



Bulletin des

Levasseur

Newsletter

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Fall 2005

The President's Message

On the September tenth, your Association met in Trois-Rivières for the its Annual General Meeting (AGM). On this occasion, a corn roast was also held at lunch time. I would like to thank most sincerely André Levasseur, his wife and children for organizing this event. Everyone enjoyed the good quality corn as well as the company..

To date, we have 130 regular members broken down as 44 lifetime members and 86 regular members. This group is made of 68 francophone members (54%) and 62 anglophone members (47%). The membership can further be divided as 77 Canadian members and 53 members from the USA .

The general assembly has also confirmed the decision made by your Board of Directors for the creation of a new class of members called cyber-class. Almost a year after its debut, I can now provide you with a few statistics.

We have the 42 cyber-members which represent about 32% of our membership. Since its introduction, about 82% of all new members have adopted this new class. This is normal as our website remains the prime source of recruiting new members.

It was also decided by your Board of Directors from to allow members to renew their membership for more than one year at the time. The General Assembly has also approved a new price list. In introductory year, some 21 of our 86 a regular members benefited from this offer. Fifteen members have opted for a 2 year plan whilst 3 members renewed for 3 years and another 3 for 5 years. How your general assembly has also re-elected the following members, for a two year term, on your Board of Directors. They are:

- Joseph Levasseur, from Manchester New Hampshire as Vice-President,
- Marie-Noëlle Levasseur, from Edmunston New Brunswick as Secretary,
- Jean-Pierre, de Québec (Québec) as Director
- Paul Levasseur, from Sherbrooke as Treasurer and
- Michele Levasseur, from Towson (Maryland) as a Director. Michele is a new addition to your Board and we wish her a most sincere welcome to the group. We are indeed looking forward to work with her.

Our most sincere congratulations to all new elected members.

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L'Association des Levasseur d'Amérique

The General Assembly has also nominated Pierre Levasseur, from Pierreville Qc as the auditor of our finances.

The Assembly has also decided to promote a more personal contact with our members. Thus, we will henceforth contact personally our members on their birthday and at membership renewal time.

In order to facilitate the process for membership renewal, the General Assembly has authorized your Board of Directors to institute a new method of electronic payment. Paul and Jean-Pierre will work closely in exploring and implementing a new system. More to follow on this subject.

Finally, your Board of Directors is actively looking for volunteers to host the 2006 Réunion. At this point in time, we have no organizing committee nor venues to hold this event. Therefore, we urge our members to come with a solution soon as a decision must be made no later than the 15 November 2005 to allow sufficient to organize the event. Should nobody offers their services, we will have no choice but to hold only a General Assembly. The invitation is there!!!

Gilles Carmel, President

The Association's website

A few statistics

In the last year some 9,000 visitors consulted over 33,000 pages and made in excess of 100,000 requests of our database located on www.levasseur.org. Our members alone have consulted the database more than 21,400 times in the last few months.

Summary by Month										
Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Sep 2005	251	169	92	26	206	38060	313	1110	2032	3017
Aug 2005	313	219	106	30	471	155848	942	3303	6808	9726
Jul 2005	259	161	95	24	400	68529	770	2964	4993	8031
Jun 2005	222	149	86	24	408	115985	736	2596	4474	6666
May 2005	240	162	75	23	484	146948	736	2345	5036	7456
Apr 2005	199	154	70	22	444	49857	689	2113	4629	5986
Mar 2005	333	196	101	29	591	723904	908	3153	6103	10345
Feb 2005	363	257	122	30	462	205753	842	3428	7200	10189
Jan 2005	288	212	110	23	491	145155	722	3427	6576	8931
Dec 2004	362	216	96	24	568	328324	761	2994	6699	11233
Nov 2004	276	188	90	23	439	130114	706	2710	5665	8294
Oct 2004	326	217	98	25	614	278270	786	3038	6740	10132
Totals						2386747	8911	33181	66955	100006

Personality chronicle Madonna Veronica Ciccone

Name: Madonna Veronica Ciccone, profession: Signer and actor

Born in 1958 in Bay City Michigan, Madonna Louise Veronica Ciccone was awarded a bursary in 1976 to study modern dance at the University of Ann Arbor Michigan. In 1978 she settled in New York City where she recorded her first album, Madonna Holiday. It was an immediate success. Her video clips open doors to the cinema. In 1992 she established her own record company and the Maverick Cinema. Her career progressed in the field of record albums, cinema and theatre. Her link with the Levasseur is on her mother's side, Madonna Louise Fortin. If you would like more information consult her official web site: www.home.madonna.com/ or www.wanadoo.fr/ivy/madoparoles .

Here is how Madonna is a descendant of both Jean Levasseur/Lavigne and of Laurent Levasseur.



You will find more information by checking the database on our web site at: www.levasseur.org

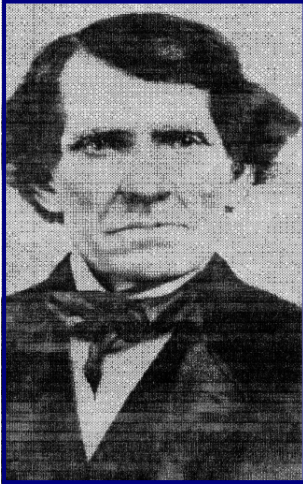
Jean Levasseur/Lavigne	Laurent Levasseur
Angélique Levasseur	Claire-Françoise Levasseur
Marie-Thérèse Hamel	Louis Michaud
Antoine Masse	Marie-Anne Michaud
Antoine Masse	Pierre Sirois/Duplessis
Jean-Baptiste Masse	Marie-Josephe Sirois/Duplessis
Antoine Masse	Félicité Rioux
Marie-Louise Demers	Narcisse-Nelson Fortin
Elsie Fortin	Williard Fortin
Madonna-Louise Fortin	Madonna-Louise Fortin
Madonna Veronica Ciccone	Madonna Veronica Ciccone
Madonna is the great grand daughter of Jean Levasseur/Lavigne at the 11 th generation	Madonna is the great grand daughter of Laurent at the 11 th generation

L'Association des Levasseur d'Amérique

Western Canadians

Noël Levasseur (part 2)

by : Ernest Tassé



This is the second article from a series of three on Noel Levasseur. It was published more than 125 years ago in a volume titled. Les canadiens de l'ouest. Readers should bear that fact in mind when reading this article.

The Indian jumped off his horse and proceeded quickly towards Levasseur with fire in his eyes and threatening him. He moved to grab his knife from his belt, but Levasseur, anticipating his move, got the knife before the Indian could get it. He quickly kicked him and laid him unconscious on the ground. After searching him to ensure he had no other weapon he called upon his Indian wife to come and guard him. She tied his hands and feet and laid him on a stack of hay. When he woke, the Indian asked to be untied saying: Sheuebasaka and he had become more reasonable. Levasseur reprimanded him for attacking a man without defense.

"Had you been brave, you would have sought revenge on the true assassin of your father and not on me".

Later the Indian with his brother passed by Levasseur's home on horseback. Both were painted with war paint and their hair was black and messed up. That was not a favorable omen. They headed towards the residence of the assassin. The true assassin knew they were coming but chose to stay home and face them. One of the Indian shot him and the other struck him with his tomahawk. They rode by Levasseur home again and the one who had tried to assault him said: *"It is done, I have found revenge, and he who killed my father is no longer"*.

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After a three year stay with the Iroquois, Levasseur sold all his properties and settled in Bourbonnais in 1837 where he bought a 1500 acre expanse of land. Courage was required to settle in this desolate area where there was only François Bourbonnais's cabana. Bourbonnais gave his name to this locality.

This Canadian, native of Beauharnois, established himself there for two years and occupied a house of rough timber that was still standing a few years ago. The land he occupied was not solely his. It was part of the reserve granted to the Indians and he had a right of ownership by his wife, a half-breed woman, Josephthe Chevalier. Bourbonnais owned other lands in Kankaki, an area where now stands the Illinois Central Station. The area covered 680 acres. Bourbonnais had an athletic stature and he adopted the customs and habits of the Indians. He left Illinois when three thousand Red Skins emigrated to Council Bluff Missouri and died a few years latter. He fathered four children with his wife Josephthe Chevalier.

M.L.H. Frechette, in a study on Chicago relates the following about Levasseur's settlement in Bourbonnais:

« I knew very well a Canadian by the name of Levasseur who founded the town of Bourbonnais and who made a fortune on the Rothschild. If only he had foreseen the future. He married the daughter of an Indian chief and as was the custom he was offered a track of land of five square miles either the area that was to become commercial section of Chicago or the fertile area where flourishes today the town of Bourbonnais. That was his wedding gift. The area where Chicago was eventually built was worthless for cultivating, a miry marsh and a real pothole. Bourbonnais, on the contrary was grassy prairie land, with a river flowing through it with hills and covered with lush vegetation. Levasseur chose Bourbonnais. »

According to Levasseur this information is not exact. He never acquired a piece of land. It is true that he could have acquired an important part of what is today Chicago, which at the time was limited to a few houses, had he married the daughter of the chief. However he did not. Therefore he did not receive the land as a wedding gift.

The government had made it impossible for the Indians to give away their land prior to the treaty of Tippecanoe and after the treaty it had to be sold at a minimum price of one dollar and a quarter per acre. No concession of land by the Indians for an inferior amount would have been accepted or recognized by the government. The rolling hills of lush vegetation are unknown to Bourbonnais where the prairie land is flat and without hills.

Mr. Charles Lindsay, in his brochure: The Prairies of the Western States also mentions that many Indians, when they left Illinois, were happy to have a horse or a gun in exchange for their land. This assertion is unfounded. The first settlers of Bourbonnais did not gain their land for either guns or barrels of whiskey as is generally believed. They were required to purchase the land from the Indians on their reserve in conformity with the rules and conditions established by the American Government.

(1) In a treaty reached in Chicago on September 26, 1833, between the Government and the Outaouais, the Sauteux and the Potouatoimis, there is mention of a number of claims against the Indians that were settled by the American Government. Specifically there is mention of \$200 dollars for Josephte Chevalier, his wife, another mention of \$900 dollars for his children and another mention of \$500 dollars for the children of his son, François Bourbonnais.

(2) Public Opinion October 19, 1877

(to follow in next Newsletter)



21st Conference of the Federation of original families of Québec.

by : Huguette Levasseur (380)



The **Conference of the Federation des Familles-Souches du Québec**⁽¹⁾ was held in Shawinigan from April 29 to May 1, 2005. The Federation regroups 180 Associations of families whose aim is to safeguard the cultural heritage of the root families. Representatives of the Lachance, Grondin, Bois, Normand and Levasseur Associations were present. The theme of the conference was various family stories whether grand or minor. Our ancestors, where did they come from? Where did they live? When did they arrive? Did they witness the battle of the Plains of Abraham in 1759, the rebellion of 1837-1838? How did they live? Our ancestors built the country we inhabit. The 2005 conference

encourages the family associations to pursue historical research about their ancestors and their descendants and to communicate the findings.

Significant events at this conference:

1) Welcoming words by the Honorable Lise Thibault.

The Honorable Lise Thibault, Lieutenant Governor, remitted prizes to persons who had distinguished themselves for their dedication to their Association. In her speech, Mrs. Thibault stressed the importance of transmitting to our children, our culture, our passed history, our old language. When she was eight years old, her grand mother Trudel had awakened in her a keen interest about the history of her family. In addition, Mrs. Thibault encouraged all families to request their family Coat of Arms for the benefit of their children and grand children.

2) Conference titled: Parents with political ties by Jacques Lacoursière

The historian Jacques Lacoursière's presentation covered the links uniting certain families and politics in the history of Québec. He presented about ten groups of families tied to politics. At the beginning of the 19th century the Papineau, Joseph and Louis-Joseph, were father and son politicians. Honoré Mercier's family had ties by marriage to the Fauteux and Lomer Gouin. Other groups of families having ties to politics are: the Cartier, the Casgrin, the Tachereau and the Panet.

3) Conference titled: Society and life in New France by Andre Lachance.

Mister Lachance, professor and historian on the history of New France, presented the type of society our ancestors lived in when they arrived in New France. In the 17th and 18th centuries the society was based on the French regime and granted no rights to a person. One was born unequal in the area of rights and privileges. In New France, 80% of the population lived in the country. The inhabitant was given land that he cleared and cultivated and relied on his family and neighborhood for assistance. He enjoyed relative

autonomy but worked hard and was not wealthy. A few wealthier families living in the Country had significant influence within their milieu.

An estimate of 15% to 20% of the population resided in urban centers. Wealth, talent and culture were concentrated in these areas. There was diversity between various social classes and trades. Life for those without a trade was not easy because work was not regular. Certain trades guaranteed a good life such as that of blacksmiths and tanners. The life of a shoemaker was at a lower scale whereas that of carpenters, cabinetmakers and wagon makers was more modest. Their work varied according to the season, the times, and the availability of work. The tradesmen frequently had other sources of revenue or owned some land. They worked very hard. Two out of three inhabitants in Québec owned their home. In the city, merchants were more influential and thrived due to the elite composed of military and civil officers and the clergy.

Archives and documents of that era are valuable sources to identify the conditions of life of our ancestors. Mister Andre Lachance has written a number of publications on the judicial and social history of Canada under the French regime, such as:

- Living, caring and dying in New-France, daily life in the 17th and 18th century (2000)
- Vivre à la ville en Nouvelle-France (2004) Living in New France (2004)
- Judging and punishing in New France. Chronicles of daily life in the 18th century (2000)

4) Round Table discussion: Four family history experiences

Four family stories were presented

Claude Deslandes worked over a period of ten years on three generations of the Deslandes dit Chantigny. He retraced the highlights of his ancestors based on judicial and religious records. He integrates the local history of Ville Marie (Montreal). His book will be published in early June and his Association will be ensuring its distribution.

Michel Naud presented two volumes. The first, written by Joseph Naud, is titled: Naud and his descendants (1996). Archives and notary notes were consulted. The volume relates the itinerary of his ancestor from his home in Anjou France to Québec and up to the les Écureuils. A second volume titled: The Nauds, yesterday to today, was written by Michel Naud. This book is in the form of dictionary. The family Association edited the volume and benefits from its sales.

Jacques Gaudreau presented a volume: The Gaudreau of America (1992). Four persons worked on the realization of this volume. It is based on official civil legislation (deeds). Donations were sought to finance its publication. The genealogy of each donator is included in the volume. The Association published 1600 volumes and benefits from its sales.

André Lachance presented the biography of Pepin dit Lachance and that of Robert Pepin dit Lachance. He consulted official sources, civil registers and notary archives to gather information on his ancestors. He relied on studies of New France to better understand the context in which his ancestors lived. In the case of Robert Pepin, a roofer from Quebec, his death certificate was never found. (It is hypothesized that he may have died by falling from a roof) Mister Lachance has published his volume with an editor in Sherbrooke.



21st Conference of the Federation of original families of Québec.

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*Our Motto ,
DU MIEUX QUE JE PUIS*

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Return to the following address:

Fédération des familles-souches québécoises inc

C.P. 6700, Sillery, (QC)

G1T 2W2

IMPRIMÉ—PRINTED PAPER SURFACE

6) Marc Beaudouin's conference, president of the Federation of Historical Societies of Québec titled: A constructive look on the stories of ancestors and families.

The writing about the history of ancestors requires that the scientific research be done, based on the primary sources of information, such as; the civil deeds, religious registries, inventories following deaths, judicial sources, census and list of passengers.

The challenge for the writer of a family history, wanting to write an interesting story like a narrator, is to respect scientific rigor. An excellent biography is built on true facts, recorded documents and must be written in a simple style. It is important to quote sources of information. One must avoid non-reliable sources and not rely solely on a single source. It is possible to relate to the social recorded activities existing at the time our ancestors lived. It is possible to attain a level of excellence and respect scientific requirements. Writing a family history is allowing the reader to know one's ancestor as presented in actual resource archives.

(1) Editor's note: The role of the Federation (www.ffsq.qc.ca) is to assist Family Associations in their operations and to represent them before the public and other organizations. Presently, it regroups 175 Associations and four associate members. A group of nine person work for the Federation and have access to most important up to date resources. The Federation was founded on February 1983 at the request of the Asselin, Cloutier, Langlois and Lemieux families. It has received the approbation and support of The Québec National Archives, and the representatives of the Ministry of Tourism, Cultural Affairs and Hunting and Fishing and the Commissioner of the Québec Festivities (1534-1984)

