pourraient exister, je pourrais pouvoir visiter la France à l'avenir pour conduire la recherche, mais si vous considérez qu'il est peu susceptible d'être productif, il serait utile savoir ce !

Je vous en remercie et vous souhaite une très bonne journée

Geoffrey Audcent

From: M. FOUGERAY Alain [mailto:culture-arme.esag@esag.terre.defense.gouv.fr]
Sent: 14 December 2006 07:33
To: Audcent, Geoff (SLR)
Subject: Re: Le Corps du genie

Monsieur,

En réponse à votre message, j'ai le regret de vous informer que Paul Pinot de Moira ne figure pas dans le Dictionnaire d'Anne Blanchard, ni à Pinot, ni à Moira.

Nous poursuivrons les recherches mais elles risquent d'être très difficiles.

En revanche nous avons trouvé quelques éléments concernant un officier du génie du nom de Pinot sous le 1er Empire, mais nous n'avons pas son prénom.

Il a été nommé lieutenant le 2e jour complémentaire an 9; capitaine le 1er germinal an 11; chef de bataillon le 6 août 1811 (à l'époque il est officier de la Légion d'honneur); colonel le 25 novembre 1813. Les Etats du Corps du Génie de 1818 et 1823 le notent en poste à Toulon. Il est alors topujours officer de la Légion d'honneur et également chevalier de Saint-Louis.

Je vais essayer de poursuivre la recherche pour vous envoyer une notice plus complète, mais il me faut un peu de temps.

En revanche, je serais heureux si vous pouviez me communiquer par messagerie le portrait de cet officier, portrait donc la lecture pourrait m'apporter quelques indications complémentaires.

Je vous en remercie et vous souhaite une très bonne journée

Alain Fougeray
Directeur
Centre de Documentation et de Recherches
Ecole supérieure et d'application du Génie
106 rue Eblé
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49041 ANGERS cedex 01

From: Audcent, Geoff (SLR)
To: culture-arme.esag@esag.terre.defense.gouv.fr
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2006 3:35 PM
Subject: Le Corps du genie

Monsieur Le Directeur

Je suis intéressé à découvrir information au sujet de Paul Pinot de Moira, qui était mon 5 x arriere grand père . Il était ne e 26 octobre 1740 Vindelle, près de la ville d'Angoulême au Limousin.

Aujourd'hui la famille ont plusieurs documents qui se rapportent à lui comme:-

- « ingénieur-militaire du Génie »
- « vieux Soldat »
- « ancien officier du Génie » et
- « Inspecteur des ouvrages du Roi en Amerique » (Guyane ?)

Nous mettons pour ne pas savoir toute autre chose au sujet de sa carrière militaire et j'ai J'ai recherché pour une copie des **Dictionnaire des ingénieurs militaires 1691-1791** par Anne Blanchard, pour confirmer son service avec le Génie. Malheureusement, je n'ai pas pu obtenir une copie en Angleterre et donc j'ai décidé de t'écrire pour voir si vous avez une copie, et si ainsi si vous seriez disposés à la consulter et à me conseiller si il y a n'importe quelle mention de M. Pinot de Moira.

Quelques ans après son fils (Jean Baptiste Paul Henri Pinot de Moira) a aussi servi en Le Genie, entrant dans Berlin dessus le même jour comme Napoleon en 1806. En 1807 il a préparé au plan de la ville allemande de Stralsund et nous avons un portrait de lui dans l'uniforme, tenant le plan, et avec la ville derrière lui.

Avec mes plus grands remerciements, je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le directeur, l'expression de mes sentiments distingués.

Geoffrey Audcent
117 Mendip Road
Yatton
Bristol BS49 4EX
Angleterre