



Channel HISTORIA presents a biography of Irma Levasseur



It is with great pleasure that some of us viewed a biography of Dr Irma Levasseur aired on Channel Historia. The series “Destin” is built on now forgotten anecdotes and takes us on the extraordinary life of relatively unknown persons of the past. “Destin” also relives many forgotten aspects of crucial periods in the history of Québec. Co-

founder of hospitals Hotel-Dieu and Ste-Justine, Irma Levasseur (personified by the actor Maude Guérin) was the first female doctor in Québec in 1903. She completed her studies in the USA as such studies were forbidden to females in Canada. She also practiced medicine in war torn country of Serbia in 1915 and worked relentlessly to improve the quality of pediatric care in Québec. Irma Levasseur is a model for all females although she died in misery and solitude. For those interested, a copy of the documentary is available by contacting: Canal Historia Les Chaines Télé Astral Inc 2100, rue Ste-Catherine Ouest Bureau 700 Montreal, (Québec) H3H 2T3



Many will have recognized Mrs. Madeleine Desrivières, one of our speakers at the last Reunion held in Québec City last September. She commented on the various stages of the life of Mme Irma Levasseur.

(Also see the article on page 5)

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You have undoubtedly received your renewal membership application to your Association. Please mail it as soon as possible. Become an “Online member”

The President's Message



The month of March is traditionally devoted to the renewal of your membership. I take this occasion to remind you of the importance of your contribution to ensure the survival of your Association. Included is the publication the Newsletter, the maintenance of the Secretariat and the web site as well as the updating of the database. Your Association also organizes reunions such as the one we held last September in Québec City. In the next Newsletter, we will start two new types of reports. The first one will deal with Levasseur families arriving in New France in the 17th century. We will deal more specifically with families such as Laurent Levasseur (Marie Marchand) the most prolific ancestor, followed by Pierre Levasseur (Jeanne de Chanverlange), Jean Levasseur (Marguerite Richard) and their sister Jeanne Levasseur (Christophe De Rollet). They will be followed by a lot more. Vincent, Joceline and Huguette Levasseur and I have devoted a lot of time going through registers, note books and obituary notices. The net result is that our database is constantly improved and we will undoubtedly reach 100,000 names by the end of the year. The second type of report will deal with artistic, political and business personalities, many of whom are known worldwide. Although they do not carry the name Levasseur, the patronym Levasseur is found in their family tree. Names like Céline Dion, Madonna, Veronica Ciccone, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, René Lévesque, Joseph Armand Bombardier and many others will undoubtedly capture your attention.

Gilles Carmel, president (352)

In our next issue



Following the publication of articles on Noël Levasseur, in our last issue, many readers requested more details on this illustrious person who made history of a region. With the next issue, we will provide a series of articles written by Mr. Joseph Tassé (1848-1895) and extract from a book on Americans from French Canadian origin.

History : A war trophy returned to Québec City.



In 1759, General Murray removed an insignia that adorned the gates of the City of Québec and donated it to the City of Hastings in England. During a ceremony on 10 September 1925, the insignia was given back to the City of Québec. It is a work of Noël Levasseur (1727). The royal arms are carved in wood, painted and adorned in gold. Gaspard de Chaussegros de Léry commissioned the insignia for the door of the Administrative buildings of the City of Québec. The dimension of the shield is three

feet ten inches high by three feet one and a half inches wide. The Province's Inventory of Fine Arts Department has recognized and recorded this 250 year old work as work of art. It was one of the war trophies that the English sent to England following the battle of 1759 won by the English. General Murray, who became Governor General of C Canada, had the trophy removed from the fortifications of Québec. Three lily leaves are painted at the center of a blue frame and they are encircled by a gold chain that ends by the Cross of St-Louis: a decoration that the King of France awarded to the Governor of New France. Leaves of acanthus and bay leaves terminate the ornamentation of the trophy that is topped with a royal red and gold wreath.

Historical notes on General Murray:

From 1760 to 1763, New France was administered by the military and most notably by General Murray. This period, called the «military régime», ended with the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1763. With this treaty, France gave up its colony to England with the promise to provide total liberty to its catholic inhabitants and to let go, in total impunity, within the following 18 months, all those who so desired. In the same years, General Murray, became the first Governor General of Canada and created the first constitution called the «Royal Proclamation». The territory reserved for French Canadians would then be named the «Province of Québec».

It is in capacity as a wood carver, that Gaspar Chaussegros commissioned Noël Levasseur to create the insignia to be affixed above the doors of the fortification.

The idea was to indicate very clearly the relationship between the royal domain and New France.





Pioneer families :

David Levasseur and Victorine Beauchesne of Saint-Rémi-de-Tingwick



Eugène Levasseur
and Délima Toussaint

Amongst the pioneer families, we note that of David Levasseur. David was born in Bécancour in 1842. In St-Paul de Chester in 1867, he married Victorine Beauchesne whom was born in 1846 in Stanfold (Princeville) . They lived in Notre-Dame-de-Ham (Fecto Mills) and then moved to St-Rémi.

In St-Rémi, on the property of his son-in-law Albert Grenier, David built his first sawmill powered by water. He also built another one for Lionel Beauchesne. He also built many houses in St-Rémi one of which still exists and is inhabited by Henri Beauchesne.

This family carried on with the birth of his son Eugène in Tingwick in 1878. Eugène married Délima Toussaint in Tingwick in 1904. At eleven, Eugène learned the rudiment of cheese-making while working in Mr Proulx' cheese factory. In 1903, he participated in the construction of the parish church. In 1916, the church burnt and in 1917, he contributed in reconstruction of a new church.

Back in 1903, Eugène bought Mr Proulx' sawmill in the 11th concession and promptly moved it to the 9th concession. Two years later, he built a second sawmill closed to his house. In 1906, he acquired Mr Honoré Rioux' cheese factory and was also the owner of a milk separating station. Latter, he purchased Mrs. Octave Roy's house, close to the church.

A cheese-maker first, an expert carpenter, a clever political organizer, always an ardent nationalist, Eugène Levasseur was interested in whatever was called progress. He worked very hard at obtaining a post office in St-Rémi and then the distribution of rural mail . He was also one of the local promoters of telephone in the area. The author recalls a meeting held in his house with some neighbors. His brother-in-law, Wilfrid Laliberté just had this innovation installed in Ham-Nord and was trying to explain the functioning of the system. Many were skeptical and were sort of laughing at this so-called "talking box"

In 1922, Eugène bought Wellie Marchand's farm. He needed something to keep his sons busy.... Finally, Eugène and his wife Délima Toussaint had twelve children, seven boys and five girls, all born in St-Rémi. Although none of the living children now reside in St-Rémi, they always take great pleasure in returning in this very picturesque part of the world which they affectionately call "la canadienne"

Written by: J. Raoul Levasseur

Direct lineage of David Levasseur

Pierre (1) Levasseur 1629-1694

Pierre Levasseur 1661-1731

Denis-Joseph Levasseur 1712-1792

François Levasseur/Vigoureux 1747-1827

François-Xavier Levasseur 1782-1851

Joseph Levasseur 1818-1851

David Levasseur 1844-1925

Your Association honors the memory of a great lady.

Taken from a letter written by Mrs Madeliene DesRivières to the Québec newspaper le « Soleil ».

« ...Irma Levasseur never looked for glory and glory completely ignored her ». As we witnessed on television, her life was one of grandeur and misery. She died as a bachelor at the age of 87. Her brother, also a bachelor, predeceased her. She had no descendants, no nephews, and no nieces. At the time of her death, no one bothered to honor her memory with a tombstone.

I wish to inform you that, at their meeting in Québec last summer, a few members of L'Association des

Levasseur d'Amérique took the initiative to correct this omission. They had the name of Irma Levasseur engraved on the family tombstone located in the St-Charles Cemetery in Québec City. Our most heartfelt gratitude is extended to some generous people who broke down Irma's anonymity and gave her the legitimate recognition she so well deserves.



**Madeleine des Rivières (left)
and Madeleine Levasseur**

Madeleine des Rivières



A pioneer : Vincent Levasseur

by Roger Levasseur (4)



Vincent was born in Hull, Québec, on March 19, 1923 and was baptized in the Notre Dame Parish. He is the eldest of a family of four, having one brother and two sisters. He was only 14 when he left his home and entered the novitiate of the Christian Brothers where he spent three years. In 1940, at the age of 17 he returned home. The war had been declared and he was called to serve in the Canadian Army. He went to Saint Jérôme Québec for his basic training and in Val Cartier where he was assigned to the "Régiment des fusiliers de Mont Royal". His task during the war was to prepare the material and equipment each soldier required to go overseas. In 1945, his father passed away and he returned to Hull for his funeral. When he was on leave, the war ended and the Army advised him his services were no longer required. It was then that he met Murielle. They were

married in 1947. They had three children, Jean, Pierre and Diane and settled in Navan Ontario, approximately 12 miles from Ottawa. Having been in the military, Vincent was given the opportunity to study Stationary engineering at Ryerson College in Toronto. As a Stationary Engineer, Vincent worked in the Ottawa area with various organizations, such as, the Rideau Convent, National Defence, Royal Bank and Carleton University.

Photography, a hobby he enjoyed and excelled at, became a source of additional income for Vincent and his family. Vincent spent many Saturdays photographing weddings and ordinations to the priesthood. After developing his films, he would return to the celebrations to sell photos of the event to the invited guests. At the Levasseur gathering in Québec City in 1957, Vincent took exceptional photos that were recently found and these will become available on the Association web site. Another of Vincent's hobby was stamp collecting. Various members of the clergy that he met when doing his photography became a valuable source of stamps. Today Vincent is the proud owner of a valuable collection of Vatican stamps that would be the envy of many philatelists. From 1960 to 1990, camping and fishing was how Vincent and his family spent their vacation. A passionate fishermen, one could find the Levasseur family in some of the most remote parts of Québec and Ontario on a lone lake enjoying the tranquility of the milieu and catching excellent pickerel.

It was in 1980, following the death of his last uncle, that Vincent felt the need to learn more about his ancestors and what were his origins. Following a visit to the cemetery in Hull, he found his great grand father's tomb on which his birth date was inscribed. That led him to frequent visits to the National Gallery of Canada where census data was kept. He also became a member of «La société de généalogie de l'Outaouais» and established links with many organizations dedicated to genealogy research. It was while attending a congress in Quebec City that he became aware of the work of Jean Charles Henry Levasseur of Seattle. Jean Charles, over the years, had accumulated data on thousands of Levasseurs, many of whom had settled in the United States. According to Vincent, 40% of the Levasseur ancestors reside in Quebec, 35% in the United States and 25% in other provinces in Canada. During the course of two years Vincent sent more than 2000 letters inviting Levasseurs across Canada and the USA to send information about their families. He thus began creating the data base that led to the publications of two volumes, one on descendants of Laurent

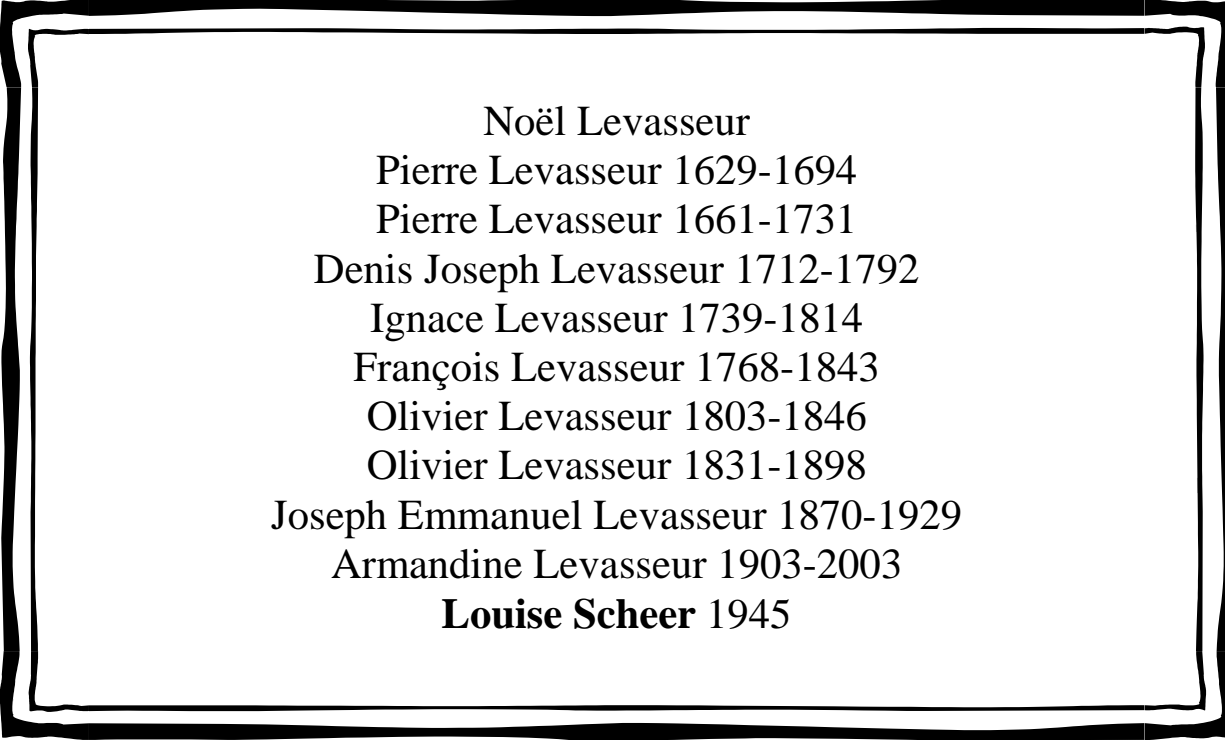
and the other on descendants of Pierre. Today Vincent continues to gather information on the Levasseurs of America. His contributions to the Association are significant and incalculable for which we are all very grateful. Vincent is proud of his accomplishments in genealogy but his greatest satisfaction is realizing that a support team is ensuring the continuation of the work he has begun.

Louise Scheer shares the fruit of her researches

After many researches, Mrs. Louise Scheer has produced a 170-page document on her family history. Essentially the document is made of family genealogical files, on Brother's Keeper, and accompanied by numerous pictures and newspaper articles. Mrs. Scheer has graciously given a copy to the Association. The document has been digitalized and is available for consultation by our members. Because of the size of the document, it was necessary to split into four parts in PDF format. The document will be place on our Website for a few weeks. To access type www.levasseur.org/doc/lscheer/

Jean-Pierre Levaseur (250)

Direct ancestral line (maternal side) of Louise Scheer



Noël Levasseur
Pierre Levasseur 1629-1694
Pierre Levasseur 1661-1731
Denis Joseph Levasseur 1712-1792
Ignace Levasseur 1739-1814
François Levasseur 1768-1843
Olivier Levasseur 1803-1846
Olivier Levasseur 1831-1898
Joseph Emmanuel Levasseur 1870-1929
Armandine Levasseur 1903-2003
Louise Scheer 1945



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Our motto :
DU MIEUX QUE JE PUIS

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SURFACE**

The Association's archives.



For the past few months, members of your Association have spent time and energy in the digitalization of the Association archives. This material represents a multitude of written documents, newspaper articles, old photographs, minutes of meeting collected over the last fifteen years. We are pleased to inform you that we are close to the end of this project. Soon all this material will be incorporated in one or two DVDs. Some fifteen boxes of material will now be on a small disk not larger than one square centimeter! If you have documents that you would like to add to our databank, please refer to the article, which informs you of our new service. We would be delighted to accommodate. Our team of genealogists has also been very busy in updating our databank by verifying data from a multitude of registers and microfilms. The net result is that our data bank is updated three or four times a year. If you have lost your access code; please contact us to retrieve it.

Internet news: FTP Service



To assist us with the collection of documents and old photographs, we have created on our server, a File Transfer Protocol (FTP). This service will allow the rapid transmission of digitalized files and photographs that would otherwise be too large for transmission by E-mail. Files can now be transferred using FTP software that may be found on the Internet or by Explorer or Netscape. We sincerely hope that this method will help members to send us old and new documents on the Levasseur, Carmel or Borgia families. This service is NOT for personal use. Only files used by the Association are to be forwarded via this method.

Jean-Pierre Levasseur (250)

