

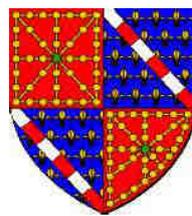
HISTORIC OF THE CASTLE-MUSEUM OF NEMOURS



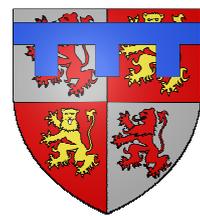
MEMORABLE EVENTS AND MAJOR FIGURES



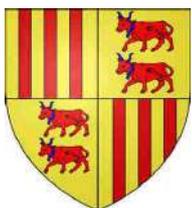
House of Villebéon



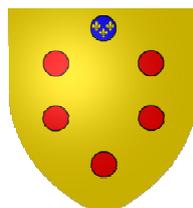
House of Navarre



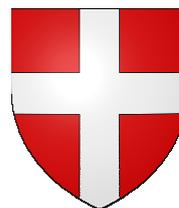
House of Armagnac



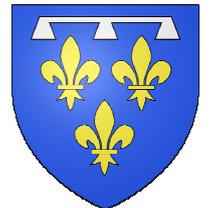
House of Foix



House of Médicis



House of Savoie



House of Orléans

History of the castle of Nemours in key dates

During the Middle Ages

Around 1150

Gauthier the 1st of Villebéon, chamberlain of Kings of France Louis VII (1120-1137-1180) and Philippe Auguste (1165-1180-1223), begins the construction of the castle of Nemours.

1276

The Villebéon family, ruined by the Crusades, sells their rights to the seignery to King Philippe III of France (1245-1270-1285). In consequence Nemours, is integrated into the French royal domain.

1404

Nemours becomes a duchy by royal decision.

During the modern time

1515

The duchy of Nemours becomes the property of the Savoy family during more than 150 years after briefly belonging to the Medici (1515-1516).

1672

Louis XIV, the “sun king” (1638-1643-1715) gives the duchy to his brother, “Monsieur”, the duke of Orleans (1640-1701). The castle becomes a justice audience.

During the Contemporary Age

1789

Nemours’ status of duchy is given up during the French Revolution. The castle escapes destruction at the hands of the revolutionaries and is sold as a national possession.

1810

The mayor of Nemours buys the castle and gives it to the town the year after with the intention of establishing a public school.

1811-1900

The castle is filled various functions: drying spaces, cellars, school, dance room, auditorium... The town hall should also be installed inside the castle.

1903

On the impulse of three artists from Nemours – J.-C. Sanson (1833-1910), A. Ardail (1835-1911) and E. Marché (1864-1932) – the castle is transformed into a museum with an important « Fine Arts » collection.

1977

The castle receives the classification of “Monument historique”.

At the XXIst century

2002

The Castle-Museum receives the label “Musée de France”.

2007

Reopening of the Castle-Museum to the public after renovation works.

Chronology of the owners of the castle of Nemours

Lords of Nemours

- **House of Château-Landon**

1120-1148 : **Orson of Château-Landon** (c.1098-1148), son of the viscount Foulques of Gâtinais.

1148-1174 : **Aveline of Château-Landon** (c.1130-1196), daughter of the previous one. Married in 1150 to Gauthier I of Villebéon (c. 1125-1205), lord of Beaumont-en-Gâtinais.

- **House of Nemours-Guercheville**

1174-1191 : **Philippe I of Villebéon** (1155-1191), son of the previous one.

1191-1222 : **Gauthier II of Villebéon**, son of the previous one.

1222-1255 : **Philippe II of Villebéon**, son of the previous one.

1255-1270 : **Gauthier III of Villebéon**, son of the previous one.

1270-1274 : **Philippe III of Villebéon**, brother of the previous one.

The seignury of Nemours is sold to King Philippe III of France in 1274. In 1404, Nemours becomes a duchy.

Dukes of Nemours

- **House of Navarre**

1404-1425 : **Charles III** (1361-1425), king of Navarre from 1387 to 1425. First duke of Nemours. Married in 1375 to Eléonore of Castille (af.1363-1416).

1404-1407 : **Béatrice of Evreux-Navarre** (1386-1407), daughter of the previous one, made duchess of Nemours by title while her father was still alive. Married in 1406 to Jacques II of Bourbon (1370-1438), king of Naples.

1425-1441 : **Blanche I** (1387-1441), queen of Navarre from 1425 to 1441, sister of the previous one. Married in 1420 to Jean II of Aragon (1397-1479).

1441-1461 : **Charles of Viane** (1421-1461), son of the previous one. Without issue.

- **House of Bourbon**

1425-1464 : **Eléonore of Bourbon** (1407-1471), cousin of the previous one, granddaughter and only legitimate inheritor of the first duke of Nemours, King Charles III of Navarre. Daughter of Jacques II of Bourbon (1370-1438) and of Béatrice of Evreux-Navarre (1386-1407). Married in 1429 to Bernard of Armagnac (1400-1462).

- **House of Armagnac**

1464-1477 : **Jacques of Armagnac** (1433-1477), son of the previous one. Married in 1462 to Louise of Anjou (1445-1477).

In 1477, Jacques of Armagnac is judged for treason and is executed. His possessions are confiscated but King Charles VIII of France, returns Nemours to his son in 1483 :

1484-1500 : **Jean of Armagnac** (1467-1500), oldest son of Jacques of Armagnac.

1500-1503 : **Louis of Armagnac** (1472-1503), younger son of Jacques of Armagnac.

At his death, Nemours returns to the French Crown.

- **House of Foix**

In 1507, King Louis XII of France (1462-1498-1515) gives the castle to his nephew Gaston of Foix :

1507-1512 : **Gaston of Foix** (1489-1512), count of Etampes and duke of Nemours, son of Jean of Foix (1450-1500), count of Etampes and of Marie of Orleans (1457-1493), sister of the king of France Louis XII. Without issue.

At his death, Nemours returns to the French Crown.

It must be noted that **Catherine of Navarre** (1468-1517), queen of Navarre, cousin of the previous one, daughter of Gaston V of Foix (c.1443-1470) and of Madeleine of France (1443-1495), sister of the king of France Louis XI, claimed the title of duchess of Nemours from 1484 until her death in 1517, in light of her status as a descendant of Queen Blanche I of Navarre.

- **House of Medici**

In 1515, François the 1st, king of France (1494-1515-1547) gives Nemours to Julien of Medici :

1515-1516 : **Julien of Medici** (1478-1516). Without issue.

At his death, Nemours returns to the French Crown.

It must be noted that **Henri II** (1503-1555), king of Navarre, son of Queen Catherine of Navarre (1468-1517) and of Jean III of Albret (1469-1516), claimed the title of duke of Nemours from 1517 until his death in 1555 as an inheritance from his mother.

- **House of Savoy**

In 1528, King François I of France (1494-1515-1547) gives Nemours to Philippe of Savoy :

1528-1533 : **Philippe of Savoy-Nemours** (1490-1533). Married in 1528 to Charlotte of Longueville (1512-1549).

1533-1585 : **Jacques of Savoy-Nemours** (1531-1585), son of the previous one. Married in 1566 to Anne of Este (1531-1607). He is the duke of Nemours of *La Princesse de Clèves* wrote in 1678 by Madame de La Fayette.

It must be noted that **Jeanne III of Albret** (1528-1572), queen of Navarre, daughter of King Henri II of Navarre (1503-1555) and of Marguerite of Angouleme (1492-1549), claimed the title of duchess of Nemours from 1555 until her death in 1572 as an inheritance from her father. Married in 1548 to Antoine of Bourbon (1518-1562), she is the mother of King Henri III of Navarre (1553-1572-1610), the future king of France, Henri IV (1589-1610).

1585-1595 : **Charles-Emmanuel of Savoy-Nemours** (1567-1595), son of the previous one. Without issue.

1595-1632 : **Henri I of Savoy-Nemours** (1572-1632), brother of the previous one. Married in 1618 to Anne of Lorraine, duchess of Aumale (1600-1638).

1632-1641 : **Louis of Savoy-Nemours** (1615-1641), son of the previous one. Without issue.

1641-1652 : **Charles Amédée of Savoy-Nemours** (1624-1652), brother of the previous one, married in 1643 to Élisabeth of Bourbon, “mademoiselle” of Vendome (1614-1664). Without male heir.

1652-1657 : **Henri II of Savoy-Nemours** (1625-1659), archbishop of Reims, brother of the previous one. Married in 1657 to Marie Anne of Orléans-Longueville (1625-1707). Without issue.

At his death, Nemours returns to the French Crown.

- **House of Orleans**

In 1672, Louis XIV, the “sun king” gives Nemours to his brother, Philippe of France, duke of Orleans, also known as “Monsieur”. Its is passed on until the French King Louis-Philippe I, who gives it in appanage to his son :

1672-1701 : **Philippe of France** (1640-1701), called “Monsieur”, son of King Louis XIII of France. Married secondly in 1671 to Elisabeth-Charlotte of Bavière called “la Palatine” (1652-1722).

1701-1723 : **Philippe of Orleans** (1674-1723), called “le Régent”, son of the previous one. Married in 1692 to Françoise-Marie of Bourbon (1677-1749),

1723-1752 : **Louis of Orleans** (1703-1752), called “le Pieux”, son of the previous one. Married in 1724 to Auguste-Marie Jeanne of Bade (1704-1726).

1752-1785 : **Louis-Philippe of Orleans** (1725-1785), called “le Gros”, son of the previous one. Married in 1743 to Louise-Henriette of Bourbon-Conti (1726-1759).

1785-1793 : **Philippe of Orleans** (1747-1793), called “Philippe-Egalité”, son of the previous one. Married in 1769 to Marie-Adélaïde of Bourbon (1753-1821). He voted the death of King Louis XVI of France.

During the French Revolution (1789-1799), the castle of Nemours is put on sale as a national possession. Noble titles disappear but remerge during the Restauration (1814/1815-1830) and the July Monarchy (1830-1848).

1793-1830 : **Louis-Philippe of Orleans** (1773-1850), son of the previous one. Married in 1809 to Marie-Amélie of Bourbon-Sicules (1782-1866). He was also the King of the French from 1830 to 1848.

1830-1896 : **Louis of Orleans** (1814-1896), son of the previous one. Married in 1840 to Victoire of Saxe-Cobourg-Kohary (1822-1857). Posterity until our days.

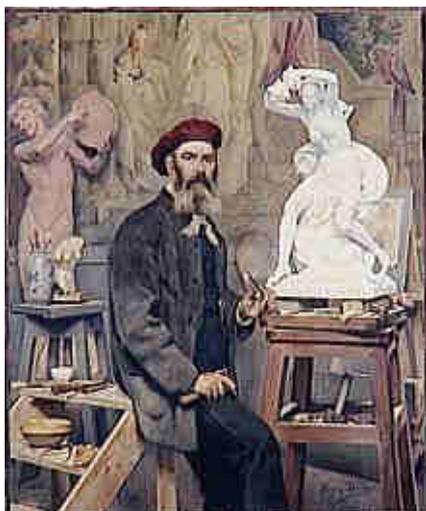
The castle becomes a museum ...

After the French Revolution, Major Hédelin acquired the castle in 1810 and retroceded it to the town in 1811. The castle was briefly a public school, a spinning workshop, a dance studio and a theatre room in the XIXth century. Threatened of ruin, three artists from Nemours – Sanson, Ardail and Marché – transformed it into a museum “Fine Arts” in 1903.

Justin Sanson (1833-1910)

Born in Nemours, he studied sculpture in Paris and in Rome. He had a prolific career during the Second Empire and the IIIrd Republic because he benefited from frequent exhibition of his work. He also answered official's requests (Town Hall of Paris, Garnier Opera, Louvre) which made him known to private collectors.

Towards the end of his life, he had an essential role in the foundation of the museum of Nemours. He made in particular a donation of a part of his works from 1901 and added many pieces from his contemporaries to the collection. At his death, he left his studio's collection to the Castle-Museum.



Adolphe Ardail (1835-1911)

Born in Nemours, he was an apprentice to the printer Chardon. He quickly proved talent and artistic sensitivity. His links with other engravers permitted him to accumulate an important collection sold for a symbolic sum to the National Library of Paris in 1901.

He was an active part in the safeguarding of the castle through his role as one of the founding Fathers of the Society of the Friends of the Old Castle. At the end of his life, he left his last engravings to the museum to build up a collection of prints which he supplied all along the ten years during which he was the curator.



Ernest Marché (1864-1932)

Born in Nemours, he travelled to Paris to complete his schooling at the National School of Applied Arts and at the Julian's Academy. He exhibited at the Salon of the Society of French Artists where his landscapes of the Loing's banks brought him success. That's why he decided to go on a career of landscape artist.

In parallel to his activity as a painter, he was considered as a major figure in the cultural and social life of Nemours. He participated in the restoration works of the castle, the organisation and even the management of the museum where he was the curator from 1911 until his death.

