

Charlotte Todd de Besserer

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I know very little about this ancestor of mine. What is known is that he was reportedly the father of Tharsille Todd, my great, great, great grandmother. I have his initialized silver buckles and spurs from his military service as a Lieutenant in my possession. They have been passed down from mother to first born daughter in my family for several generations. I can only assume that Charlotte Todd, knowing the dangers of having an illegitimate child, secured them as some type of pledge but he died before they had a chance to marry and make the child legitimate. On March 19, 1823 she filed papers against Besserer for an "obligation". Two weeks later, he died. (Hmm...)

At some point, the child, Tharsille Todd added "deBesserer" to her name. According to relatives I have living in Quebec, Charlotte consistently made an annual trip to Upper Canada in order to secure money for her daughter from Leonard's younger brother who had inherited his estate. I don't think it was an amicable relationship because Charlotte had threatened a lawsuit on more than one occasion. Some branches of the family think that this man (who was married) was actually the child's father, but the buckles in my possession have Leonard's initials on them so I feel quite certain that he, indeed, was the father.