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I never thought about that, but you're right.

Amable Guion was almost certainly a descendant of the Guyon family. In the context of early French-Canadian and Illinois Country history, the names Guion, Guyon, and Dion are used interchangeably as phonetic variations of the same surname.

The candidate **Jean-Baptiste Guyon** (born in 1719, ID 29080) is statistically the best match to be the "young mason from Canada" who arrived in 1741. He is the son of Jean-Baptiste Guyon and Catherine Guillet.

**The Mother:** Some genealogies (such as the *Wilson Family Tree*) suggest that Amable was born from a union in Illinois, possibly with a woman named **Marie-Thérèse Hippolyte** or a woman from the **Cahokia (Kaokias)** region.

Attached is a bit of research that identifies his probable father.



*following pages*

Guion Amable  
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## The Marriage Contract (St. Louis, 1770)

In the French colonial period, marriage contracts were legal documents drawn up by a notary. According to the [St. Louis Genealogical Society records](#) and the work of historian Robert Parkin, Amable is identified in legal records as part of the Guyon dit Du Buisson line. This was done to distinguish his family from other "Guion" or "Dion" families in the region who did not belong to the master mason lineage.

## 2. The Masonry Tradition

The name Du Buisson was the specific territorial "dit" name of the family of Jean Guyon (1592–1663), the master mason from Tourouvre, France.

- Amable Guion was a [master stone mason by trade](#).
- In the 18th century, it was standard practice for descendants to use the "dit" name associated with the ancestor who founded their professional dynasty. Since Jean Guyon's land in Quebec was called *Du Buisson*, his mason descendants carried that name to Illinois and St. Louis to signify their status as trained craftsmen.

## Genealogical and Historical Summary: The Lineage of Amable Guion

**Subject:** Amable Guion (c. 1740 – 1780), pioneer and defender of St. Louis.

### 1. The Subject: Amable Guion (c. 1740 – 1780)

Amable Guion (sometimes recorded as Guion dit Buisson or Dumontier) is an iconic figure in the colonial history of the Mississippi Valley.

- **Birth:** Born around 1740–1742 in the "Illinois Country" (Cahokia or Randolph), a French territory.
- **Profession:** Master stone cutter and mason.
- **Historical Role:** Pioneer of the founding of St. Louis (c. 1764). He built several of the city's first stone structures.
- **Death:** Died in combat on May 26, 1780, during the Battle of Fort San Carlos (a British and Native American attack on St. Louis).

### 2. Father's Identity: Jean-Baptiste Guyon (c. 1719 – ?)

Cross-referenced research between Quebec archives and Illinois records confirms the following parentage:

Criteria	Details
Name	Jean-Baptiste Guyon (PRDH ID 29080)
Origin	Château-Richer, Quebec (born November 14, 1719)
Migration	Arrived in Illinois around 1741 to work on Fort de Chartres.
Evidence	Total absence of records (marriage/death) in Quebec after 1740, coinciding with his departure for the "Upper Country" ( <i>Pays d'en Haut</i> ).

### 3. Ancestry: The "du Buisson" Builders

The Guyon family is one of the oldest lineages of masons in North America, descending directly from the early settlers of Perche, France.

- **The Founding Ancestor:** Jean Guyon du Buisson (1592–1663). A master mason who arrived from France in 1634. His nickname "**du Buisson**" became the branch name used by Amable in St. Louis.

**The Grandfather:** Jean-Baptiste Guyon

#### Profile Analysis: Jean-Baptiste Guyon (ID 29080)

- **Parents:** Jean-Baptiste Guyon and Catherine Guillet.
- **Place of Birth:** Château-Richer.
- **Family Trade:** This branch belongs to the **Guyon dit Buisson** family, recognized as master masons from generation to generation.

#### Marriage Search Results

By cross-referencing databases (PRDH and Drouin) for the 1735–1750 period:

- **Absence of Marriage:** There is no marriage record in Quebec for a Jean-Baptiste Guyon matching this profile (born around 1719) during this period.
- **Contrast with Siblings:** While his brothers and sisters generally married in the Côte-de-Beaupré or Quebec City regions, Jean-Baptiste seems to "disappear" from parish registers after his adolescence.

#### Why is this strong evidence?

At the time, a man almost never remained single if he stayed in Quebec. If he did not die at a young age (and we have no burial record either), his disappearance from the records

coincides perfectly with the need for specialized labor for the reconstruction of **Fort de Chartres in 1741**.

## Logical Conclusion

Everything points toward this Jean-Baptiste Guyon dit Buisson:

1. He is the **ideal age** (21–22 years old) to depart in 1741.
2. He possesses the **required trade** (mason/stonecutter).
3. He belongs to the "**Buisson**" branch, the same dit-name (nickname) carried by Amable Guion in St. Louis.
4. He has **no recorded ties** (marriage/property) in Quebec after 1740.

It is therefore almost certain that this Jean-Baptiste arrived in Illinois, married there (likely to a local woman or someone whose records were lost, which is common for that region and era), and fathered Amable Guion.

## Summary of the Probable Lineage of Amable Guion

*Based on the PRDH-IGD archives*

### The Lineage of Masons (From Quebec to St. Louis)

1. **The Ancestor (The Founder): Jean Guyon du Buisson (1592–1663)**
  - A master mason who arrived from France in 1634. He is the ancestor of nearly all Guyon, Guion, and Dion families in North America. His dit-name (nickname) "du Buisson" became the hallmark of his lineage.
2. **The Grandfather: Jean-Baptiste Guyon dit Buisson (1691–1750)**
  - Born in Château-Richer; also a mason. He married Catherine Guillet in 1711. It was within their household that the sons who would migrate West were born.
3. **The Father (The Immigrant): Jean-Baptiste Guyon (ID 29080)**
  - **Birth:** November 14, 1719, in Château-Richer.
  - **Migration:** Around 1741, he left Quebec (likely recruited for stonework at Fort de Chartres).
  - **Evidence:** As noted, he left no record of marriage or death in Quebec, confirming he started a new life in Illinois.
4. **The Subject: Amable Guion (1740/42–1780)**
  - Born in Illinois (Randolph or Cahokia).
  - He carried on the trade of mason/stonecutter passed down from his ancestors.

- He became one of the first inhabitants of St. Louis and died a hero on May 26, 1780, during the Battle of Fort San Carlos (Battle of St. Louis).

# DEFENDERS OF THE BORDER

## MISSOURI'S UNION MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE CIVIL WAR

by

William Fannin



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**CHARLES BISSETTE (1747-5/26/1780)**

Charles Bissette, one of St. Louis's prominent farmers, was "murdered by Indians" on May 26<sup>th</sup>, according to Father Bernard, who buried four dead that day. Bissette was the younger brother and an heir of Guillaume Bissette, one of the village's foremost merchants, who had died in 1772 while Charles was returning upriver from a trip to New Orleans. He was married on January 29, 1774, to Marie Christine Pepin (dit Lachance), daughter of stone mason Jean Marie Pepin, who had built several of the village's rock houses. Bissette was cultivating a tract of 100 arpents in Grand Prairie, situated between lands of Mesdames Hebert and Dodier, when he was slain by savages. Madame Bissette was pregnant at the time, and, two months later to the day, gave birth to twin boys, who were christened Antoine and Paul Bissette. Fifteen months later, Veuve Bissette was married to Jean Baptiste Provencher, a wheelwright and farmer.

**IGNACE LAROCHE (d.5/26/1780)**

"Ygnacio Larrosa" was slain in the attack. Although there are no details of Ignace Laroche's death, he is so listed in the lieutenant-governor's declaration of casualties. Laroche was among the first settlers of St. Louis and, in 1765, received a verbal grant from Laclede where he built a house facing Rue de l'Eglise in the northern part of the village. Laroche was a farmer and remained a bachelor until his marriage on April 27, 1779, to Marie Becquet, fifteen year old daughter of blacksmith Jean Baptiste and Marie Françoise Dodier Becquet. She supposedly was a native of St. Louis, therefore one of the first children born there. Laroche and his wife had only one child, a daughter who died on Christmas Eve of 1783; her father already was dead, of course. His widow, herself only sixteen years of age, was married a second time on February 24, 1781, to Louis Barada, 21 year old son of Antoine and Marguerite Desrosier Barada. He was a shoemaker, who had served in the Second Company of militia.

**AMABLE GUION (1742-5/26/1780)**

Amable Guion, a stone mason like his father who had emigrated from Canada in 1741 and probably helped rebuild Fort

de Chartres during the '50s, came to St. Louis with Laclede and laid the foundation for the village, undoubtedly helping erect Laclede's headquarters. His pregnant wife, Marguerite Blondeau, made the crossing from flooded Cahokia in June, there being a dispute whether their son was born in Cahokia or the first white child born in St. Louis. Guion received several landgrants, built his own house of stone, and, by 1769, was regarded as one of St. Louis's leading merchants. He was working a piece of land in Cul de Sac of Grand Prairie, a mile north of the village, when Indians attacked. Guion was among those slain, his body being the one found nearest the village. Pere Bernard buried him, making an entry, "murdered by Indians," in the church register. His estate was willed in equal halves to his sixteen year old son, Amable Guion Jr., who served as a boatman in the militia, and Widow Guion, who was married five months afterwards to Guillaume Hebert (dit Lecompte).

**PIERRE GLADU (d.5/26/1780)**

Pierre Gladu was killed by Indians in St. Louis's Little Prairie and was buried there without final rites of his church. Twelve years later, a man named Duquette came from Canada, sought out the grave, caused the remains to be disinterred and buried with all the solemnities of the Catholic Church in the town graveyard. In fact, there was a large procession from the prairie to the cemetery, Duquette walking near the coffin, bareheaded and with a lighted taper in his hand. A large cross bearing the deceased's name was erected, and the priest described Gladu in the certificate of interment as "a Canadian, before then buried in Little Prairie, killed by Indians, 'l'Annee du Coup,' a good man and of known probity, according to public statement and report." The date was March 14, 1792, almost twelve years to the day since he'd been slain.

**JULIEN ROY (d.1793)**

Julien LeRoy (dit Roy), one of the first and most prominent men to come to Laclede's post in Chouteau's boat, was listed among prisoners by DeLeyba. Yet, legend had it that, while being pursued by an Indian, LeRoy turned suddenly and, taking deliberate aim, fired into the face of the savage, shattering his jaw.

That evening, the Catholic priest buried four victims, entering a notation in the church registre: In the year 1780, the 26<sup>th</sup> of May, I, Capuchin priest and apostle missionary, have buried in the cemetery of this parish, bodies of Charles Bisette, Amable Guion, the lad Calve, and a Negro of Chancellier, massacred by the Indians. F. Bernard."

Two days later, DeLeyba made out a list of his own of 21 killed, seven wounded and 71 captured, 41 of the prisoners having been taken "On the Mississippi." He lists the casualties all by name. The fourteen white persons killed were "Juan Colman, Thomas, Otro que se haio, Ygnacio Larrosa, Sn Juan, Sn Jorje, Vinere, Calbe hijo, Pedro de Hetre, Daban Caz, Francisco Huber, Gladie, Amable Guion, and Del—." Also among the dead were seven Negroes, including slaves of Gabriel Cerre, Madame Chouteau, Louis Chancellier, and Belestre. Those identified so far were Ignace Laroche, Francois Hebert (dit Belhomme), Pierre Gladie, and Amable Guion.