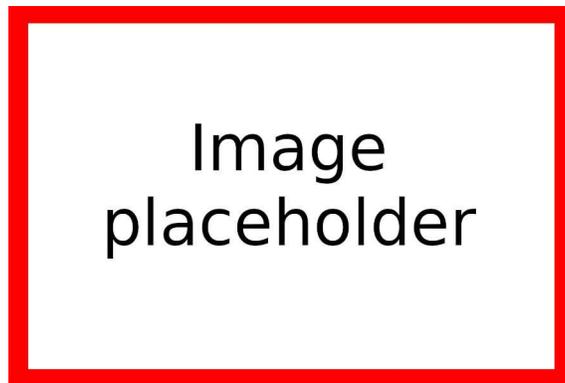


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# SECOND GENERATION

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## INTRODUCTION

La Charité-sur-Loire’s history during 1590–1650 is closely tied to its enduring status as a religious centre. The Benedictine priory, established earlier in the medieval period, had grown in influence and continued to shape the town’s development. While the town’s economic life was tied to the trade routes along the Loire, much of its historical identity revolved around its religious heritage. The monastery’s presence attracted pilgrims and visitors, which bolstered the local economy and preserved La Charité-sur-Loire’s reputation as a sacred site.

The town’s cultural life extended beyond religious influence, as community festivals and fairs were common in La Charité-sur-Loire, fostering a sense of unity. During religious holidays, such as Easter and the Feast of the Assumption, residents participated in elaborate processions and public displays that showcased both devotion and local identity<sup>1</sup>. These festivities not only reinforced Catholic traditions but also nurtured a shared cultural heritage, strengthening the communal bonds among residents.

In the early 17th century, La Charité-sur-Loire saw gradual development of its infrastructure, including the maintenance of bridges and roads to support the flow of goods and pilgrims. These projects were often overseen by religious authorities who understood that improving accessibility would serve both spiritual and economic interests. Archaeological findings suggest that the Loire

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1 Drugeon, F. (2014). *Christopher Wool: vitraux La Charité-sur-Loire – Nièvre*. Retrieved from Christopher Wool Vitraux Publication.

River and its bridges were critical to the town's layout and expansion, symbolizing a historical commitment to maintaining the town's position as both a spiritual and logistical hub<sup>1</sup>.

Politically, La Charité-sur-Loire was a microcosm of the national religious tensions that had plagued France since the mid-16th century. The conclusion of the French Wars of Religion in 1598, marked by the Edict of Nantes, brought a temporary peace but did not fully resolve the rift between Catholics and Huguenots (French Protestants). While the Edict granted Huguenots certain rights, the town, deeply rooted in Catholicism, was cautious about integrating Protestant practices. The priory's stronghold within the town added a layer of conservative Catholic influence, and local governance often aimed to maintain Catholic dominance while carefully managing Protestant presence<sup>2</sup>.

The town's proximity to the Loire River made it strategically important for both trade and military endeavours, making political stability a priority. Governors and local officials sought to keep peace by avoiding overt confrontations with the Protestant minority, though tensions occasionally flared up. La Charité-sur-Loire's politics during this time reflected a balancing act, striving to uphold Catholic authority without inciting outright conflict, a delicate position seen in many French towns of the period.

The Catholic Church's hold over La Charité-sur-Loire persisted through the period, with the priory acting as a symbol of resilience and faith amid the broader societal changes occurring in France. Its influence extended into governance, as religious leaders held significant sway in local decisions and used their authority to reinforce Catholic practices.

## GENERATION TWO

Generation two comprises the children of the progenitors Jehan Laspron and Marguerite Fiteau. The data presented in this chapter represents the sum of the research conducted by the author on this generation. The genealogical narratives for the following children of Jehan Laspron and Marguerite Fiteau may be found in this generation by order of appearance:

- ♀ Jacquette Laspron (66426)    b. Nov 1590, d. unknown
- ♀ Françoise Laspron (66427)    b. Sep 1592, d. unknown
- ♀ Jehanne Laspron (66428)    b. Oct 1594, d. unknown
- ♀ Anne Laspron (66429)    b. Jan 1599, d. unknown
- ♂ Pierre Laspron (66430)    b. Jan 1605, d. unknown

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1 Desbois, S. (2014). *Communication d'A. Dumont, P. Moyat, R. Steinmann et M. Foucher: The history of La Charité-sur-Loire bridges, from the 18th to the 20th century.*

2 Henrion, F. (2020). *La Charité-sur-Loire, la ville, le prieuré et son enclos: un aperçu des connaissances et un état des lieux.* Bulletin du Centre d'Études Médiévales d'Auxerre. Retrieved from Bulletin du Centre d'Études Médiévales.

♂ François Laspron (66431)	b. Apr 1607, d. unknown
♀ Marie Laspron (66432)	b. Feb 1610, d. unknown
♂ Jehan Laspron (66419)	b. May 1611, d. Aft 1648
♂ Étienne Laspron (66433)	b. May 1611, d. unknown
♂ Jacques Laspron (66434)	b. Aug 1612, d. unknown
♂ Louis Laspron (66435)	b. Nov 1614, d. unknown