



## Historic

### The name : Ferry Castle...

Why ferry? The Rhone river has a direct link with the name of the property. At a time where boats could go across the river, a ferry connected the villages of Vertrieu (Isère) and St-Sorlin (Ain) on the other shore.

Why castle? The huge size of the house (26 rooms) and the aristocratic membership of successive inhabitants are the main explanation for the name of Castle. A weather vane on the roof displays a lord's crown. In XIXth and XXth centuries bills of sales such as in current use (local stories, postcards...), the house is called "Château du Bac" (Ferry castle) or Château de la Chapelle, in memory of the Passerat de la Chapelle family. In these times, the property was also made up of vineyards, and mulberry trees used for silkworm breeding.

### In the XVIIth century

1620 is the year appearing on a corner stone but the architecture looks like a construction from Louis XV (much more recent). So we can think the building of the castle was partly made up with recycled material. There are no more official papers for this period. But owners of the XVIIth C seem to be the same as in the XVIIIth century, the "Chartreusines de Sallette", a community created in 1299 by Humbert 1<sup>st</sup>, whose main house was in the city of La Balme.

### In the XVIIIth century

The bitty of Vertrieu from 1702 offers the following description :

"The reverend religious nuns hold house, gardens, doors and ways in the place of Vertrieu from the Rising ladies' orchard of the Lagnieu's congregation of Sainte-Marie and garden of Claude Milliet Midy, path from Vertrieu to the Sunset new harbour, Bizes ladies orchard, along the Rhone river, measuring 169 ft.

A recess of the Virgin Mary located in the wall of the grounds testifies to the religious origins of the castle. Moreover, the actual "château de la Sallette" brings to the fore a similarity in construction : same portal, roof with four sections, orientation compared to the Rhone river... The house of Vertrieu was probably a holiday resort for Superiors or a place to lodge guests of Religious people.

The chartreusines de Sallette held this property until French revolution. When the National Assembly decreed the nationalization of the church's goods and their sales, the inventory of the town of Vertrieu was quick because "*the only religious goods of the town of Vertrieu are the house of the Chartreusines sisters*". In these times, buildings were described as "a farm, orchard and warehouse dedicated to the wooden exploitation estimated at 6.000 pounds.

Inside the farm, it was... empty "*In the farm are 6 mattress estimated (...) 840 pounds, and a few other pieces of furniture including a bad wooden bed, a credence sideboard and a trammel estimated 30 pounds.*"

The credence sideboard is still in the actual dining room. In the kitchen, you can also see a huge wardrobe and other XVIIIth C storage components.

The whole lot was estimated for 6.870 pounds. This usual sub-estimation was enabling a high resale value for the first owners.

So the family Beaufrère bought this house. They were somebody of note in the town of Vertrieu, bargee owners, master shoemenders. In 1789, Claude Beaufrère was appointed public town prosecutor but he would resign one year later, when his uncle Lurin was elected as mayor. In 1790, they declared 400 pounds income as a "*tradesman*".

The first cadastre of 1826 states Claude Beaufrère as the owner of the "Ferry Castle". Taking advantage of his eminent place in the revolutionary town council, he acquired the Chartreusines sisters house to make his own house.

## **In the XIXth century...**

On January 21<sup>st</sup> 1850, Pierre-Benoît Beaufrère and his sister Josephine ‘wife Girardet’, heirs of Claude Beaufrère (deceased on the 1839 August 29<sup>th</sup>) and Marguerite Rave (deceased on the 1836 May 26<sup>th</sup>) appears in front of the solicitor, Maître Vicaire, because of significant debts incurred by their father. The personal patrimony of her wife had been entirely sold. The heirs decided to sell subsidiary goods, and as the wedding contract of Josephin and Mr Girardet included a 5520 francs dowry, Pierre-Benoît paid this sum and kept for him “*the paternal house of Vertrieu and buildings of exploitation including vault, stable, shed, courtyard, garden and all dependencies for about 50 acres from the Rhone River at the Orient to the public road at the Occident.*”

The remains of succession “*two fields planted with hautins\*, mulberry trees, located in the town of Vertrieu and a rural building located in the town of La Balme*”. Brother and sister decided to sell these goods.

Two days later, on the January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Maître Raffet, solicitor in the town of Perouges received Pierre-Benoît Beaufrère and Josephine Girardet to sell to Antoine Pallière (Lyonnais tradesman) the described goods.

“*1 – A living and exploiting house with cellars, stables, stone built warehouses, courtyard, garden and orchard, all adjacent to each other, located to Vertrieu (Isère) enclosed to the morning by the Rhone river and the evening by main street.*

*2 – A field called “Petite Garenne”, planted with mulberry trees and hautins\*, located in Vertrieu measuring 1,25 hectares, enclosed north-east by the property of Claude Bussod and south-west by the field of François Beaufrère.*

*3 – Another ground including a rural building planted with mulberry trees and hautins\* measuring 3,65 hectares, enclosed south east by the ground of Benoît Collier and north east by the ground of Claude Bussod. This field is located in the town of La Balme.*

*The present sale includes every “furniture” aimed in real estate use : one oil press, two vats, two tuns with 2000 litres each, thirteen barrels of 300 litres, shafts, boards, scales and other articles included in the buildings, and not marked out in the following list (...)*”

\* “Hautin” is a vineyard stuck with a tree (maple, cherry tree, elm, sycamore tree) whose branches were supporting vine shoots. By extension, the stakes used to bear the vines were called “hautins”. This technique, imported by the Romans, had the upper hand of limiting the spring frosts but it was progressively abandoned because the vineyard could not be treated.

The sales price of 36.000 Francs was shared as 11.112 F for Josephine Girardet-Beaufrère and 20.888 F for Pierre-Benoît Beaufrère. On May 20<sup>th</sup> Antoine Pallière acquired one more piece of field in Vertrieu to Joachim Roux, employee in Lyon, as recorded by the solicitor Maître Raffet of Meximieux.

The couple Paillet fitted out the house. Outside they replaced the carter door with a huge Louis XV wrought iron portal in complete harmonization with the XVIIIth C stone pillars. Inside, they put up a big cast iron stove (still active today) ordered to Mathias & Cropi, in Lyon. They lived 26 years in the house.

“On March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1876, appears in front of Maître David, solicitor in La Balme, Antoine Pallière, Marie Claraz’s widower, his children Jean Pallière, priest of the parish Saint-Bernard in Lyon), Laurent Pallière, medicine man in Montluel, Jean-Baptiste Pallière and Marie Pallière living in Vertrieu to sell the family property to the baron Charles-Victor Compagnon de la Servette. The Baron de la Servette decided to fix up a weather vane on the roof bearing the arms of the family.

## **IN the XXth century...**

In 1900, March 1<sup>st</sup>, in front of Maître Françon, solicitor in Lagnieu, appear the heirs of Anne-Louise Françoise de Drujon, Charles-Victor Compagnon de la Servette widow deceased in 1900 January 7<sup>th</sup> :

Félicité-Marie-Valentine Compagnon de la Servette, first wife of Jean-Marie-Charles Crozet de la Fay, today married to Jean-Joseph de Fructus and her children,

Marie-Félicité-Antoinette Crozet de la Fay, widow of Abel-Joseph Compagnon de la Servette (living 24 rue des remparts d’Ainay in Lyon) and her children Anne-Marie, Marthe, Louis-Anne-Marie-Victor-Henri Crozet de la Fay (living in the castle of Molard Saint-Sorlin),

Marie-Louise Crozet de la Fay, wife of Stanislas-Roche-Marie-François de Boutiny (living in « les Mexclances » of la Crau),

Jeanne-Louise Noémie Compagnon de la Servette, wife of Jules Boutillon de la Serve (La Balme)

Jeanne-Louise Olga Compagnon de la Servette, widow of Jérôme-Benoît-Philogène de Baillencourt alias Courcol (26 av Hoche, Paris)

Decided to sell the « Ferry Castle » to an engineer Hippolyte Bouchacour, Lyon.

The sale price was 45.000 Francs.

16 years later, on July 6<sup>th</sup>, in front of Maître Giroux, solicitor in Belley, Hyppolite Bouchacour, engineer in Lyon was giving up his goods in aid of the Baron Pierre Passerat de la Chapelle, owner living in Pontoise. Goods were detailed as followed :

*“1 – A living house built on arched caves, with 8 rooms on the ground floor, 8 rooms on the first floor, attic rooms and garrets above*

*2 – a building used as stables, hayloft and saddle room*

*3 – another building sheltering orangery, shed and junk room*

*4 – a living house leading into main street of Vertrieu with private access*

*5 – a courtyard surrounded by these four constructions*

*6 – a wide lawn field with shades and vegetable garden.*

*These gathered goods are closed with high stone walls on a total area of 70 acres. They are confined by north east the Rhone river, south east property belonging to the town of Vertrieu, south-west, public road of the village (with main entry gate of the property) and north west, several estates separated by a feet path.”*

The sale price was 30.000 Francs. The sales act was signed up at the hotel Cochaud in Saint-Sorlin.

Pierre de la Chapelle decided to bring up to date the house. He ordered the creation of windows to the second floor (view to the courtyard) and installed the central heating (still in working order).

During world war II, the German army shelled the town of Vertrieu. Their aim was the destruction of the bridge of Lagnieu. A high-explosive shell ended in the frontage of the Ferry castle (in the winter dining room). The final restoration was made once the war over.

On April 7<sup>th</sup> 1962, the baron Louis de la Chapelle sold the house to Lucien Thiollier in front of Maître Darinet, solicitor in Lagnieu. Lucien Thiollier was honorary manager of Indochina (ex French colonies) after long part of his life spent in Hanoi (Vietnam). “The property called “château du Bac” (Ferry castle) includes *“living house with underground vault underground, 16 rooms half on ground and first floor, garrets and attic rooms on second floor. Front courtyard. In this courtyard, building used as stable, hayloft, and ex saddlery. Other building used as glory hole, garage, orangerie. A small 4 rooms warden house has a direct access to the main street of the village. Shadowed lawn besides. A plot of land is dedicated to the vegetable garden. The overall is rounded with stone walls, river Rhone north-east, village local building south-east, main street south west, with the official entrance in the courtyard of the castle.*

Sale price was 55.000 francs.

Then the property was subdivided. In 1974, the son-in-law of Lucien Thiollier, Philippe Debail, bought the warden house. Later, Bernard Thiollier, son of Lucien bought the orangerie and finally the stable was sold to Claude Poute de Puybaudet (another son in law of Lucien Thiollier).

In 1997, July 7<sup>th</sup>, one year after the death of Lucien Thiollier (1996 June 13<sup>th</sup>), the main house was bought to the heirs of Lucien Thiollier by Marie-Dominique Debail-Lavoizard, grand-daughter of Lucien. The description was a *“living house with underground vault underground, 8 rooms ground and 8 rooms first floor, garrets and attic rooms on second floor, shadowed ground at the stern.”*

Sources :

#### **XXth century**

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Correspondence with Mr. Guy Passerat de la Chapelle (Pérouges),

Family archives,

#### **XIXth century**

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#### **XVIIIth century**

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Archives of the village of Vertrieu, record of deliberations of the Town, Vertrieu 1790,

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#### **XVIIth century**

*Inventory, patrimony pictures, district of Cremieu – Isere*, Lyon, 1998