

Jean Abdon Fauché – Doctor of Bourron-Marlotte in the 19th century

In the past, the doctor of a village has always played an prominent role, and Bourron-Marlotte was no exception. This is why several doctors have remained associated with the history of our village, such as Charles Durand¹, Henri Dalmon² or Paul Roesch³. Others, however, have not yet been the subject of in-depth research. In this article, we will give some information on one of them: Jean Abdon Fauché.⁴

It was through the restoration of tombs of personalities at the Bourron-Marlotte cemetery that we became interested in the identification of a fragment of a monument bearing the name *FAUCHÉ*. After extensive research, we discovered that it was a family member of a village doctor.

Tortuous professional career and numerous children

Jean Abdon Fauché was born in Eymet, in Dordogne, on April 5, 1820, to a draper merchant father and a teacher mother. He studied medicine and began practicing in Châtelet-en-Brie (Seine-et-Marne), where he married Nathalie Eugénie Plicque in 1845. The couple had three daughters there. Eager to become more involved in village life, Jean Fauché joined the municipal council, then was elected mayor.

Although we have not been able to identify the reason, his mandate was short-lived and the Fauché family moved to Coupvray, another village in the north of the Seine-et-Marne department, where their fourth daughter was born. Then, a year later, it was in Louviers (Eure) that the doctor decided to practice for the next four to five years. This period saw the birth of three additional children.

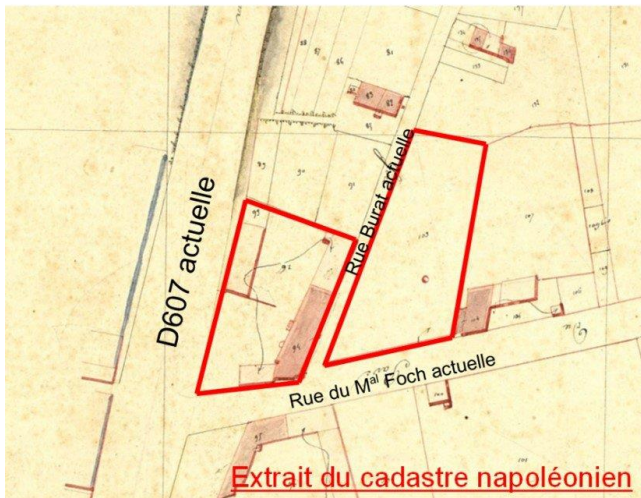
At that stage, it is possible that Jean Fauché's professional career took them in Paris, since we found the birth of another daughter (the eighth child!) in the La Villette quarter, in 1856.

Stabilization in Bourron ... to the birth of a fifteenth child

A few years later, the doctor and his family headed towards Bourron, and it was on June 15, 1860, that Jean Abdon Fauché bought a house there, in the area of *Pavé du Roy* and *rue de la Joie* (current rue Burat), which remained in the family until 1886. Cadastral, mortgage and population census archives allow us to locate the house of Jean Abdon Fauché and his family, at n°1 and n°3 of current rue Burat. The same document indicates that they also owned another garden plot, on the other side of that street.

At that time, the house now known as *Les Charmettes*, at 1 rue Burat, did not yet exist⁵ and the building which preceded it was very likely the extension of the one-story house still visible as 3 rue Burat, thus constituting a very long building. Indeed, the Fauché couple needed a lot of space, since ten people are registered for their family in the

1861 census file... and their presence in Bourron was accompanied by seven other births (four girls and three boys)!



3 rue Burat – Likely remaining half of the Fauché house

It is somewhat surprising to note the absence of a servant in the Fauché household, a presence that was nevertheless common at the time in wealthy families. We can therefore only guess the high intensity, which must have characterized the days of Nathalie Eugénie Plicque, alone at the head of a family with so many children! Let us note that their financial situation should however not have been a limitation, since Jean Abdon Fauché was then among the most taxed owners in the village: in 1870, he was in 24th position on the list of the 30 wealthiest owners.

The years pass in Bourron, bringing their natural share of tragedies and happier days. Thus, when 1874 arrived, five of the Fauché children were dead, some buried in the Bourron cemetery. Other children got married during this period, including their son Emile. It is interesting to note that one of the witnesses to that son's wedding is the painter Jean Bonabe de Rougé, resident of Grande Rue de Bourron, thereby illustrating the friendly relations that likely existed between the Fauchés and other inhabitants of the village.

Doctor turned poet at the end of his life

In 1881, Jean and Nathalie Fauché were left with only two of their daughters, in their large house of rue Burat... No doubt about the calm that resulted from this reduction in family size! Likely consequence of that new family environment, Jean Abdon Fauché then devotes himself to poetry towards the end of

ODE A BOILEAU

Qui a remporté une palme d'argent,

Par M. JEAN-ABDON FAUCHÉ.

Auteur judicieux, guide sûr et fidèle,
 Toi qui de l'art des vers traças le vrai chemin,
 Dont le livre, à la fois et précepte et modèle,
 D'un poète jamais ne doit quitter la main ;
 Toi, des mauvais écrits, censeur impitoyable,
 Et des fades rimeurs l'ennemi redoutable,
 Ah ! comment, sans trembler de peur,
 Oserai-je, Boileau, malgré tout mon courage,
 Quel que soit mon désir de t'offrir mon hommage,
 Tenter des vers en ton honneur.

Tu n'es plus dès longtemps, mais du sépulcre sombre
 Quand ma voix frappera les lugubres échos,
 Qui sait si tout à coup vais-je pas voir ton ombre
 Surgir et m'accuser de troubler ton repos !
 Qui sait si, devinant mon projet téméraire,
 D'un accent indigné, grossi par la colère,
 Raillant mes pénibles efforts,
 Blessé du bruit confus de mes vers sans cadence,
 Tu ne sortiras pas toi-même du silence
 Où pour nous sont plongés les morts !...

his life, even submitting some of his works to competitions. His *Ode to Boileau* even earned him a silver medal!⁶

It was on March 12, 1884, at five o'clock in the morning that Jean Abdon Fauché died in his Bourron house, and he was buried in our cemetery shortly thereafter. Two years later, his wife Nathalie Eugénie Plicke sold the house and moved to Charenton-le-Pont, near her son Emile. She died there in 1894, before being also buried in the Bourron cemetery.

1 - *Bulletin des Amis de Bourron-Marlotte*, #10 (1981)

2 - *Bulletin des Amis de Bourron-Marlotte*, #3 (1978) and #12 (1982)

3 - *Bulletin des Amis de Bourron-Marlotte*, #10 (1981)

4 – A more complete article will be published in a future issue of *Bulletin des Amis de Bourron-Marlotte*.

5 - Jean Peccard (1889-1923) – *Un talent artistique sapé par la grande guerre*, in *Bulletin des Amis de Bourron-Marlotte*, n°65 (2023)

6 - *Échos de Mont-Réal : organe officiel de l'Académie et des grands concours poétiques...* / Académie Mont-Réal de Toulouse, 1880