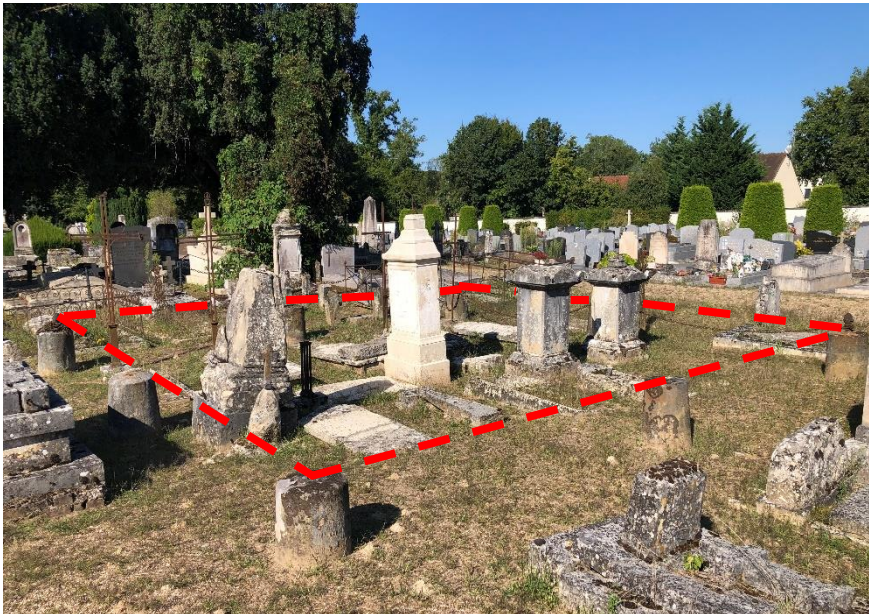


A piece of history at the Bourron-Marlotte cemetery – The Varennes and Montgon families



View of the Montgon-Varennes plot in the Bourron-Marlotte cemetery

In the old part of the Bourron-Marlotte cemetery is a group of monuments, once demarcated by a chain and which were already noted in 1980 to be *in a sad state of abandonment*: those are twelve tombs of the Montgon and Varennes families, most of them deteriorated and covered in moss and lichen.

The Varennes and Montgon in Bourron

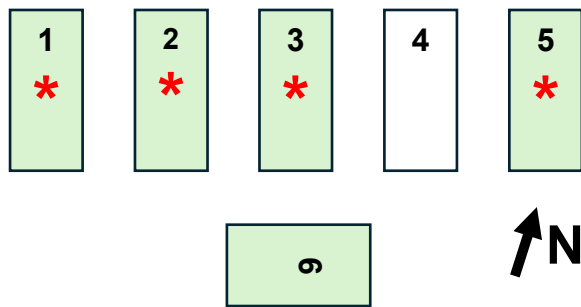
The Varennes family inherited the castle of Bourron in 1726, following a marriage with a descendant of the Béringhens, previous owners¹. The Montgon family appears in the history of Bourron-Marlotte when Adélaïde Luce de Varennes married Jacques François César de Cordebeuf Beauverger de Montgon in 1796. The castle remained the property of these families until 1849, when it was sold to the Baron de Brandois², and the Varennes-Montgons left an image of generosity towards the village. Two of them were mayors of Bourron.

The deceased of the Varennes and Montgon families were traditionally buried in the old cemetery, at the apse of the church³. However, in 1854, sanitation work took place in the old cemetery surrounding the church and Mr. Le Marquis de Montgon deemed it appropriate to exhume the remains of the members of his family who were buried there. Seven people were thus transferred on June 17, 1854 to a dedicated plot, still clearly visible in the current cemetery:

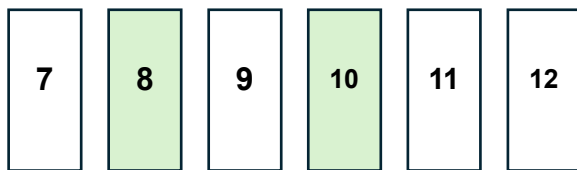
- François Frédéric de Varennes, Marquis de Bourron
- Jacques François César de Cordebeuf Beauverger, Marquis de Montgon
- Blanche Adélaïde de Montgon
- Adélaïde Delphine de Montgon, former nun of St-Cyr
- Balthasar Henry Bernard, Count of Meyronnet
- Marie Henriette Françoise de Louvigny du Puits de Maconex
- Thérèse Marguerite Chazelle, chambermaid devoted to the family.

In addition to these seven original graves, five others were added over time to the Montgon-Varennes plot.

Identification of the graves



The Amis de Bourron-Marlotte have undertaken to restore some of these graves in very poor condition and to identify them. To date, we have been able to assign a name to seven of the tombstones, where only a few letters are sometimes still readable (in green on the sketch on the left).



Map of the Montgon-Varenes plot (* transferred in 1854)

1 - François Frédéric de Varennes de Bourron – Born around 1728, he was a knight, lieutenant in the captaincy of Fontainebleau, lieutenant-colonel of the French guards, marshal of the Camps

and armies of the King, knight of Saint-Louis. He died on November 13, 1788 at the Château de Bourron. Could he have been a victim of the epidemic that was raging at the time? In 1788, *the Purple (typhoid) and the Millet (tuberculosis) reigned epidemically in Bourron and claimed around sixty victims*⁴.

2 – Jacques François César de Cordebeuf Beauverger de Montgon – Born on June 13, 1756 in the department of Gard. Marshal of the King's camps and armies, knight of the royal and military order of Saint-Louis, of the Lily and of St Lazare of Jerusalem, he was mayor of Bourron between 1806 and 1829. He died on March 3, 1829 at the Château de Bourron.

3 – Blanche Reine Adélaïde de Montgon – Daughter of Jacques François César de Cordebeuf born in 1806. She died before her twentieth birthday in Bourron.

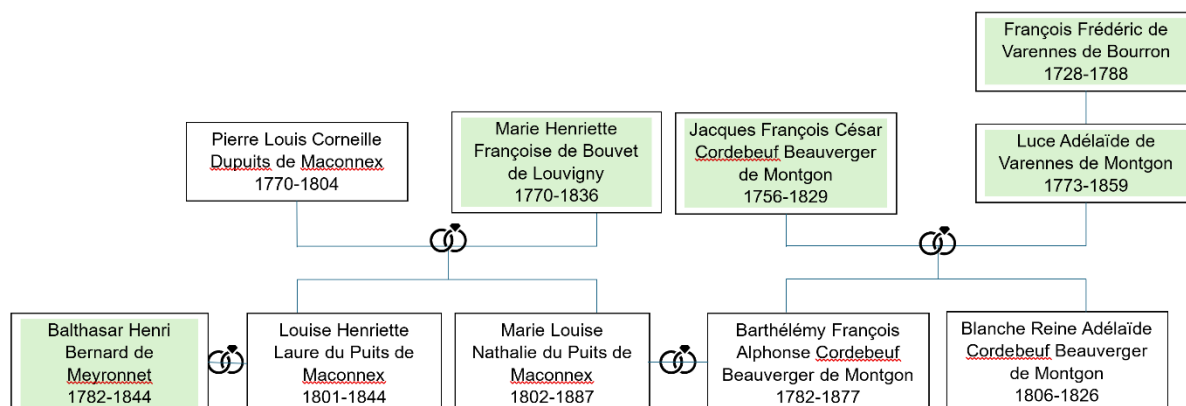
5 – Marie Henriette Françoise de Bouvet de Louvigny – Born in 1770 and died in 1836 at the Château de Bourron.

6 – Barthélémy François Alphonse de Cordebeuf de Beauverger, Marquis de Bourron – Born on January 1, 1797 in Fontainebleau. Former cavalry captain and lord of Bourron; mayor of Bourron from 1829 to 1831, then from 1846 to 1848. He was buried on June 23, 1877 in the Bourron cemetery.

8 – Adélaïde Luce Marie de Varennes de Montgon – Born in 1773. During the Revolution, while the *sans-culottes* pillaged the Château de Bourron and took the Marquise de Bourron to Paris, her youngest daughter, Adélaïde-Luce, was kept in custody by the villagers, a roundabout way of protecting her and the estate. It was in fact she who took possession of the château again shortly after her marriage to the Marquis François César de Cordebeuf Beauverger Montgon, on February 8, 1796. Adélaïde de Varennes died on April 11, 1859 in Fontainebleau.

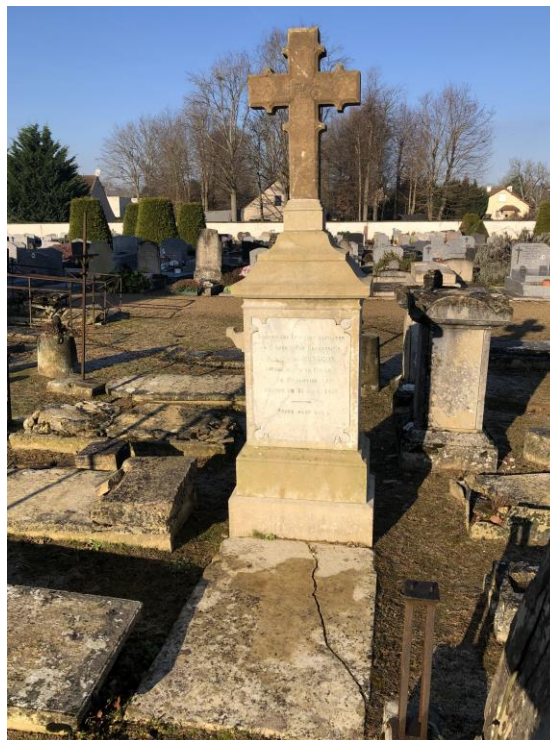
10 – Claudine Théophile Berthier – Born in 1803 in Paris and died in 1858 in Fontainebleau. We have not found any information about her. Could she be a maid appreciated by the family?

The identified people are highlighted in green on the family tree below.



The graves numbered 4, 7, 9, 11 and 12 are still to be identified, and our research therefore continues...

In a parallel effort, we are also striving to improve the physical condition of the monuments, and this is how that of Jacques François César de Cordebeuf Beauverger de Montgon has already been cleaned and has found its cross!



Tombstone of Jacques François César de Cordebeuf Beauverger de Montgon (before and after cleaning)

2 - *Les anciens seigneurs et chatelains de Bourron* by H. Froment – Bulletin des Amis de Bourron-Marlotte n°8, 1980

3 - Bourron-Marlotte Parish archives

4 - Bourron-Marlotte Parish archives – Notes from abbot Pougeois