

### Bulletin des

## Levasseur

Newsletter

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Spring 2006

## President's Message

On December 11 2005, your Board of Directors held a conference call to discuss the following items.

The 2006 bi-annual meeting of the Association will held in Gatineau, Québec on the Labor Day Weekend. The meeting will honor the memory of our founding President and genealogist, Vincent Levasseur. You are most cordially invited to attend this gathering and annual meeting in the Capital region of Canada.

Mrs. Joceline Levasseur was appointed genealogist of your Association. For several years, Joceline has devoted her spare time to genealogy. She has made meticulous research in the registers to obtain the most exact and complete information to update and make our data base most reliable. I wish to congratulate Joceline Levasseur for her nomination.

You will find an updated version of our database on our Web site. You will notice that we added, where possible, the text of the obituary of the deceased person. For example, when you consult Vincent Levasseur's name, you will also find the text of his obituary and his photo. I invite you to send us any information on members of your family and with a special emphasis on death, births and marriages.

Gilles Carmel, president

Hope to see you in Gatineau in September 2006

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You will find more information on the meeting on page 8 and 9 of this Newsletter



# Les BREBIS ÉGARÉES



Source: Guy Giguère, Les Brebis égarées: des ancêtres vautrés dans le péché, 1600-1900. Montréal, Éditions Stanké, 2005, 207p. (Available in French only).

## L'Association des Levasseur d'Amérique

## Reading chronicles: « Lost Sheep » Our History's delinquents

by: Jean-Pierre Levasseur (250)

In his 210 page document, Guy Giguère tells us that our ancestors were not all examples of virtue and temperance.

Following the publication of his the first two books: "The scandalous New-France" and" Disgraceful characters of the history of Quebec", and after having analyzed more than 6000 pages of official reports and the legal files, the author publishes the results of his research.

According to Mr. Giguère, our ancestors were far from being perfect. He claims that New-France accounted for 7 % of all delinquents during the French Regime and not surprisingly, the topic of the religion accounted for the majority crimes committed in New-France.

The author warns us: "Would you be scandalized to find out that a considerable number of our ancestors, man and woman, were unfortunately not example of virtue? These provocative individuals seems to contradict the saying that," in the good old days, they possessed a greater sense of values and morality". Should we not rather note that human nature evolves, at each period between the two immutable poles: virtuous souls and shameless characters "

Some 40 facts were extracted from many documents of the period. Amongst them we find; Terror and massacre in the farmyard, The Charmer of nuns, Miracle chasers and many others.

These various events are treated with humor by the author. To quickly retrace these lost sheep an index of names is also available to the end of the book

As for criminal sentences, they ranged from minor blame to the death penalty. Also included were punishments such as the yoke, the whip, hanging by the arms, the banishment, the galley, fines and the stocks" Women could be condemned to all those sentences with the exception of the galley and the wheel" .To find the truth, the defendant were submitted to interrogation. Even persons claiming to be mute, were said to be talking...!!

Finally, let us answer the question that undoubtedly came to mind when reading this article. No references could be found with regards to the first descendants of Laurent and Pierre Levasseur. Without presuming that our ancestors were paragons of virtue, it appears that the author could not uncover reprehensible actions about them.

## An extraordinary golf performance

Sébastien Levasseur shoots three eagles and finishes with a remarkable «59»



In golf, when you shoot an eagle, you will remember it the rest of your life. Sebastien Levasseur, shot three eagles in the same round of golf and finished with an incredible 59. His performance is one best of the 10 rounds of golf ever played in North America

It is obviously his best life performance. Sébastien has been a professional golfer for the past five years but has decided to give up competition

When asked to tell us about this famous game, it took him no time to reconstitute the exploit, hole by hole. I had a good

start with a birdie on the first hole that was followed with three pars. On the fifth hole, a 317 yards par 4, I hit the green with my drive, and then completed with my first eagle: My second one came on the 12th hole with about the same procedure: a drive and a put. The third eagle came with a 50 yard chip in the cup on the 17th hole. "I was a little lucky on that one "he admits while smiling.

Souce : Le Nouvelliste de Trois-Rivières

### Direct line of Sébastien Levasseur

Pierre Levasseur 1629-1694 Pierre Levasseur 1661-1731 Denis Joseph Levasseur 1712-1792 Joseph Levasseur 1741-1825 Modeste Levasseur 1773-1840 Jean Baptiste Levasseur 1804-1877 Jean Baptiste Levasseur 1851-1935 Ulric Levasseur 1884-1965 Charles Auguste Levasseur 1918-André Levasseur 1950

Sébastien is André Levasseur's son, a former president of The Association during the 90's.

Sébastien Levasseur 1976



# **BERCEAU** KAMOURASKA 1692-1791

## L'Association des Levasseur d'Amérique

## The Kamouraska Cradle Twenty-six Levasseurs buried in the cemetery (by Huguette Levasseur 380)



2005. a July 31. memorial unveiled on the site of Cradle o f Kamouraska. Its purpose is to honor the name of all the pioneers buried in the cemetery during the period 1727 to 1793. More than 1.300 people rest in this

cemetery. Some 220 different surnames are engraved on the memorial. Michaud count 115 buried people; Paradis 73; Migneault, 34; and Levasseur, 26. The ceremony was preceded by a mass celebrated by Monseigneur Moreau to the memory the ancestors.

Pierre Levasseur (1679-1766) and his wife Marie-Élisabeth Michaud (1685-1766) were among the first families to settle in the area. Pierre was a son of Laurent and Marie Marchand. Claire-Françoise, a sister of Pierre, also settled in the area of Kamouraska. She was initially married to Louis Michaud, then to Jean-François Autin. Pierre and Claire-Françoise, as well as several their descendants, rest in the cemetery.

The Cradle of Kamouraska is located three kilometers east of the village of Kamouraska. Today, a small chapel indicates the location of the first two churches, the first two presbyteries and the cemetery .In 1999, a commemorative plaque was affixed inside the chapel, by the Association of Levasseur of America, to honor the memory of Pierre Levasseur and Marie-Élisabeth Michaud.



## LIST OF BURIED PEOPLE

Here is a list of the people bearing the surname Levasseur buried in the cemetery between 1727 and 1793. This list was drawn up from the registers of the parish of Saint-Louis-of-Kamouraska.

Pioneers: son and daughter of the ancestor Laurent Levasseur married to Marie Marchand:

• Pierre Levasseur buried on October 27, 1738, at the approximate age of 56 years. Note: The name of his wife is not mentioned. He was the husband of Élisabeth Michaud. Marie-Françoise Levasseur buried on June 20, 1777, at the approximate age of 90 years. Widow of François Ottin (Autin). Note: Marie-Françoise initially was the wife of Louis Michaud

Children of Pierre Levasseur and Élisabeth Michaud:

- Élisabeth Levasseur buried on February 8, 1752. She was approximately 30 years old and was married to Alexandre Paradis.
- Marie-Rose Levasseur buried on December 11, 1756, at the age of 45. She was married to Michel Gueret/Dumont.
- Joseph Levasseur (father) buried on September 15, 1781, He was about 62 years old. Note: The name of his wife is not mentioned in the burial act. Joseph was first married to Marie-Madeleine Albert and then to Marie-Thérèse Potvin.
- Marie-Josephe Levasseur buried on August 4, 1787, at the age of 80. She was the widow of Zacharie Ayotte

Grandsons of Pierre Levasseur and Élisabeth Michaud:

- Pierre Levasseur, buried on September 20, 1736, he was 24 days old.
- Parents: Pierre Levasseur (the young) and Geneviève Focase. *Note: Geneviève Phocas/Raymond*
- A child of Pierre Levasseur and Geneviève Focase buried on August 14, 1737. Note: Mother: Geneviève Phocas/Raymond.
- Marie-Josephe Levasseur, buried on August 22, 1745, at the age of 2 ½. Parents: Joseph Levasseur and Marie-Madeleine Albert.
- Jean-Baptiste Levasseur buried on September 9, 1752, at the age of 5 months Parents: Jean Levasseur and Marie-Claire Nadeau.

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## L'Association des Levasseur d'Amérique

- Marie-Catherine Levasseur buried on April 7, 1755, at the age of 20 days. Parents: Joseph Levasseur and Marie-Madeleine Albert.
- Jean Levasseur buried on April 2, 1757, at the age of 9 days. Parents: Jean Levasseur and Marie-Claire Nadeau.
- Geneviève Levasseur buried on May 15, 1765, at the age of 22. Married to Jean-Baptiste Bourguignon. Cause death: smallpox. Note: Parents: Pierre Levasseur and Geneviève Phocas/Raymond.
- Marie-Euphrosine Levasseur buried on May 17, 1769, age of approximately 2 months. Parents: Jean Levasseur and Marie-Claire Nadeau.
- Pierre Levasseur, buried on November 21, 1770, He was one month and 12 days old. Parents: Jean Levasseur and Marie-Claire Nadeau.
- Marianne Levasseur buried on March 29, 1780, at the age of 30. Married to Jean Michaud. *Note: Parents: Joseph Levasseur and Marie-Madeleine Albert*.
- Marie-Judith Levasseur buried on January 27, 1781, at the age of 21. Married to Joseph Paradis. *Note: Parents: Jean Levasseur and Marie-Claire Nadeau*

## Great-grandsons of Pierre Levasseur and Élisabeth Michaud:

- Honoré-Michel, son of Pierre Levasseur (junior)-, buried on January 19, 1774, at the age of 15 days. Note: The burial act does include the name of the mother. However we believe that Honoré Michel, born and baptized on January 4, 1774 was the son of Pierre Levasseur (junior) and Marie Roy.
- Joseph-Marie, son of Pierre Levasseur, buried on September 23, 1776. He was one month old. Note: The burial act does not mention the name of the mother. However we believe that Joseph-Marie, baptized on August 24, 1776. Was the son of Pierre Levasseur and Marie Roy.
- A child belonging to Joseph Levasseur buried on May 13, 1783, at the age of 2 months. *Note: The burial act does not include the name of the mother. There are two Joseph Levasseur. One is married to Marie Catherine Migneault, the other to Josephte Ouellet. To which family does the deceased child belong?*
- Alexandre, son of Joseph Levasseur, buried on September 18, 1786, at the age of 3. Note: The act of burial does not include the name of the mother. However we believe that Alexandre Levasseur, born and baptized on October 13, 1784, is the son of Joseph Levasseur and Marie-Catherine.
- A child belonging to Joseph Levasseur buried on October 13, 1786, at the age of 2. Note: The burial act does not provide the name of the mother. We assume that the name of the deceased child is Jean-Baptiste. He would have been born and baptized on April 6 or 7, 1784 and his parents are Joseph Levasseur and Josephs Ouellet. We did not find a burial act for Jean-Baptiste.

- Marie-Catherine, daughter of Joseph Levasseur, the son of Jean, buried on April 11, 1789, at the age of 15. *Note: The burial act does not include the name of the mother.*
- Marie-Geneviève Levasseur buried on March 19, 1790. She was 10 months old. Parents: Joseph Amable Levasseur and Judith Ouellet
- Marie-Madeleine Levasseur, buried on May 20, 1790, at the age of 2 ½ months. Note: The register does not name the parents. However, we believe that Marie-Madeleine Levasseur, born the 1st April and baptized on April 2, 1790 is the daughter of Étienne Levasseur and Marie-Angelique Michaud.
- Charles Levasseur buried on December 20, 1791, at the approximate age of 1 year. Parents: Joseph Levasseur and Marie Angélique Migneault.

The cemetery of the Cradle of Kamouraska contains also the burials of the descendants of Marie-Françoise Levasseur first married to Louis Michaud, and then to François Ottin (Autin).

References: www.berceaudekamouraska.com (bilingual)





In 1999, the Levasseur met in the Cradle of Kamouraska. On the occasion, a commemorative plaque was blessed and dedicated to the memory of Pierre Levasseur and his wife Marie-Élisabeth Michaud. Dominique Levasseur and Gilles Levasseur, the president at the time, are photographed in front of the plaque,



## 2006 Reunion of the Lev

## September 1<sup>th</sup>, 2, 3, 2006

## Friday (evening)

19h30 Arrival and registration of guests

Refreshments

## Saturday (AM)

9h00 Registration of guests Genealogy workshop

10h00 Conference: « The migration of the Levasseurs towards western Canada and the USA by Roger Levasseur (in french)

Conference « Levasseur in the military " Dr Serge Bernier (in english)

11h00 Conference « The migration of the Levasseurs towards western Canada and the USA» by Roger Levasseur (in english)

Conference «Levasseur in the military » by Dr Serge Bernier (in french)

12h00 Lunch /buffet in location

<u>Cost</u>: 65 \$ CND per person (Includes registration fees, 2 meals, transportation and entrance fee to the Canadian War Museum)

# asseur in Gatineau, QC OFFICIAL PROGRAM

## **Saturday PM)**

13h30 Visit of the Canadian War Museum (transportation and entrance fees included)

16h30 Association general assembly

18h00 Dinner in location (Music Gary Elliott)

## Sunday (AM)

Mass in memory of Vincent Levasseur

Visit to the cemetery and unveiling of a commemorative plaque

Brunch in group or individually

Departure of guests

For more information, please contact Réjean Levasseur (613) 741-8499 or at email address <u>reglevasseur@rogers.com</u>. More information will be provided on our website commencing April 1, 2006.

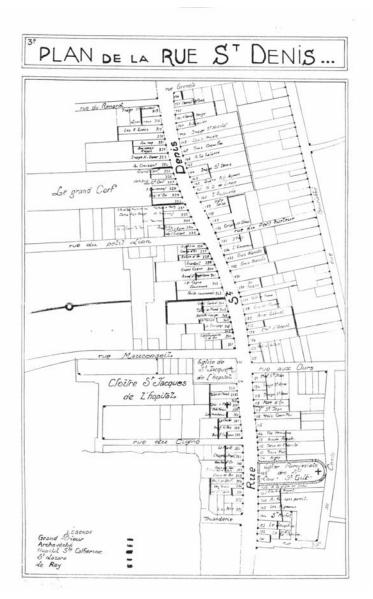
Registration forms are enclosed and also available on our website at <a href="https://www.levasseur.org/gatineau2006">www.levasseur.org/gatineau2006</a>



## L'Association des Levasseur d'Amérique

## Visit to the native parish of our ancestor Pierre Levasseur said L'Espérance

(by Gilles Carmel 352)



Our Web site has this mention:

Pierre Levasseur said L'Espérance was born in Saint-Leu and Saint-Gilles, Évêché of Paris, in 1629. He came to Quebec in 1651. and married Jeanne de Chanverlange of Bourges (France) on October 25, 1655, in Quebec City. Pierre and his wife had 7 children, 4 girls and 3 boys. Please note that our data base contains more 9730 names which are direct descendants Pierre Levasseur said L'Espérance

In October 2005, I had the pleasure to visit the church of Saint-Leu and Saint-Gilles in Paris <sup>(1)</sup>. This church is located in the first district of Paris and more precisely at 92 Saint-Denis Street.

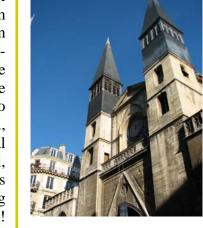
In Saint-Denis Street there was an abbey named Saint-Magloire. A small chapel was built in 1235 to meet the needs of the faithful of "Bourg" l'Abbé". This chapel was dedicated to Saint-Gilles and many religious buildings and hospitals were built close to this small church. To mention a few there is Hospital of the Trinity, Hospital and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre built in 1326 and, more particularly, the Saint-Jacob

Hospital intended for the pilgrims leaving for the Saint-Jacques-to-Compostelle march.

For a long time, St Ignatius of Loyola provided care to the patients of the area and it is reasonable to believe that he sometimes crossed the street to pray in Saint-Leu. In 1319, a decision was made to build, on the site of the current nave, the church of Saint-Leu and Saint-Gilles as the feast of these two saints are celebrated the same day. At a certain time, this church also had Saint Cordule as patron saint. Saint-Denis Street which was the royal road used for the entrance to the church and for the funerals of the Kings and Queens of France.



royal Indeed. the procession started from the Royal Palace. It then moved towards Saint-Denis street to leave the walls of Paris by the Saint-Denis door, and to Saint-Denis Basilica, place of burial of several kings de France. In all, 46 kings and 32 queens there, including Dagobert in 630 (Eh yes! that of the famous song) All the Capétiens kings, except five of them, since Hugues Capet. Saint-Denis basilica was also a place of coronation







of certain kings such as Pépin the Bref.

This church saw also the starting point of Saint Louis for a Crusade in 1248. The first the parish registers goes back to 1533 Saint-Gilles and Saint-Leu church was also the birthplace of the famous philanthropic foundation called the Fabrique of Saint-Leu. This foundation provided housing for old persons, distributed milk to needy babies and offered financial management services for many social organizations

(1) I had the privilege to visit the area with a group guided by Jean-Claude Gouillon of the group "Paris Balades"... I strongly recommend making the visit in a group, rather than individually as this district is considered very insecure for tourists

For more information please consult www.parisbalades.com and Gouillon.jc@wanadoo.fr. You can also visit the Internet site of the parish of Saint-Leu and Saint-Denis at http://eglisesaintleu.free.fr/Historique/paroisse.htm.



## L'Association des Levasseur d'Amérique



## Born to serve God Father Almer Levasseur

By: Marie-Noëlle Levasseur

It is with much sorrow that the parishioners of the diocese of Edmundston learned the sudden death of Father Almer Levasseur. He died, in Québec City on March 27, 2005. He was the son of Gérard Levasseur and Imelda Bouchard. He was born in 1937 in Saint-François-of-Madawaska, New Brunswick. He was the eldest of a family of 5 children: a brother and three sisters. After high school and collegial studies at the College of Sainte-Anne–de-la-Pocatière, he entered the seminary. He completed his theological studies and was ordained to the priesthood in 1962.

Man of faith and engagement, he was ordained in the church of St-François de Madawaska by Mgr J Roméo Gagnon. He was successively named vicar in the following parishes: Saint-Jacob, Saint-François, Saint-Basile, and Immaculée-Conception of Edmundston. He then became the parish priest of that parish as well as Saint-Quentin and Saint Martin's. At the 125e anniversary of the parish Immaculée-Conception of Edmundston, a supper for the benefit of volunteers was held on June 9, 2005. The committee, on behalf of all parishioners wished to express their recognition by presenting, posthumously, a laminated plaque to two members of his family, namely Jacques and Jacqueline. The plaque reads:" To deceased Father Almer Levasseur for his 19 years of dedicated religious service to the parish and his implication with the Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements "This ceremony was very moving for his brother and his sister as well as the people present.

Priest devoted religiously and socially in volunteer work, he had been a diocesan chaplain for the preparation to the marriage services, he was also a chaplain of Scouts and Guides both at the local level and the district of Edmundston. He was a member of the Association of Scouts and Guides of Canada. At an international scout "Jamboree" held in Sweden in 1995, he received the highest national distinction for his activities. This honor was presented by the then General Governor, Mr. Edward R. Schreyer. It was a red badge sown on his shirt and named Anna Purna. He had also received in 1980 the Vanier Medal for his engagement and dedication as chaplain and organizer of the scout movement. This medal was presented to him

by Governor General Mrs. Jeanne Sauvé. His first years in the scouting movement had marked him because his belief in the founder's philosophy. All he wanted was to help others "That the world is better because you had been there". Father Almer had endorsed this motto and wanted to share it with the young people.

He spent his last years with the Marists Fathers in Quebec City. He was the chaplain of the Hospital complex and Health care facilities of the Côte de Beaupré. He found this work both pleasing and rewarding. In his younger age he had hesitated between choosing medicine or priesthood as a profession. He opted for healing the soul rather than the body.

Father Almer Levasseur left too quickly, but the bonds of friendship which unite us will remain engraved in our heart of who knew and loved him. His funeral took place at the Cathedral of the Immaculée-Conception on April 2 2005. In attendance were members of his family, priests and many parishioners of the Edmundston diocese. Two delegations from Quebec of the Fathers Marists and secular priests of the diocese of Quebec also attended the ceremony. Father Almer is buried in Saint-François-of-Madawaska, his native parish.

He is mourned by a brother: Jacques from Laprairie, two sisters: Jacqueline (Jean-Jacques Guigné) of Laprairie, Quebec, and Marielle (Gilbert Leblanc) of Grande Digne, N-B. Another sister, Géralda (Jean Gained) predeceased him

## Father Almer Levasseur's lineage

Laurent Levasseur	1746-1726
Pierre Levasseur	1679-1738
Pierre 11 Levasseur	1707-1791
Pierre 111 Levasseur	1746-1809
Pierre 1V Levasseur	1794-????
Édouard Levasseur	1821-1911
Alarie-Hilaire Levasseur	1849-1918
Ligourie Levasseur	1876-1951
Gérard Levasseur	1910-1979
Père Almer Levasseur	1937-2005



## L'Association des Levasseur d'Amérique

## Personnality Chronique

Name: Joseph-Armand Bombardier

by: Gilles Carmel (352)



Born on April 16, 1907 in Valcourt Quebec, Joseph-Armand, demonstrated an extraordinary talent for mechanics. At the age of fifteen he created his first snowmobile prototype. His father considering the engine to dangerous ordered its demolition. At the age of seventeen, Joseph-Armand left Valcourt to work as a mechanic in a service station in Montreal. In 1926, he returned to Valcourt to open his own service station.

In the winter in 1934, his son Yvon died of peritonitis He was two years old. Yvon could not be transported in time to a near-by hospital. Deeply affected by the lost of his son, Joseph-Armand doubled up his efforts to invent a

machine that could travel in heavy snow and overcome the isolation of remote towns and villages during the cold winter months. The following year, he invented a gear system protected with a rubber casing and a track system made up of rubber and heavy canvas with skis as the directional system.

This revolutionary traction system resolved the problems of traveling in heavy snow. His invention was officially patented on 19 December 1936.

From inventor, he then became an industrialist and began the production of the famous B7 snowmobile. This vehicle was designed to transport seven persons on snow covered areas.

During the Second World War, The B12 snowmobiles, constructed as Mark I, II, III. were specially adapted for military purposes.

To respond to the ever increasing demand for his products, Mr. Bombardier opened up another plant Montreal. His company was incorporated officially on 10 July, 1942.

He then associated himself with a group of professional administrators so that he could devote more time to his inventions. In 1958, Joseph-Armand created a miniature snowmobile that was marketed under the trademark Ski-Doo. Mr. Bombardier died on February 18, 1964 at the age of 56.

In a moving the letter left to his children, he urged them continue its work. The enormous success of the Bombardier Company as well as the humanitarian and social mission of the Foundation J. Armand Bombardier confirmed his confidence in his children.

The companies Bombardier Inc (aeronautical and rail vehicles) and BRP Bombardier recreational vehicles (Sea-Doo, Ski-Doo, VTT, etc) are known and used worldwide.



For those wishing to increase their knowledge about the company, you are invited to consult these website at:

- Le Musée J. Armand Bombardier: http://www.fjab.qc.ca/fr/content/jab/jab.htm
- La compagnie Bombardier Inc. (Train et Avion) : http://www.bombardier.com/index.jsp
- Bombardier Produits Récréatifs (Ski-Doo, Sea-Doo, VTT, etc) http://www.brp.com/

Joseph-Armand Bombardier is at the same time a descendant of both Jean Levasseur/Lavigne and Jeanne Levasseur. (Note: Jean Levasseur, the ancestor, had a sister named Jeanne.)

Jean Levasseur/Lavigne	Jeanne Levasseur	
Anne-Félicité Levasseur	Pierre Drolet	
Marie Charlotte Hamel	Pierre Drolet	
Marguerite Plamondon	Pierre Drolet	
Marguerite Drolet	Marguerite Drolet	
Marguerite Goulet	Marguerite Goulet	
Marie Côté	Marie Côté	
Marie Gélineau	Marie Gélineau	
Octave Bombardier	Octave Bombardier	
Alfred Bombardier	Alfred Bombardier	
Joseph-Alfred Bombardier		

Joseph-Armand Bombardier is the	Joseph-Armand Bombardier is the
great-grand-son of Jean	great-grand-son of Jeannne Levasseur
Levasseur/Lavigne at the 11th	at the 11th generation
generation	

For more information, pleasse consult the data bank on our Web site at: www.levasseur.org



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Association des Levasseur d'Amérique

## SITE WEB WWW.LEVASSEUR.ORG



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## In future issues



Here is an outline of the articles to be published in future issues of the Bulletin of the Levasseur Association:

- Extracts from a presentation by Roger Levasseur to the genealogy Society of Samuel de Champlain about the immigration of French Canadians to the Midwestern USA States, the New England States and to Western Canada.
- Pioneers at the time of the gold rush in British Colombia: Alfred and Charles Levasseur, from the region of Kamouraska.
- Our last article of the series on Noël Levasseur, one of the founders of the town of Bourbonnais.
- Old photographs received from our members with the appropriate genealogies.

Your assistance would help us tremendously with the submission of texts and photographs. Tell us about the history of your family, biographies, happy events, family reunions etc This is your Newsletter. Please participate in great number

Jean-Pierre Levasseur (250)