



*Bulletin des*

# *Levasseur*

*Newsletter*

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*Vincent Levasseur 1923-2005*



## Levasseur Association of America

### A Word from the President

## A notable man has left us VINCENT LEVASSEUR

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*Members of the board of the Levasseur Association of America offer their best wishes during this period of festivity. Merry Christmas and a happy New Year 2006 !*



It is with great sadness that I learned that our friend Vincent Levasseur had passed away. He was the founding president and genealogist of our Association. He died on November 24, 2005 at the palliative care facility of the Elisabeth Bruyère Hospital in Ottawa

Without Vincent there would not have been an Association. We owe him a lot. It is thanks to him that many today serve in the Association. To Vincent, genealogy was a passion and he succeeded in making us share his passion. He accomplished a colossal task by creating the genealogical data bank of all the Levasseurs.

Vincent was always active within his milieu. To the end he worked not only with the Levasseur Association but also with the Ontario Society of History and Genealogy, the Samuel de Champlain Regional Group and a NECRO group to register death certificates.

I will never forget Vincent. I will miss him because he was always available to give advice and to assist in my research.

Personally and on behalf of the Levasseur Association of America, I offer my sincere condolences to Murielle Bergeron, his children, Jean, Pierre and Diane, their companions and his grand children.

Attached you will find the texts that were read at Vincent's funeral by Mr. Roger Levasseur and Mr. Guy Morrissette

Like them, I add my thoughts to tell you Vincent that you can be proud of the work you accomplished on this earth and that you lived up to the Levasseur motto « As best as I can »

Gilles Carmel, President

## Robert Levasseur 1906-2005



Robert Levasseur, a senior member of Ste-Anne des Monts in Gaspésie, calmly passed away. He was born on July 21, 1906 just short of

being a centenarian. He was the second child of Ernest levasseur and of Emma Levesque, beloved husband of Marie-Berthe Lévesque who died on March 8, 2000. They had three children: Robert, a missionary in Honduras, Gérard Magella and Madeleine. Four grand children and four great grand children completed the family.

At the young age of nine during the summer months, Robert began working in one of the many lumber yards and saw mills in Gaspésie. His initial hourly salary was 10 cents per day. During the winter months he attended school. He spent his working life with the wood industry as a lumberman and raft man. His work required that he be away from home for lengthy periods, usually from October to April. He knew what it was like to work with a bucksaw and horses. During the summer months he worked as a lumber grader in the local mill and spent his evenings at home.

He retired, but not willingly, at the age of 70. He was always physically fit and he volunteered his services to family and friends until the age of 93. Then his health began to fail forcing him to slow down and rest.

The last years of his life were one of simplicity, patience, humor, sociability, acceptance, taking life as it comes and always seeing the bright side of things. This is what contributed to his longevity.

Source: Madeleine, his daughter and Mona his niece. Robert is a descendant of Laurent Levasseur and Marie Marchand.

## Direct lineage of Robert Levasseur

Laurent Levasseur  
1646-1726  
|  
Louis Levasseur  
1687-1757  
|  
Louis II Levasseur  
1717-1763  
|  
Jean Baptiste Levasseur  
1756-1801  
|  
Augustin Levasseur  
1785-1885  
|  
Louis Levasseur  
1840-1897  
|  
Ernest Omer Levasseur  
1879-????  
|  
Robert Levasseur  
1906- 2005



## Levasseur Association of America

### Tribute to Vincent Levasseur

by : Roger Levasseur (004)



Dear Murielle, Jean, Pierre and Diane, Grand children, Reverend,  
Parents and friends.

### *Vincent Levasseur*

A man spoke at the funeral of a friend and referred to the dates on his tombstone. He mentioned that, after noting the name of the deceased, one notes his date of birth, a hyphen and the date of his death. 1923-2005. This after noon I would like to speak to you about Vincent Levasseur's hyphen. That may appear inconsequential, but the hyphen on a tombstone represents the time one spends on this earth.

He was born in Hull, Québec, March 19, 1923 and was baptized in the Notre Dame Parish. He was 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 "Regiment des fusiliers du Mont Royal". His task during the war was to prepare the material and equipment each soldier required prior to going overseas. In 1945, his father passed away and he returned to Hull for his dad's funeral. When he was on leave, the war ended and the Army advised him that 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, in the small village of Notre Dame des Champs. His children gave them four grand-children, Jean-Patrick, Caroline, Kyra and Mathieu. 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 Defense, 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 they are now 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 for his collection. Today his family 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.

His interest in genealogy began in the early 1980's. Vincent is the founder of the Levasseur Association of America.

His contributions to the Association are significant and incalculable for which we are all very grateful. Vincent can be extremely proud of his accomplishments in genealogy but his greatest satisfaction is realizing that a support team is ensuring the continuation of the colossal work he has accomplished.

His years of relaxation, after retirement, were spent at the Séraphin Marion Center where he was a member of the administration board and participated with enthusiasm in line dancing and in bridge,

You must realize, like I do, that Vincent can be very proud of his Hyphen. He knew how to love, work, and be devoted to his family and his many friends. His departure from this earth makes you think about our own hyphen realizing that we still have some time, but maybe not much to merit a testimony similar to that of a husband, a father and a friend like Vincent Levasseur. 1923-2005 died in Ottawa.



Murielle, Vincent's wife and Roger Levasseur offering a prize of recognition to Vincent en 2002





## Tribute to Mister Vincent Levasseur

by : Mr. Guy Morrissette



Vincent Levasseur's death is a major loss to the Samuel de Champlain Regional Franco-Ontarian Society of History and Genealogy.

Vincent was a member of the Society since 1984 and served on the Board of Directors during the past twelve years. During these years of service, Vincent's contribution to the Society was of immeasurable value.

Allow me to mention one of his accomplishments that placed the Samuel de Champlain Society in the limelight.

Because of his contacts with other genealogists and his ability to negotiate, Vincent established partnerships with 20 other genealogical societies, thus generating a data base of more than five million files. Thanks to Vincent, the Samuel de Champlain Society is the only one outside Quebec contributing files to this database. Consequently, the Samuel de Champlain Society is the only Society outside of Quebec having access to that database.

To create this database, it was necessary to collect data. Vincent embarked on this task with courage and recruited volunteers to gather information. He assisted in the training of these volunteers and provided help by visiting them in their respective homes. To date, data has been collected from fifteen parishes and the Notre Dame Cemetery.

In 2003, the Regional Society contributed more than 100,000 files to the main database that is commonly called BMS2000. (Records of baptism, marriage and death certificates) This contribution prompted the President to say that if every Society had a Vincent he would be the happiest of men, because, not only does Vincent meet deadlines, his work is always extremely well done.

Vincent was meticulous in his work when he gathered data. He would ensure correct spelling of names, since often they were spelled differently. Hopefully in heaven he will be rewarded by finding the correct spelling of the thousand of names he had to correctly identify here on earth.

Vincent had an excellent team spirit and knew how to keep harmony in a group. For example, when discussions were somewhat heated at our meetings, Vincent, with a touch of humor and his kind smile, would bring back harmony. He was always ready to help any member doing genealogical research.

Dear friend Vincent, for your tireless work, your team spirit, your courage to collaborate despite your health problems, the Samuel de Champlain Society of History and Genealogy salute you and thank you.





*N.D.L.R. : Joseph-Marie Levasseur, it is well known, likes to write as he likes to talk: frequently, very frequently and extremely frequently. Let him tell us who he is.*

Laurent Levasseur  
1646-1726  
|  
Pierre Levasseur  
1679-1738  
|  
Jean Timothée Levasseur  
??? -1816  
|  
Benjamin Levasseur  
1765 -1845  
|  
Benjamin Levasseur  
1788-1868  
|  
Jérémie Levasseur  
1820-1889-  
|  
Alfred Levasseur  
1856-1910  
|  
Joseph Antoine Henri  
Levasseur 1899-1990  
|  
**Joseph Marie Levasseur**

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## A retiree narrates

by : Joseph-Marie Levasseur

### Curriculum vitæ

Joseph-Marie Levasseur is the only son of Joseph Levasseur an industrialist from Lac-au-Saumon, Quebec.

### Education:

Classical studies, Rimouski seminary 1942-1950 BA Laval.

Science and English studies, University of Ottawa.

Literature studies: University of Montréal M.A. Thesis on Gabrielle Roy.

Historical studies, Laval University, Arts, history graduate.

Teaching studies, Laval University, Teachers College. Graduate in Education and certificate in specialized teaching.

### Experience:

Thirty six years of teaching experience. Taught French, Latin Greek, History etc.

Special courses at the Rimouski Seminary, Syntax and Methodology.

First professor to teach girls at the Seminary.

Was instigator, with colleagues from the Rimouski CEGEP, of the interdisciplinary program for students aspiring to study, Law, History, Philosophy, Psychology and Geography.

Bachelor for Adults, Instructor in Analytical literature, Essay writing and Bibliographies.

In 1978, directed the production of an 810 page book on to Rimouski, commemorating the 150th anniversary.

Published numerous articles in various journals and participated on many radio and television shows as an analyst and commentator on various topics.

Founder of the Museum of the Sea and the Antoine Perrault Ensemble with friends.

Other activities include, reading, golf, skiing, sailing and tennis. He also invited as a speaker. He is married to Yolande Saint Pierre and his children, Guy, Marc and Christine who have given him seven grand children.





A student said of him:

«I was able to realize your scholarly attributes but more specifically your openness to what is new... you understood due to your sensibility and your intelligence.»

«We are of those to whom it was said to say nothing because we were too young: today we are told to be quiet because we are too old», he wrote in 1984.»

Confidentially to my friends:

1928. The crazy years before the crash.

1928: Birth of a baby, the first child. According to the father, more were to come. That was not the case. This child was to be the only the one and only of Ernest and Maximilienne Th  trault. This boy had no sisters.

History will show that women initially made him timid but in boarding school he learned to idolize them.

Omens predicted that he would be exceptional. To which his mother rejoiced. But being pre-warned, intelligent and pious she realized that a

strict upbringing was necessary to ensure the education and formation of this genius. She took this matter seriously.

Others, locals and rumor mongers at family gatherings would whisper that he is not likely a genius but a trivial rare person that could become a monster or a spoiled son. He learned piano at the age of six and at the same time he played hockey, a hard and demanding sport.

Again, fate is involved. Doctor Germain, the Lac Simon Obstetrician, was attacked by the Charlesbourg white bears... he was massacred. What justice.

Aunt Blanche, who assisted my mother joined the nunnery, the Sisters of Saint-Rosaire and prayed a great deal.

Note that this boy had long hair and wore short pants until the age of twelve when all other young boys dressed as men with regular trousers; they had a few swear words in their vocabulary and a brush cut. I felt different than my peers.

Finally the ultimate happened; a priest arrived at our home in Lac Simon claiming that I had a vocation. A remarkable young man who knows all the prayers of the mass and vespers in Latin. Within a year I was expelled from that school. Yes expelled on May 10, 1942.

This unique candid child, due to his coolness and being to hot-blooded escaped the ordeal. . No, no, do not say that.

### My school years

In September 1942 the Rimouski Seminary taught me how to cope with all aspects of humanism. This doctrine, that ensures that nothing escapes man, was my initiation to the Latin and Greek



## Levasseur Association of America



cultures with emphasis on the grand knowledge primarily of the French and the British civilization. Since 1942 this home of humanistic knowledge continues to influence me in 2005 when deciding the orientations of my life. My Alma Mater continues to haunt me and still today I rely on my early teachings to select my life orientations.

It is easy for me to enter this red brick structure, the seminary, and to walk the floors, review the layout and be reminiscence the past. First of all, the basic intention of the school is devoted to the body and its development. Consider first the areas where interior and exterior sports were played: bowling, billiards, ping-pong, boxing, gymnastic, baseball, soft-ball, wall-ball, field games, tennis, hockey, soccer and lacrosse. In brief, I won championships, alone or in teams in all of these sports. Even in the high-jump, I jumped a height of nearly seven feet. At the age of fifteen from 1943 to 45, I played hockey with the major hockey club of the Seminary (the Fusiliers of the Saint Laurent, World War II, 39-45). I played as a centre-man on the second

of all-stars. Jules Blais, a hockey leader, saw potential in me and visited my father to have me sent to play hockey in Toronto. Later, in 1950-51, I played for Laval University hockey team.

I became a professor, and in 1953 I got married. I coached the teams of the Seminary and Maritime Institute, prior to the arrival of the physical educators, Gaston Dionne. During this period began a new era in the field of sports. Being with the Federation of Leisure we began traveling from Iles of the Madeleine to Témiscamaingne. At that time, I was president to the Quebec Federation. This first phase in my life was devoted to material life and to physical health. It also included the recreation room and the cafeteria. These areas also contributed to our formation. We learned to eat what was served without questioning and participated in scholarly activities with students of the following schools: Commerce, Navy and Teachers College. One learns how to act socially and to respect others. Then there was the music room, the reading room where one could listen to music. It is also in that room that the choir met to rehearse on Saturdays. As is required, prior to other activities, there were the controlled visits to the toilets for essential activity.

The second area to visits, involves the administration. These were two large rooms where studies were carried out and projects were submitted every day of the week, including an essay on Sunday. French, Latin, Greek, History, Geography, English, Arithmetic, Design, Mathematics, Philosophy, and sciences, were all controlled activities that we were required to learn. They were not as appreciated as was evening readings which was also a pre-requisite. If a student failed one field of study, he failed his entire year and had to start over. These fields of studies became our « apprenticeship » to a general culture.

The Arts Room, that became the la Salle Georges-Beaulieu was where the orchestra, the brass band, the choir, the octet, the Emile Legault Theater, the big New York concerts were held. Also, it was the hall where year-end prizes for students were awarded and where the graduates selected a specified ribbon to identify his career choice. It was in that hall that members of the community participated in constructive debates. These activities contributed to our training, formation and the education.

The Georges-Beaulieu room is just above the cafeteria where earthly food was served. Just above was the chapel, the source of spiritual food for the soul.

I recall that I participated in all levels of this training. In addition I studied piano. In that area I composed a true « hit »...«The descent to the dormitory». I then devoted my musical now how to the trumpet. First I played with the orchestra, the brass band, and then for the choir. I presided over these three groups and with some friends from Laval University we formed an orchestra.

In my working life, for a time, I substituted for the reverend father Perreault and Maurice Charest, at the helm of the Rimouski brass band. Later, my cultural engagement allowed me to participate in the creation of the Antoine-Perreault ensemble at the Musée-de-la-Mer; I was also involved with the Young Chamber of Commerce and the Richelieu Club.

Finally the third area to be visited is the chapel. It is the source of life for the soul, and the true life.

I also participated in discussion groups that were at times boisterous. I am also a regular at concerts in Rimouski and in Quebec. I also ventured in the fields of theater and cinema.

This area remains important to me for activities such as baptism, marriage, funerals, Sunday mass, major religious feast and processions. I am also concerned with the absence of priests. I learned to adapt to the changes in the Church and the social activities that are now the responsibility of lay social groups. In brief, the church continues to lead in major events and glamorous religious activities. One should not forget the church's contribution to the development of our Western world with its sacred music, remarkable texts, stained glass windows, organs, cathedrals, etc., etc. She has thus prevented us from being more barbaric. As a student, I always remember the song «Come divine Messiah» that precede the coming the Christmas exams and the vacation. We shuddered in our dreams. The important feast celebrated in the Chapel, demanded the participation of the choir, the orchestra, and the involvement of all the students, altar boys and cantors singing with joy. The uniqueness and brilliance of the attires, according to the religious feast, the music and the presence of our professors, in their colored attires, contributed to a memorable and unforgettable sense of religious well being.

Adding to our religious and cultural training each had a spiritual mentor. He was always a well trained man in the fields of education, athletics and religion. It was no easy task to follow these eight years of intense training and education. Yes! Eight years! Every day, there were checks and controls of your daily assignments. Every months, exams with report cards, and «bene and optime» cards for conduct in class, recreation and study periods. Every trimester there was an examination in each major field of study. Then, at the end of the year, all had to take final examinations. The final four years of study were in conjunction with Laval University. This period included classes in the letters, the art of elocution and theater to end with two years of philosophical studies. Students had to earn and merit the respect and recognition of his professors. Only after this demanding formation the student had completed his study in two major fields: the Arts and Sciences. After eight years of all imaginable controls beginning at five thirty until nine o'clock at night from the age of twelve to twenty-one we acquired this unique training. As an only son I gained the friendship of many brothers during these formation years from 42 to 50, the year of the fire of Rimouski. Though I was an only child I had thirty-four brothers. Classical studies have had a marked favorable impact on my life.

Joseph-Marie Levasseur



Association des Levasseur d'Amérique  
inc.  
C.P. 6700  
Sillery, Québec G1T 2W2

Web Site: [www.levasseur.org](http://www.levasseur.org)  
E-mail : [webmaster@levasseur.org](mailto:webmaster@levasseur.org)



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WEB SITE  
[WWW.LEVASSEUR.ORG](http://WWW.LEVASSEUR.ORG)

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*Our motto ,  
DU MIEUX QUE JE PUIS*

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SURFACE**

*I am leaving you beloved Murielle, my dear children and  
parents, but it will not be for ever. It is only a short  
separation. We will see one another in heaven.*

*Towards heaven I am heading where I will rest  
eternally. O lord bless my family, assist my dear wife  
and protect my children.*

LEVASSEUR, Vincent Genealogist Passed away on Thursday, November 24, 2005 at the age of 82 years. Vincent was the founder of the Levasseur Association of America. Beloved husband of Murielle Bergeron. Loving father of sons Jean and Pierre and daughter Diane (Alain Lacroix). He will be sadly missed by his grandchildren Jean-Patrick, Caroline, Kyra and Mathieu and his daughter-in-law, Martha. Predeceased by his parents Mr. And Mrs. Eugene Levasseur (Emilienne Carriere), his sisters Anne-Marie, Suzanne and his brother Francois. The family will receive relatives and friends at Heritage Funeral Home, 2871 St Joseph Blvd., Orleans, on Friday, November 25, 2005 from 7-9 p.m. Funeral Service will be held at Notre-Dames-Champs Church, 3739 Navan Road, Saturday, November 26, 2005 at 1 p.m. If desired, donations to the Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre Foundation or the Ottawa Heart Institute would be appreciated. Condolences and donations may be made at: [www.heritagefh.ca](http://www.heritagefh.ca)

