John Baptiste DeGuire, Willamette River Ferry Proprietor, and Comcomly's granddaughter

Overview

John Baptiste DeGuire, son of Jean Baptiste Deguire and Eulalia Bernier, was born in 1804 in St. Genevieve County, Missouri. He joined William Sublette's fur company in Missouri and worked as a hunter and trapper in the Rocky Mountains. He arrived in the St. Paul area around 1838 - 1839 and worked for Ewing Young. He died on 17 October 1878 in Salem, Oregon. His brother, Francois Baptiste Deguire, along with his family came to St. Paul in 1855.

In 1840, he married Marie Ann Perrault, the daughter of Jean Baptiste Perrault and Ann, a Chinook Indian. Ann was supposed to be Comcomly's daughter. (See page 11-12 for details.) Marie was born about 1826 and died on 17 August 1864. In 1843, her sister, Reinette, married John G. Larrison in St. Paul.

Jean Baptiste DeGuire operated one of the first Willamette River ferries connecting Marion County, Oregon, and Yamhill County, Oregon.[1]

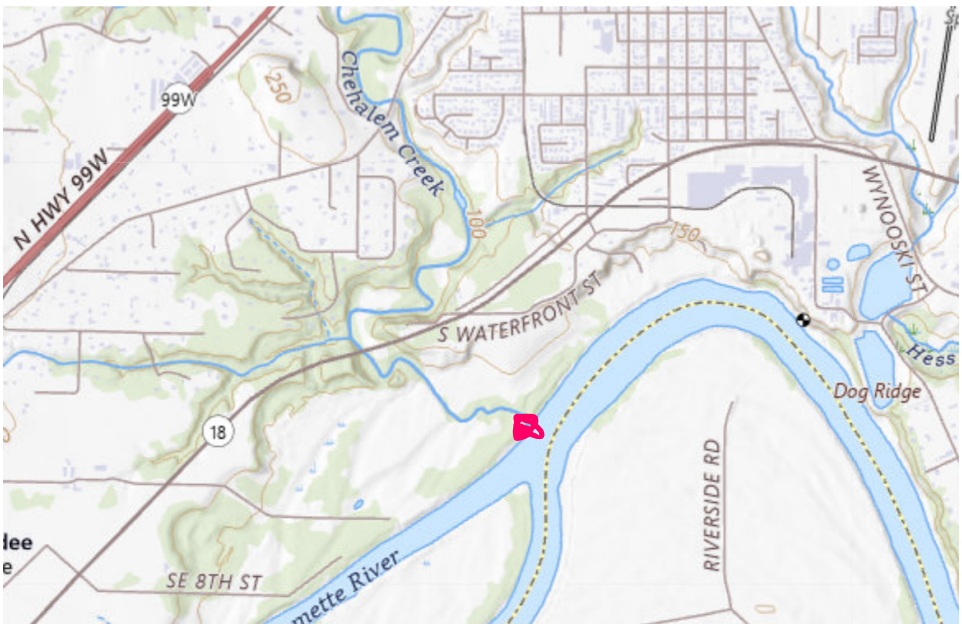
Literacy was low in the early Oregon country, and spelling was not consistent. Names are given in this article as they are found in the originals.

Arrival in St. Paul, Oregon

When Joseph Despard, a French Prairie neighbor, filed for his Oregon Donation Land Claim, Deguire testified that he knew Despard had lived on the land from 1 November 1838 to 26 August 1852.[2] This suggests Deguire was also on French Prairie in 1838.

The first written record showing DeGuire in French Prairie is in Ewing Young's 1839 "Day Book." Ewing Young, a former American fur trapper, erected a sawmill on the Chehalem Creek near where it entered the Willamette River. The Chehalem Creek and the Willamette River are marked in red on the map to the right.[3]

The mill was operated until it was carried away by high water in 1841.



Entries in Young's Day Book show DeGuire was employed at the mill. William Cannon and "Brandywine" were named as mill operators. Brandywine was the name given to William McCarty, who claimed to have sailed on the frigate *USS Brandywine*, a three-masted ship.

From Ewing's Day Book,

- On15 January 1839, Babtiste Deguare purchased a horse for $35.00.[4]
- On 21 February 1839, Babtiste Deguare purchased a "faling ax" for $2.00.[5] [A falling or felling axe is used to cut down a tree, remove the limbs, and then cut it into smaller pieces.]
- On 22 February 1839, Babtisto Deguear was paid $45.09 for two months and 12 days of work at the mill.[6] [William Cannon, millwright, received $1.00 per day for work in the mill. Deguire's pay was closer to 77 cents per day.]
- On 6 March 1839, "Burress" was credited $10.00 from Babtisto Deguear.[7]
- In May 1839, Babisto received $32.34 wages for 42 days. He received $14.00 towards his board for seven weeks.[8]
- On 21 May 1839, Bt. Deguar received $141.75.[9]

The register continued to March 1840, but DeGuire was not mentioned again. However, he was mentioned in Ewing Young's transactions with the Fort Vancouver sale shop. That register begins on 28 Nov 1839 and goes to 14 December 1839.

- Paid your note 11 Decr '39 in favor Bte Deguire for 6 shillings [10]

Marriage

In November 1838, Fathers Francois Norbert Blanchet and Modeste Demers arrived at the St. Paul wooden church the settlers built for them.
After visiting the local French-Canadian settlements, the first St. Paul mass was held on 6 January 1839.



--Replica of the first St Paul Church

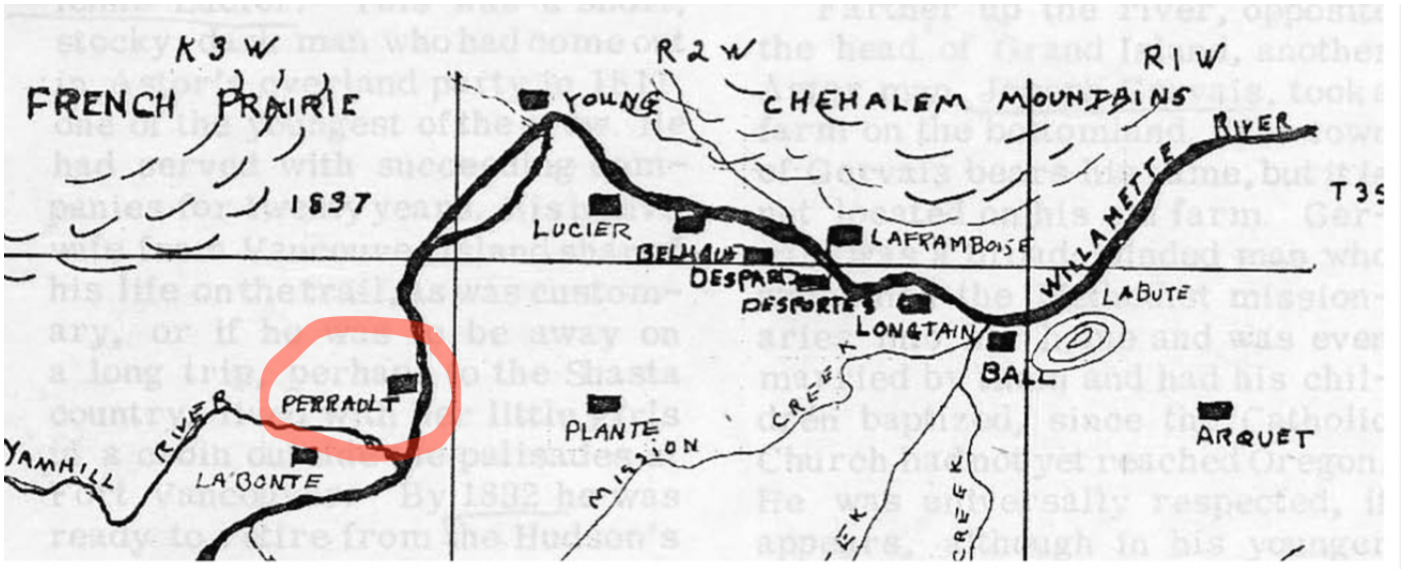
On 29 January 1840, Jean Baptiste Deguire married Marie Anne Perrault, daughter of Jean Baptiste Perrault and a Chinook woman, at the St. Paul Catholic Church. The marriage register provided his parents' names. Marie's mother was not named, but research indicates her mother was Ann, a daughter of Comcomly, the deceased Chinook chief.[11]

> This 29 January, 1840, after the publication of 3 bans of marriage made at the Sermon of the parish Mass between J**ean Baptiste Deguire**, domiciled in this place, son of Jean Baptiste Deguire and of Eulalia Bernier of Ste. Genevieve, State of St. Louis, on the one part; **and Marie Anne Perrault**, domiciled in this place, minor daughter of Jean Baptist Perrault, farmer and of . . . tchinouk by nation on the other part, nor any impediment being discovered, and in view of the consent of the father of the girl, and inquiries made to certify the liberty of the young man, we priest undersigned missionary of the Columbia, have received their mutual consent of marriage and have given them the nuptial benediction

in presence of Amable Arcouet, of Joseph Despard, of Jean Baptiste Mollens, witnesses, who as well as the spouses and the father of the bride present have not known how to sign.[12]

- "Minor daughter" means she was under the age of 14 and needed a parent's permission to marry.[13] If she were aged 13, she would have been born around 1826.
- Jean Baptiste Mollens also worked for Ewing Young. He is not found after this event.
- Joseph Despard's wife was Lisette Chinook.
- Amable Arcout's wife was Marguerite Tchinouk.

Harriet Munnick created the following map showing the location of the French Prairie settlers as of 1837. She placed the Perrault home on the west side of the Willamette River downriver from where the Yamhill River drained into the Willamette. "Young" was Ewing Young.



In February 1841, Ewing Young died without a will or known heirs. The estate administrators held three auctions to sell off his belongings. At the first auction on 26 May 1841, Deguire purchased items useful on a farm.

- 1 two-year-old steer for $14.00.
- 3 bushels of salt and 1 barrel for $3.75.[14]

He didn't buy anything at the September 1841 auction.

In 1841, Eugene Duflot De Mofras, a French naturalist and explorer, visited the Prairie and listed the "Principal French-Canadian Settlers on the Willamette." His chart is listed by year of settlement. Marie's father, J. B. Perrault, was on the list with three houses.[15] The young DeGuire family may have lived in one of the houses.

The Perrault family had harvested 225 hectoliters of wheat. This calculates out to 638 bushels or almost 20 tons. The Perraults had slaves who could have helped with this harvest, but so could have DeGuire.

Name	When Settled	Hectares Enclose	Hectares Cultiva	Crop of Wheat Hectoli	Horses	Houses	Mills
Mich. Laframboise	1831	40	20	170	200	2	1
*J. B. Desportes.....	1831	35	20	170	100	3	1
*Joseph Gervais	1832	60	30	225	50	3	1
*J. B. Perrault.....	1832	40	30	225	10	3	
*Jh. Delor	1832	15	15	100	15	2	
*Etienne Luciat	1832	35	30	230	35	4	1

DeGuire worked on Ewing Young's sawmill. He might have worked on his father-in-law's mill.

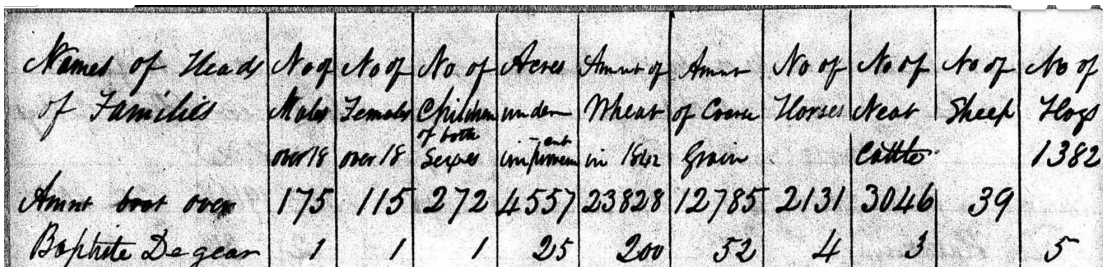
The couple welcomed their first child, Jean Baptiste, on 17 December 1841. He was baptized on 25 December at the St. Paul Church. Joseph Despard was one of the sponsors. Reinette Perrault, Marie's sister, was the other.

> This 25 December, 1841, we priest undersigned have baptized Jean Baptiste born 8 days ago of the legitimate marriage **of Jean Baptiste Deguire, farmer of this place, and of Marie Anne Perreau**. Godfather Joseph Despard, god mother Reinette Perrault who have not known how to sign.[16]

In 1843, Elijah White, the Indian agent, made a census of settlers in the Oregon Territory, using data from 1842. He intended to show that the territory could be farmed and that the British had a foothold with their retired HBC employees. The Canadians would be in the majority unless American settlers moved in. While the Territory was under the joint occupancy agreement, an overwhelming number of British settlers could tip the balance of power and make Oregon an English possession. White's census included the number of men, women, and children, a summary of their crops, and the number of farm animals.

The Marie and Jean Baptiste DeGuire family consisted of one male over 18, one female over 18, and one child. They had 25 acres under cultivation. They harvested 200 bushels of wheat (about 6 tons) and 52 bushels of coarse grain (about 1.5 tons).

They owned four horses, three cattle, and five hogs.[17]



Names of Heads of Families	No of Males over 18	No of Females over 18	No of Children of both Sexes	Acres under improvement	Amnt of Wheat in 1842	Amnt of Coarse Grain	No of Horses	No of Neat Cattle	No of Sheep	No of Hogs
Amnt boat over	175	115	272	4557	23828	12785	2131	3046	39	1382
Baptiste Degear	1	1	1	25	200	52	4	3		5

Provisional Government

When Ewing Young died in 1841, he appeared to have no heirs, and no law governed the disposition of his property. Settlers had previously met to discuss marauding wolves. They continued these meetings to discuss Young's estate, and they proposed establishing a government. On 2 May 1843, a meeting was held at Champoeg to vote on organizing a government. There were 102 men at the meeting. Deguire was one of the 52 men who voted for a government.[18] That government became Oregon's provisional government.

On 13 June 1843, at the third Ewing Young auction, Deguire was paid $7.00 for 8 days with Horses & Cattle. He purchased two items.

- 1 partly tame horse for $15.00
- One Half of the Wheat now growing upon Farm for $33.00.[19]

On 15 October 1843, Deguire received $4.50 from the Young estate for branding Young's cattle and horses on 4 September 1843.[20]

During the provisional government era, settlers made their voices heard by creating and signing petitions. On 19 June 1844, Robert Moore petitioned for permission to build a ferry from Robin's Nest to Oregon City. J. B. Deguire was one of the eighteen men who signed the petition.[21] [Note: Robin's Nest is present-day West Linn, Oregon.]

The provisional government authorized a census to be taken after the first Monday in March 1845. The census enumerated white men and their immediate family members. Jean Bt. DeGuene [*sic*] was enumerated in Yamhill County, as was John Larison, Marie's sister's husband.[22]

John Larison
- 1 female under 12 years. [This is likely Mary Ann Larrison.]
- 1 male 18 and under 45. [This is likely John G. Larrison.]
- 1 female 18 and under 45 [This is likely Reinette (Perrault) Larrison.]

Jean Bt. DeGuene
- 1 male under 12 years [This is likely Jean Baptiste DeGuire, Jr.]
- 1 male 18 and under 45 [This is likely Jean Baptiste DeGuire, Sr.]
- 1 female 18 and under 45 [This is likely Marie (Perrault) DeGuire.]

Marie's father, J. B. Perrault, was in Champoeg County. His household consisted of
- 1 female under 12 years [This is likely Lucie Perrault.]
- 1 female under 18 and under 45 [This is likely Angele Perrault.]
- 1 male over 45 years[23] [This is likely J. B. Perrault.]

On 27 January 1846, Dr. John McLoughlin sold Oregon City Lot No. 1, Block No. 23 to Joseph Watt of the "Wallamette settlement." [Wallamette Settlement is the present-day West Linn.] The price was $1,000, and Watt was to build on the lot. On 18 March 1846, he transferred his "right and title" to the property to Chauncy Spencer. On 22 April 1846, Spencer transferred his right and title to the property to John B. De Geer. On 3 October 1846; DeGeer transferred his right and title to Walter Pomeroy. On 28 October 1849, Pomeroy transferred his right and title to J. Watt. On 22 November 1852, Jno McLaughlin certified that the bond obligations were fulfilled.[24]

On 6 January 1848, the following ad appeared in the Oregon Spectator's "Lost" column,

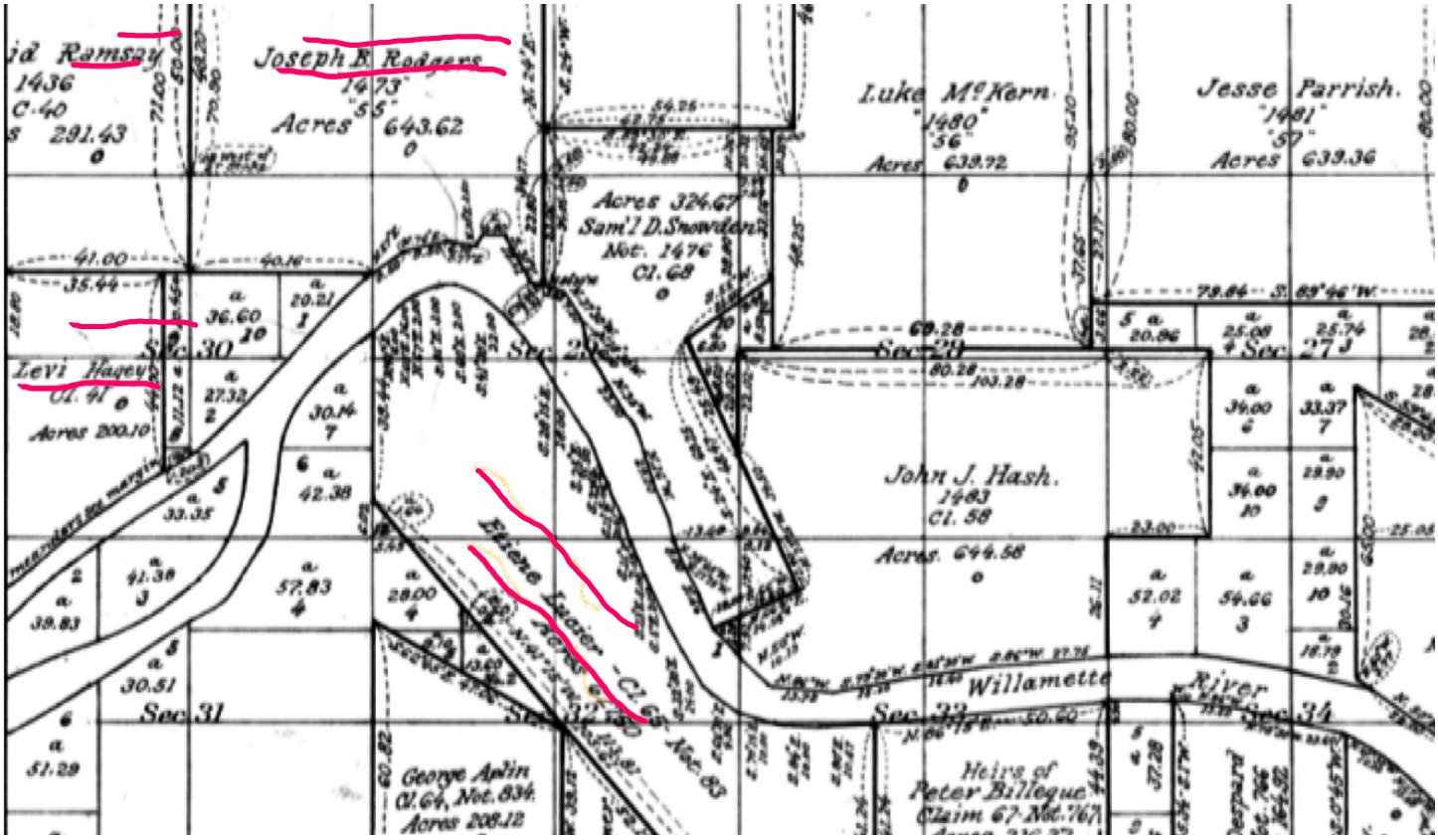
- "One note made by Baptiste Deguire for 10 bushels of wheat.[25]

Oregon's provisional government permitted inhabitants to stake out claims and survey them by the metes and bounds method. A legislative committee created a constitution that included rules for the land claims. Any adult male could claim 640 acres, and they were to build a home within six months of recording their claim.[26]

On 7 January 1848, J. B. DeGuire took out a 640-acre claim in Twality County. His neighbor on the east was [Jacob] Shuck.[27] Jacob Shuck of Yamhill County had a 640-acre claim at the falls on the south branch of Chehalem Creek.[28]

DeGuire was named as a neighbor in the provisional claims of Joseph B. Rogers, John H. Hess, Charles Latton, and David Ramsey – all Yamhill County residents. [Note: David Ramsey's wife was Jacob Shuck's daughter, Susannah. Levi Hagie's wife was Jacob's daughter, Elizabeth.][29]

This GLO 1860 survey shows land claim outlines for Ramsey, Rodgers, and Hagie.



Mary Ann's father, Jean Baptiste Perrault, did not file a provisional claim. Still, he was named as a neighbor in the claims of Louis Monique, Etenne Lucier, F. X. Liard, Paul Guilbeau, and Andre Samatar [St Martin].[30] He was on the Willamette River, south of Louis Monique, west of Etenne Lucier (marked above), between F. X. Liard and Lucier, between Paul Guilbeau and Blanchet, Accotti and Company, and near Andre Samatar.

Eulalie Deguire, J. B. and Marie's daughter, was born on 22 July 1848 and baptized the next day at the St. Paul Church. The family was living "on the other side of the Wallamet River," meaning they were in Yamhill County. Marie's sister and brother-in-law were the godparents.

> The 23 July, 1848, we the undersigned priest have Baptized Eulalie, born the day before of the legitimate marriage of **Jean Baptiste Deguire and of Marie Anne Perrault**, domiciled in this parish on the other side of the Wallamet River. The godfather has been John Larisson and the godmother Reine. Perrault.[31]

No burial record for J. B. Perrault, Marie's father, appears in the St. Paul or St. Louis Church registers. He died after 26 August 1849 when he penned an IOU for $45 for medical care, and before 1 September 1849, when John Baptiste Deguire obtained letters of administration for the probate in Marion County. [32]

Marie's father might have been in California when he died. Many French Prairie settlers temporarily left home to seek their fortune in the California gold fields. The absence of a burial record from the St. Paul or the St. Louis church records increases the probability of this theory.

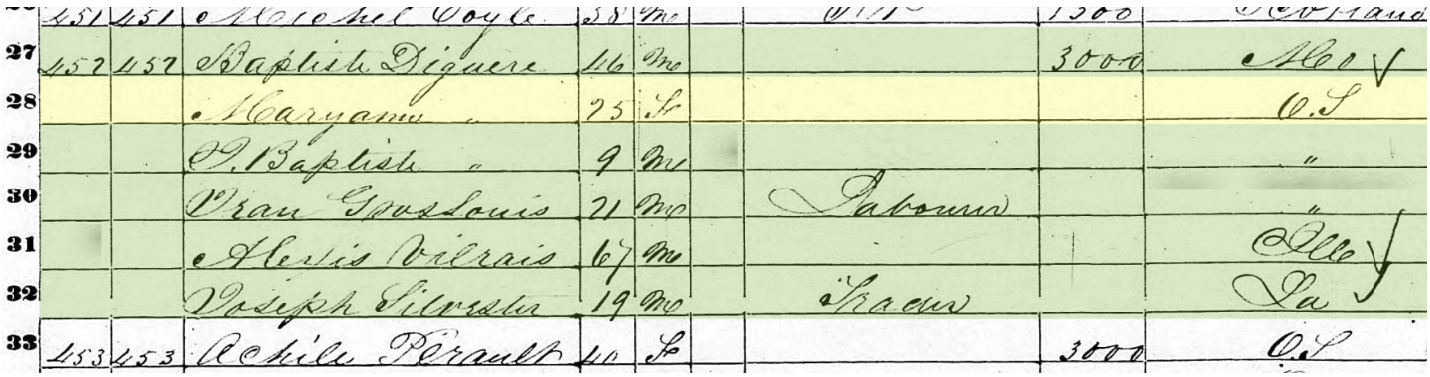
In March 1850, Deguire held an estate sale of his father-in-law's property. The sale brought in $3,007.

On 29 March 1850, an infant girl died. Her name was given as Marie, but she may have been baby Eulalie.

> The 30 March, 1850, we priest undersigned have buried in the cemetery of this mission the body of Marie deceased yesterday at the house of **Jean Baptiste Deguire**, at the age of about 1 year, Present Amable Petit and Charles Petit who alone has signed with us.[33]

Amable Petit, the St. Paul verger, witnessed many St. Paul events. His wife was Susanne Tawaka, daughter of Thomas Tawaka, an Iroquois Indian, and a Chinook woman. Amable and Susanne had a son, Charles, who was born about 1837-38.

In the 1850 Marion County census, the Deguire family was listed next to Mary Ann's stepmother.[34]



	451	451	Michel Coyle	38	M		[illegible]	1500	[illegible]
27	452	452	Baptiste Diguere	46	M			3000	Mo ✓
28			Maryann "	25	F				O.S
29			J. Baptiste "	9	M				"
30			Jean Gros Louis	21	M		Labourer		"
31			Alexis Vilrais	67	M				Ill ✓
32			Joseph Silvester	19	M		Tracer		La ✓
33	453	453	Achile Perault	40	F			3000	O.S

Jean Baptiste and Marie Ann's son, Thomas, was born on 10 November 1851 and baptized ten days later at the St. Paul Catholic Church.

> The 16 November, 1851, by us priest undersigned has been baptized Thomas, born 6 days ago of the legitimate marriage of **Jean Baptiste Deguire and of Marie Anne**. Godfather Narcisse Cornoyer; godmother Marie, who have not undersigned. [35]

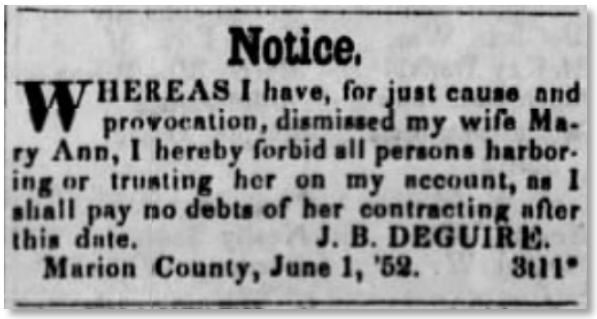
It's not known when Deguire started his ferry on the Willamette River, but he received a ferry license in 1851. In 1851, he charged $2.00 to carry a team or yoke and wagon.[36] The 1852 General Land Office survey

shows the ferry location. It was near a ford that Indians used. In the summer, the river narrowed, and a wide gravel bench was exposed. That shortened the distance the horses had to swim in fording the river.[37]

> The 27 January, 1852, after the publication of one ban of marriage between David Western on the one part; and Marie Saintclair, on the other part. The parties having obtained from Monsigneur the Archbishop of Oregon City dispensation of two bans, nor any impediment being discovered; and the solemn declaration of **Baptiste Deguire** having been given before us and the witnesses undersigned to attest that David Western, known to him since 10 years, has not to his knowledge contracted any matrimonial engagement. The said David Western having on this occasion consented to make legitimate in his name and to regard as his own child John, natural child of Marie Saintclair, We undersigned priest have received their mutual consent to marriage, in presence of the undersigned and of several others. J. B. DeGuire, David (X) Western, Louis Labonte, Mary Saintclair, John Moll[38]

In mid-May 1852, Deguire was a signer of a petition for pardon of Enoch Smith. In early 1852, Enoch Smith, a Yamhill County resident, arrived at Samuel Goff's farm in Polk County. He intended to go with Goff and several others, including Hiram Everman, to the California gold mines. He arrived amid a disagreement between Return Everman, Hiram's brother, and Cyrenus Hooker over a watch Hooker claimed Everman stole. Smith and Hooker were not on good terms, and Smith offered R. Everman $250 to kill Hooker. Everman killed Hooker in mid-February and fled south. In mid-March, Smith's part in the plot was revealed, and he was charged as an accomplice to murder. His trial was transferred to Yamhill County, where he was tried in mid-April, found to be an accessory to murder, and sentenced to be hanged in May. Before the hanging date, Everman confessed to the crime and said that Smith had no part in the plan. Petitions were circulated in Polk and Yamhill counties for Smith's pardon. On 15 June, Governor Gaines pardoned Smith.[39]

Deguire posted this newspaper notice in the 1 Jun 1852 Weekly Oregon Statesman newspaper, and it ran for several weeks.[40]



Notice.

WHEREAS I have, for just cause and provocation, dismissed my wife Mary Ann, I hereby forbid all persons harboring or trusting her on my account, as I shall pay no debts of her contracting after this date. J. B. DEGUIRE.

Marion County, June 1, '52. 3t11*

On 7 July 1852, Deguire filed for divorce in the Marion County District Court. He was 47 years old, and Mary Ann was 27. He was a resident of Marion County on 22 May 1852 when he discovered that Mary Ann had been "cohabitating in adultery" with a man named Joseph Pion. Deguire then "dismissed Mary Ann from his bed" and she left the home. She moved across the Willamette River into Yamhill County with Pion, and they lived there. When she returned to Deguire, he couldn't take her back "without degrading himself and being subject to continual mortification from her past acts."[41]

Joseph Pion is likely Joseph Pin, aka Pain, aka Parr, born about 1827, the son of Joseph Pinn and Marguerite Pend d' Oreille.[42]

The Donation Act of 1850, effective on 1 December 1850, gave 320 acres to every white settler or half-breed Indian who was over eighteen years of age and who filed a claim. For married men, their wives received 320 acres in their own right, and they had to submit a proof of marriage. With no vital records offices, the proof could be testimony from the priest or from a neighbor who knew the couple as married people

John B. DeGuire applied for his Oregon Donation Claim, #1760, on 26 August 1852.[43] The application did not mention Mary Ann being gone! He claimed that,

- He was born in St. Genevieve County, Missouri, in 1804.
- He lived on the land he was claiming from 20 June 1849 until 26 August 1852.
- He married Mary Ann on 30 January 1840.

Several neighbors filed affidavits supporting the land claim.

- Stephen Lucier claimed he knew John and Mary Ann lived together as man and wife from 1832 to August 1852, and they lived on the land from 1 August 1849 to 26 August 1852.
- Joseph Despart claimed he knew John lived on the land from 1 September 1849 to August 1853.
- John Gangros claimed he knew John had lived on the land from 20 January 1850 to 22 April 1854.

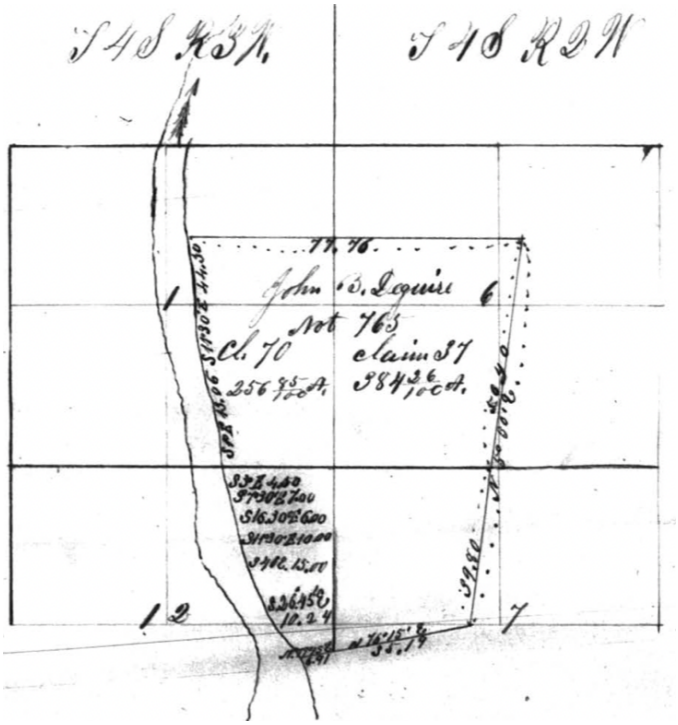
On 16 November, Green C. Davidson purchased part of the claim.

On 14 May 1863, John H. Ollschleyer purchased part of the claim.

On 18 June 1873, J. B. requested that his patent be delivered to John B.P. Piette.

Diagram of the claim. The river is the Willamette River.

Notice that the claim went a little south of the midline of section 12 in T 4S, R 3W.

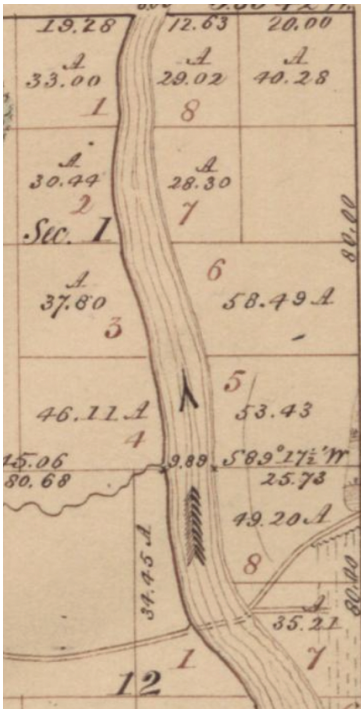


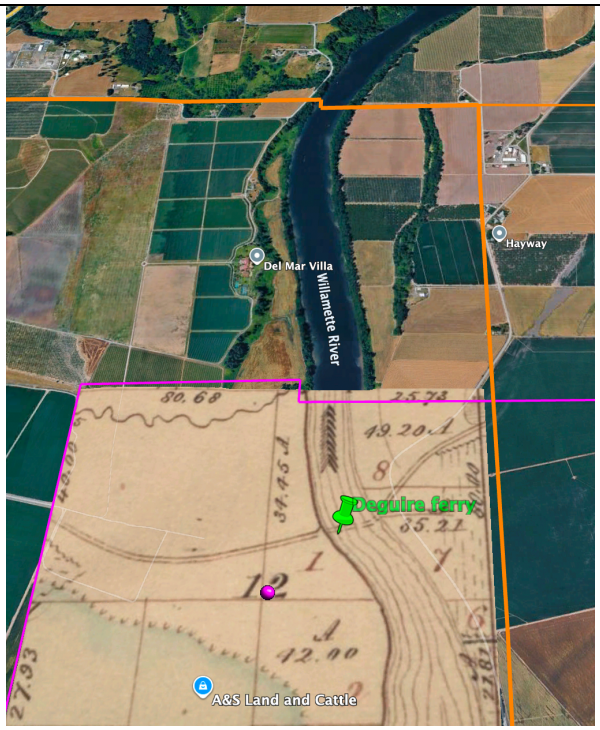
Compare the above map to this portion of the 1852 General Land Office survey.

The road to the ferry is clearly marked, as is the ferry.

The map to the far right shows the ferry superimposed on a Google Earth map.

1852, Twp 4S, R 3W, sec. 1 & 12





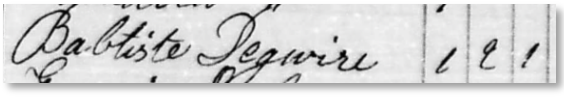
On 26 August 1852, Deguire swore an affidavit supporting Joseph Despard's donation claim, #3166. He was personally acquainted with Despard and knew he lived on the tract of land he claimed from 1 December 1838 to 26 August 1852. He also knew Despard and his wife, Lizette, lived together as husband and wife from 1849 until she died.

Two Deguire deaths are recorded in the 1853 St. Paul church register. The first entry is puzzling. The Perrault family had Indian slaves, but Angele was "brought up by" Perrault. That doesn't sound like she was enslaved.

> The 29 August, 1853, we undersigned parish priest of St. Paul have buried in the cemetery of this parish Angele *[sic]* brought up by Baptiste Perrault, deceased at the house of **Baptiste Deguire** 2 days ago, aged about 16 years. Witnesses Joseph Champagne, Charles Prévôt.[44]

> The 7 December, 1853, by us undersigned has been buried in the cemetery of this mission the **body of Thomas** legitimate son of Jean Baptiste Deguire husbandman, and of Marie Anne Perault, deceased the day before yesterday, aged 2 years, in the presence of Jean Bte Deguire and of Louis Guilbeau who have not undersigned.[45]

Deguire was enumerated in the 1853 Marion County census. His household consisted of two males and one female.[46]



One of the males was a voter - likely Deguire. Marie was likely the female, and Jean B., Jr., the other male.

Deguire was involved in at least two lawsuits. The 18 October 1853 edition of the Weekly Oregon Statesman included these two items in the list of cases heard in the U.S. District Court for Marion County.

- J. B. Dubardes vs. J. B. Deguire – assumpsit. Judgment for plaintiff by default. Default set aside on representation of defendant's counsel, and cause continue. [Assumpsit is an action to recover damages for a breach of contract.]
- Chamberlain vs. Deguire. Judgment for plaintiff.

> The 8 April, 1855, we undersigned have supplied the ceremonies of baptism to **Eulalie born the 2 January last of the legitimate marriage of Baptiste Deguire and Marie Anne Perault,** of this mission, privately baptized by Mgr. F.N. Blanchet. Godfather Jean Mesplié, godmother Marie Hubbard.[47]

On 2 May 1855, John Baptist DeGuire and Mary Ann DeGuire, his wife, sold the southern half of their land claim to B. P. Piette and Green C. Davidson for $2,500. [48]

On 4 July 1855, the Francois Baptiste Deguire family arrived at the J. B. DeGuire home.

Sarah Hunt Steeves wrote this about the two Deguire brothers in her Book of Remembrance of Marion County, Oregon, Pioneers,

> The reason for their going directly to the village of St. Paul, near the Willamette river, in Marion county, was because at an earlier date, Mr. De Guire's eldest brother, Baptist De Guera, had joined the American Fur company in Missouri, under Captain William Sublette, about 1830, and had been with this company about ten years and about 1840 or 1842 had arrived in the Willamette Valley. He married the daughter of a Hudson Bay employe. She was a first-cousin of Dr. William McKay, son of Tom McKay, who built the first mill on Butte creek, now known as Scotts Mills. The pioneer of 1840 kept the name De Guera.
>
> At the time, F. B. De Guire, our pioneer, arrived at St. Paul, on July 4, 1855, his brother was operating a ferry on the Willamette called De Guera's ferry. Afterward it was known as Ray's landing. At this time the few roads throughout Marion county led to DeGuera's ferry. At this ferry the family found a small, cheaply constructed house they could occupy for the winter and the two brothers, separated for so many years, renewed their relationship and the younger brother operated the ferry during that first winter, to help pay their expenses.[49]

Note: William Cameron McKay (1824-1893) was the son of Tom McKay (1797 – 1848)[50]. Tom's parents were Marguerite Wadin and Alexander McKay. Marguerite's second husband was John McLoughlin of the Hudson's Bay Company.[51] Tom McKay's wife was Timmee (1806 – 1834). Her father was Comcomly. [52]

A few weeks after arriving, F. B. Deguire took his youngest daughter to the St. Paul church and had her baptized. She was born in Nevada on their trip west.

> The 29 July, 1855, we undersigned have baptized Clothilde, born the 17th of August of last year, of the legitimate marriage of Francois Deguire and Leonore St. James. Godfather Baptiste Deguire, godmother Marie Anne Deguire.[53]

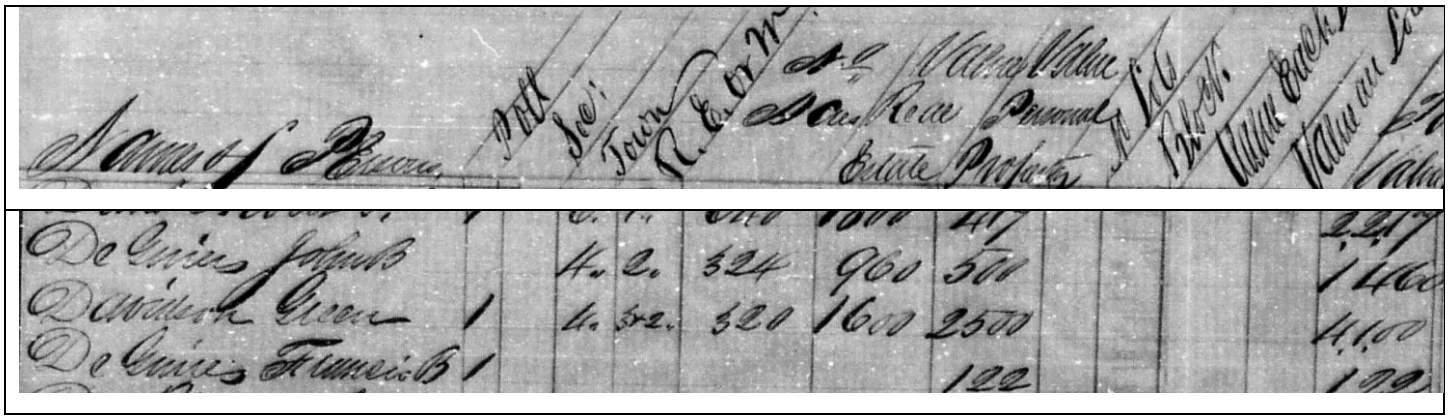
Francois helped run the ferry during the 1855 winter. During this time, Deguire told his ten-year-old nephew, Charles Francis, about life before arriving in St. Paul. He told of "hunting the grizzly bear and the stampeding buffalo."[54]

The source for the DeGuire family information in Steeves' 1927 "Remembrances," appears to be Charles Francis DeGuire. On 8 June 1927, he was featured in Fred Lockley's "Impressions and Observations of the

Journal Man," and he appeared to have all his mental faculties.[55] When he died on 4 June 1928, his cause of death was colon cancer, not something like senility.[56] His reliability appears to be good.

George Gibbbs, an ethnologist who studied the Chinooks, called MaryAnn's mother, "the daughter of the late great chief of the Chinooks."[57] That fits with the information from Steeves' book. Comcomly's daughter Ann, was the mother of Mary Ann DeGuire.

Both Jean B. and Francois B. DeGuire were enumerated in the 1856 Marion County tax roll.[58]



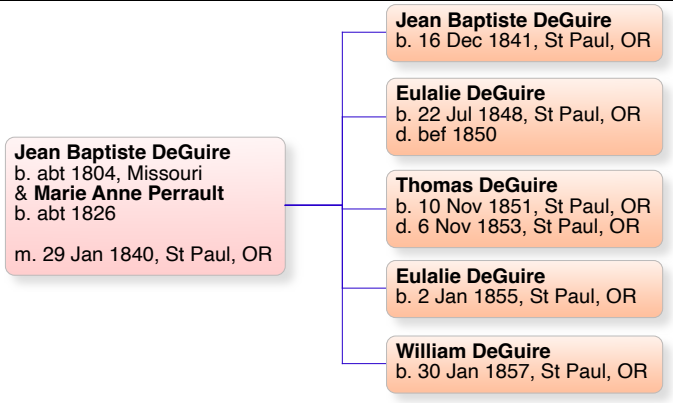
On 30 December 1856, John Baptist DeGuire and his wife, Mary Ann DeGuire, sold the north half of the land claim to Green C. Davidson for $800.[59] It's not known where the family moved after they sold the land claim. Their son, William, was born on 30 January 1857 and baptized at the St Paul church on 8 February, suggesting they stayed in the St. Paul parish area.

> The 8 February, 1857, we undersigned have baptized William, born the 30 January last, of the legitimate marriage of **Baptiste Deguire** and Marianne Perrault, of this place. Godfather Pierre Belleque. Godmother Rosalie Gervais.[60]

The DeGuire family was rather small.

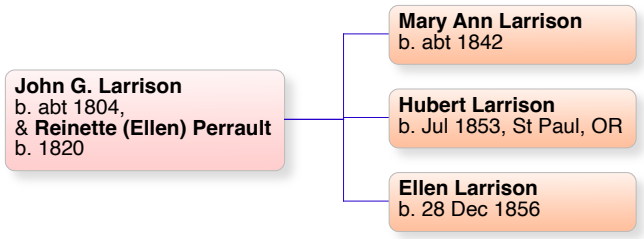
Jean Baptiste, Jr, was born in 1841. He was in the 1850 census, and was likely still in the household.

Eulalie and William were both infants.



The Deguire family could have gone to Silverton with Francois and his family. Another possibility – they could have moved in with Mary Ann's sister.

Deguire was godfather to Ellen, Mary Ann's niece. She was born on 28 December 1856, and the Larrison family was living at "the Butte."

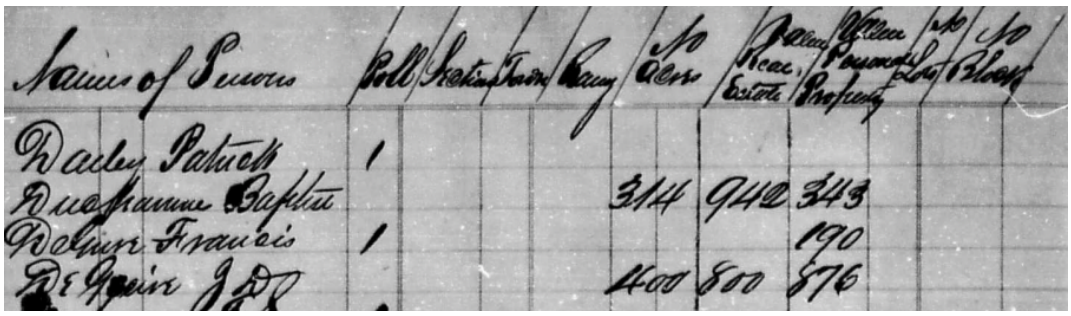


The 1 March, 1857, we undersigned have baptized Ellen, born the 28 December, 1856, of the marriage of John Larisson and Ellen Perault, of the Butte. Godfather **J. Baptiste Deguire.** Godmother Genevieve Bellique.[61]
The 22 September, 1857, after the publication of 3 banns of marriage between Joseph Laderoute, of-age son of Xavier Laderoute and Julie Gervais deceased, of St. Paul, on the one part, and Rosalie Gervais of-age daughter of Joseph Gervais and Marie Indian of St. Paul, on the other part, and not having discovered any impediment, we undersigned have received the mutual consent to marriage and have given them the nuptial benediction in the presence of **Baptiste Deguire** and William Tison.[62]

Julie Gervais was the daughter of Joseph Gervais and a Chinook Indian.[63] Rosalie Gervais was the daughter of Theodore Gervais and Angelique – not Joseph Gervais.[64] Theodore may have been related to Joseph Gervais, but the relationship has not been established. Angelique's maiden name was Lafantasie.[65]

The 1858 Marion County tax list shows both Francis Deguire and J. B. DeGuire.[66]

- Francis had no real estate and $190 worth of personal estate.
- J. B. was assessed on 400 acres valued at $800 and $876 worth of personal property.

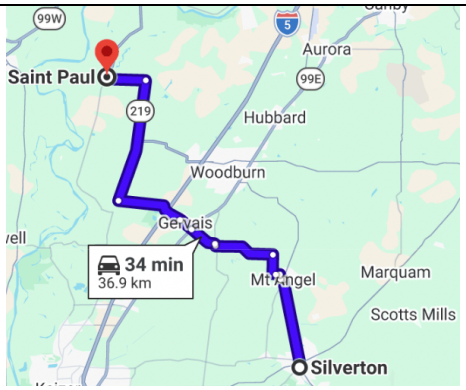


In 1858, the F. B. DeGuire family left St. Paul for Silverton, Oregon.[67]

In 1859, the Deguire family was living in the St. Paul parish, but they had a son baptized at the St. Louis church. Joseph Gervais, a witness, was living in the St. Louis parish.

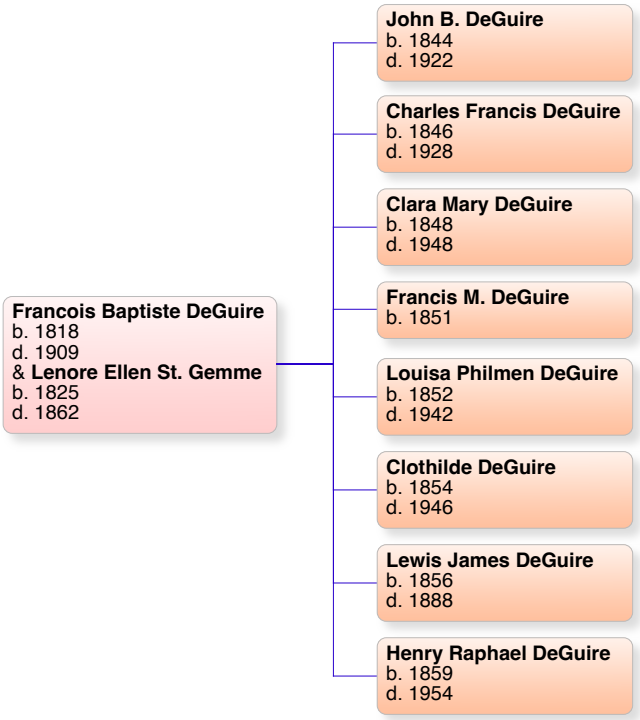
The 4 November, 1859, we undersigned priest have baptized Joseph, born the 23 of last month of the legitimate marriage **of Baptiste Deguire and of Marianne Perro of** the parish of St. Paul; the godfather Joseph Gervais, the godmother Marianne Gervais who could not sign.[68]

The J. B. Deguire family was enumerated in the 1860 Marion County census. They were living in Silverton, along with the F. B. Deguire family. The 1860 census that was digitized is a copy of the original. As shown in the transcript below, the copyist used initials for given names.[69]

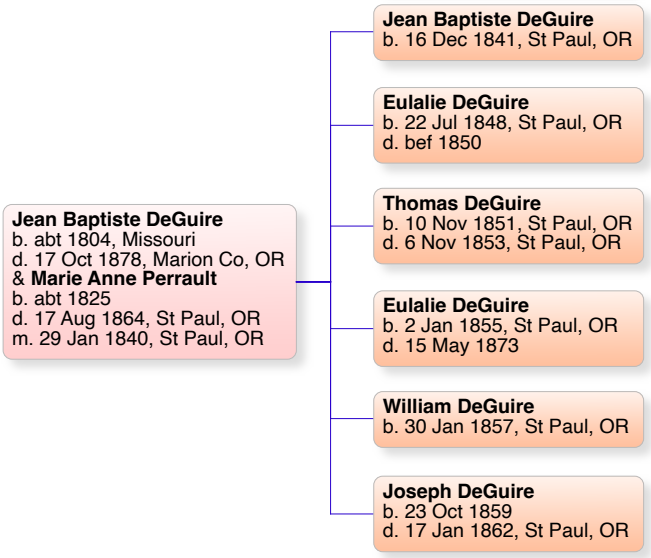


1860 Silverton, Oregon, census

Silverton Pct, P. 314
Dwelling 3089, family 2646 - Francois Baptiste De Guire
Deguir, F , 30, farmer, $500 worth of real estate, $325 worth of personal estate, born in Missouri
Deguir, E., 30, female, born in Missouri
Deguir, J, 15, male, born in Missouri
Deguir, C, 11, female, born in Missouri
Deguir, Jas, 3, born in Oregon
Deguir, H, 6/12, born in Oregon



Dwelling 3090, family 2647 – Jean Baptiste Deguire
Deguir, B., 55, male, farmer, no real estate, $300 worth of personal estate, born in Missouri
Deguir, Mary, 40, female, born in Oregon
Deguir, Jno, 18, male, born in Oregon
Deguir, W, 4, male, born in Oregon
Deguir, E, 5, female, born in Oregon
Deguir, Lewis, 5/12, male, born in Oregon



In January 1862, the Deguire family lived in the St. Paul parish when son Joseph died.

> The 17 January, 1862, we parish priest undersigned have buried Joseph deceased 2 days ago, aged 2 years, son of **JBte Deguire** and of M. Deguire of this parish. Witnesses A. Petit, P. Lachance who could not sign.[70]

Mary Ann died on 17 August 1864 and was buried in the St. Paul Cemetery.

> The 19 August, 1864, we priest undersigned have buried in the cemetery of this place the body of **Marianne Perrault, wife of Jean Baptiste Degheer** deceased 2 days ago, aged 30 years. Witnesses, **Jean Baptiste DeGeer**, Laurent, Piette and others.[71]

Deguire may have left the St. Paul area for Salem, Oregon. A letter was waiting for him in the Salem post office in April 1865.

DeGuire witnessed Ellen Larrison's marriage to Louis Parizeau at the St. Paul Church.

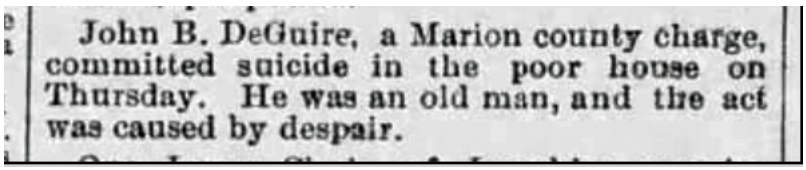
> On 24 June, 1872, after the publication of two bans of marriage of the parish of St. Paul, [Louis] lawful son of Peter Parizeau and Mary Dompierre of the first part, and Ellen Larrison, lawful daughter under age of the late John **Larrison and Reinette Perrault** of the same parish, of the second part; the dispensation of the third ban being by us granted and no impediment being found, we the undersigned, pastor of this place, have received their mutual consent of marriage, and given them the nuptial benediction in the presence of the parents of the parties and of **J. B. Deguire,** Frank Lambert, and several other witnesses.[72]

A year later, he wasn't named as a witness to his daughter's burial at the St. Paul Church, but Ellen (Larrison) Parizeau's husband was.

> On May 17, 1873, we the undersigned, pastor of the parish of St. Paul, have buried Eulalie Deguire, lawful daughter of **Baptiste Deguire, and Mary Ann Perrault**, deceased on the day before yesterday, she being eighteen years old. Witnesses, Louis Parizeau and John Wittman.[73]

Death

Deguire's death was announced in the 19 October 1878 issue of the Oregonian.[74]



John B. DeGuire, a Marion county charge, committed suicide in the poor house on Thursday. He was an old man, and the act was caused by despair.

Susan Bell compiled a full account of the Marion County Poor Farm deaths.[75] Deguire's entry is shown below.

DeGUIRE, John Baptiste
d. 17 October 1878
"SUICIDE.--Coroner J. Henry Brown was notified early Thursday morning that a man had committed suicide by shooting himself at the Poor Farm., and immediately repaired to the place and empanelled a jury, when the following facts were obtained: The deceased, John B. DeGuire, came to Poor farm as a county charge about seven weeks before, and was an aged man who has lived in Marion county for a great many years and kept saloon in Fairfield. Wednesday he went to the Fair and also came to Salem, and nothing peculiar was noticed, in his action, but this morning he arose at about 5 o'clock and going to the woodshed sat down and placed a Colt's revolver close to his head and fired, falling back and expiring instantly. The deceased was at least 60 years of age and nearly blind.

The first witness sworn was Mrs. Mary ENGLISH, who testified that at 5 o'clock a.m. she was out washing and heard a report of a gun or pistol which sounded toward the woodshed, but did not pay any attention to the matter; did not see any one go into the woodshed.

Mrs. Mary SNOOKS testified that between 5 and 6 o'clock she went into the woodshed for some article and discovered the deceased lying on the ground; went immediately into the house and informed Mr. Parker that a man was lying dead in the woodshed; did not hear any pistol report.

Samuel PARKER, sworn, says that deceased's name is J.B. DeGuire; did not notice anything peculiar about him; did not know he had a pistol; came from French Prairie about seven weeks ago, is an old settler.

The jury made an examination of the wound, and the ball entered at the base of the nose near the right eye, in a direct line.

Following is the

VERDICT:

We, the jury called to sit upon the body of J.B. DeGuire, by Coroner J. Henry BROWN, do agree to the following verdict: That deceased came to his death by a pistol shot fired by his own hand.

P.A. SMITH,
T.R. ROBY,
J. GILDON,
ROBERT GERMAIN,
G.W. FARRELL,
W. WALLAD."

DOS, 18 October 1878, 3:1 [buried I.O.O.F]

End Notes

[1] Fay Lamson Ray, "History of the Charles F. Ray Farm at Ray's Landing," *SPMHS.com*; https://ppolinks.com/spmhs/2020-1-40_RAY_FAMILY.pdf.
[2] Oregon Donation Land Claim, Oregon City Land Office, claim no. 3166 for Joseph Despard, citing National Archives microfilm publication M815, roll 40; images obtained from Genealogical Forum of Oregon.
[3] Chehalem Creek Topo Map; https://www.topozone.com/oregon/yamhill-or/stream/chehalem-creek/.
[4] F. G. Young and Joaquin Young, "Ewing Young and His Estate: A Chapter in the Economic and Community Development of Oregon," *The Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society*, Vol. 21, No. 3 (Sep 1920), 212; pdf, (*JStor*).
[5] F. G. Young and Joaquin Young, "Ewing Young and His Estate, p. 212.
[6] F. G. Young and Joaquin Young, "Ewing Young and His Estate, p. 212.
[7] F. G. Young and Joaquin Young, "Ewing Young and His Estate, p. 212.
[8] F.G. Young and Joaquin Young, "Ewing Young and His Estate. p. 217.
[9] F. G. Young and Joaquin Young, "Ewing Young and His Estate, p. 226.
[10] F. G. Young and Joaquin Young, "Ewing Young and His Estate, p. 271.
[11] See "Jean Baptiste Perrault, St. Paul Church Founder, and the Indian Chief's Daughter," https://spmhs.com/articles/spmhsJBPerrault%20reduced.pdf.
[12] Harriet Duncan Munnick, *Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest, St. Paul,* (Portland: Binford & Mort, 1979), Vol. 1, p. 5, M-1.
[13] Can. 1083 §1; https://www.vatican.va/archive/cod-iuris-canonici/eng/documents/cic_lib4-cann998-1165_en.html.
[14] F. G. Young and Joaquin Young, "Ewing Young and His Estate, p. 279.
[15] Nellie Bowden Pipes. "Extract from Exploration of the Oregon Territory, the Californias, and the Gulf of California, Undertaken during the Years 1840, 1841 and 1842 by Eugene Duflot de Mofras." *The Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society* 26, no. 2 (1925): 151–90, *JStor*; http://www.jstor.org/stable/20610311.
[16] Harriet Duncan Munnick, *St. Paul,* Vol. 1, p. 41, B-122.
[17] Lists of settlers west of Rockies, 1842 by Elijah White, Indian Agent," *FamilySearch* DGS 8276177, image 117; citing List of Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1842 – 1880, Oregon Superintendency, NARA M234, reel 607, image 112.
[18] . S. Lyman, "Reminiscences of F. X. Matthieu," *Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society* (Vol. 1, N. 1).
[19] F. G. Young and Joaquin Young, "Ewing Young and His Estate, p. 289.
[20] F. G. Young and Joaquin Young, "Ewing Young and His Estate, p. 306.
[21] "Petition for Ferry – Robin's Nest to Oregon City," *Yakima Valley Genealogical Society Bulletin*, Vol. 9, No. 4, October 1977, p. 157.
[22] Julie Kidd, *1845 Census of the Territory South of the Columbia and West of the Cascade Mountains* (Portland: Oregon Territorial Press, 1997), 19.
[23] Julie Kidd, *1845 Census of the Territory South of the Columbia and West of the Cascade Mountains,* p. 4.
[24] "Washington, Oregon, United States records," images, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS5S-Y9JS-1?view=explore : Jul 15, 2026), image 254 of 290; citing Records to Title, Lots in Oregon City, p. 441.
[25] "Lost," *Oregon Spectator*, 6 January 1848, p. 3.
[26] Lottie Gurley, comp. *Genealogical Material in Oregon Provisional Land Claims*, Abstracted; Volumes I-III, 1845-1849 (Portland: The Genealogical Forum of Portland, 1982), Foreword.
[27] Lottie Gurley, comp. *Genealogical Material in Oregon Provisional Land Claims*, 191.
[28] Lottie Gurley, comp. *Genealogical Material in Oregon Provisional Land Claims*, p.198.
[29] Lottie Gurley, comp. *Genealogical Material in Oregon Provisional Land Claims*, p.176.
[30] Lottie Gurley, comp. *Genealogical Material in Oregon Provisional Land Claims*, p. 6, 11, 54, 258.
[31] Harriet Duncan Munnick, *St. Paul,* Vol. II, p. 10, B-31.
[32] John Baptist Perrault Estate; originals at Oregon State Archives, Salem, Oregon.
[33] Harriet Duncan Munnick, *St. Paul,* Vol. II, p. 25, S-5.
[34] 1850 Marion County, Oregon Territory, census, p 102 B, dwelling 452, family 452, Baptiste Diguire and dwelling 453, family 453 and dwelling 453, family 453, Achile Perault; *Ancestry*. (Enumerated 3 Feb 1851.)
[35] Harriet Duncan Munnick*, St. Paul,* Vol. II, p. 44, B-27.
[36] B. J. Hendricks, "Bits for Breakfast," *The Oregon Statesman*, 13 February 1937, p. 4; citing, "Some Oregon pioneer ferries that were good as gold mines."

[37] Fay Lamson Ray, "History of the Charles F. Ray Farm at Ray's Landing," *SPMHS.com*; https://ppolinks.com/spmhs/2020-1-40_RAY_FAMILY.pdf.
[38]Harriet Duncan Munnick, *St. Paul,* Vol. II, p 46a, M-3.
[39] Thomas Branigar, "The Murder of Cyrenius C. Hooker." *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 75, no. 4 (1974): 344–59. http://www.jstor.org/stable/20613440.
[40] *Weekly Oregon Statesman*, 1 June 1852, p. 3.
[41] John B. DeGuire vs Mary Ann DeGuire, divorce, Marion County, Oregon Territory, case 133; originals at Oregon State Archives, Salem, Oregon.
[42] Harriet Duncan Munnick*, St. Paul,* Appendix, A-79.
[43] Oregon Donation Land Claim, Oregon City Land Office, claim no. 1760 for John B. Deguire, citing National Archives microfilm publication M815, roll 40; images obtained from Genealogical Forum of Oregon (https://gfo.org/).
[44] Harriet Duncan Munnick, *St. Paul,* Vol. II, p.57, S-10.
[45] Harriet Duncan Munnick, *St. Paul,* Vol. II, p. 58, S-12.
[46] 1853 Marion County, Oregon, census; originals at Oregon State Archives, Salem, Oregon
[47] Harriet Duncan Munnick*, St. Paul,* Vol. II, p. 71, B-10.
[48] Marion County Deeds, Vol. 1, p. 83-4.
[49] Sarah Hunt Steeves, *Book of Remembrance of Marion County, Oregon, Pioneers, 1840 – 1860* (Portland, Oregon: The Berncliff Press, 1927), 293.
[50] William Cameron McKay (1824 – 1893), Oregon Historical Society's *Oregon Encyclopedia*; https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/mckay_william_c/.
[51] "Marguerite McLoughlin, "Fort Vancouver National Historic Site," *National Park Service*, https://www.nps.gov/fova/learn/historyculture/margueritemcloughlin.htm.
[52] "William Cameron McKay, *Wikipedia*; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Cameron_McKay.
[53] Harriet Duncan Munnick, *St. Paul,* Vol. II, p. 73, B-17.
[54] Sarah Hunt Steeves, *Book of Remembrance of Marion County, Oregon, Pioneers* 294.
[55] Fred Lockley, "Impressions and Observations of the Journal Man," *Oregon Daily Journal*, 8 June 1927, p. 12.
[56] Oregon State Board of Health, Death Certificate (1928), No. 410, Charles F. DeGuire.
[57] George Gibbs to the Secretary of the Interior, *FamilySearch* DGS 8276177, image 117; citing List of Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1842 – 1880, Oregon Superintendency, NARA M234, reel 607, image 692 and 693.
[58] 1856 Marion County, Oregon Territory tax roll; originals at the Oregon State Archives, Salem, Oregon.
[59] Marion County Deeds, Vol. 1, p. 403.
[60] Harriet Duncan Munnick, *St. Paul,* Vol. II, p. 74, B-2.
[61] Harriet Duncan Munnick, *St. Paul,* Vol. II, p. 85, B-5.
[62] Harriet Duncan Munnick, *St. Paul,* Vol. II, p. 76, M-3.
[63] Harriet Duncan Munnick, *St. Paul*, Appendix A-36.
[64] 1850 Marion County, Oregon Territory census, p. 199, dwelling 367, family 367; *Ancestry.*
[65] Harriet Duncan Munnick, *St. Paul,* Appendix A-36.
[66] 1858 Marion County, Oregon Territory tax roll; original at Oregon State Archives, Salem, Oregon.
[67] Sarah Hunt Steeves, *Book of Remembrance,* p. 293.
[68] Harriet Duncan Munnick, *Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest: St. Louis*, (Portland: Binford & Mort, 1982), p. 139, B-36.
[69] 1860 Marion County, Oregon, federal census, Silverton Pct, p. 314, Dwelling 3089, family 2646 - Francois Baptiste De Guire, Dwelling 3090, family 2647 – Jean Baptiste Deguire, Dwelling 3093, family 2649, Chas Miller.
[70] Harriet Duncan Munnick, *St. Paul,* Vol. II, p. 124, S-1.
[71] Harriet Duncan Munnick*, St. Paul,* Vol. II, p. 145, S-6.
[72] Harriet Duncan Munnick, *St. Paul,* Vol. III, p. 55, M-3.
[73] Harriet Duncan Munnick, *St. Paul,* Vol. III, p 62, S-2.
[74] *Oregonian*, 19 October 1878, p. 5.
[75] Susan N. Bell, comp. *Oregon, Marion County Poor Farm & Cemetery* (Salem, Oregon: Willamette Valley Genealogical Society, 1999), 7.