



What's new on our web site and in the newsletter?

by: Jean-Pierre Levasseur (250)



1) The Levasseur Newsletter

Members who are subscribed to the electronic version of the newsletter will see a major change in the presentation of the publication. Hyperlinks will now be included in the articles. The reader will simply have to click on the words that are underlined to take them to other articles or images related to the article. The online encyclopedia [Wikipedia](#) gives the following definition for “hyperlink”:

« A hyperlink (often referred to as simply a link), is a reference or navigation element in a document to another section of the same document, another document, or a specified section of another document, that automatically brings the referred information to the user when the navigation element is selected by the user. As such it is similar to a citation in literature, but with the distinction of automatic instant access. Combined with a data network and suitable access protocol, a computer can be instructed to fetch the resource referenced.»

It is important to note that we cannot guarantee the information found on these hyperlinks. Sometimes the links are moved to another location or erased by the authors.

2) Google Alerts online



If you have been on our web site lately, you may have noticed a new section that is very interesting called [Google Alerts](#). This is a new service on Google called Google Alerts which lets us know of any news concerning the name Levasseur. On the home page of our web site

www.levasseur.org, you simply have to click on the “[Google News Alert for: Levasseur](#)”. Please note that the French and English articles in the alerts are different. I encourage you to visit both sections.

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3) Archives of the Levasseur Newsletter



Under [Newsletter](#), you will find the archives section where we have all the Levasseur Newsletters that have been published since 1989. You will find more than 800 pages of information in PDF format. For your information, the very [first newsletter](#) published in January 1989 was produced using Wordperfect. The founder and President, Vincent Levasseur, was talking about the preparation of the very first Levasseur reunion of 1990. Two of the members of the board at the time are still on the board today, Réjean and Roger Levasseur. To access this section, you need to identify yourself as a member of the Levasseur Association. The member login has already been sent to you by e-mail and a reminder will be sent in the near future.

4) Updating the genealogy database



Thanks to the efforts of our genealogists, we are pleased to announce that the database now contains more than 104,000 registrations. Many hours are dedicated to the verification of the information found in registers. All this work was needed for the production of two repertoires of marriages. The launch of these repertoires will take place during the Quebec reunion in 2008. If you need to add or make corrections to the database, please send them as soon as possible to Joceline Levasseur via the [data collection form](#).

The database is available to members of the Association only. To access it, you will have to write the e-mail address we have on file in the "UserID" (no capital letters). The password is the number given to you when you became a member and can be found on your member card. Should you have any problems accessing any section, please

contact the webmaster@levasseur.org

The screenshot shows a window titled "Authentication requise" with a close button (X). Inside the window, there is a question mark icon and the text: "Entrez le nom et le mot de passe pour GeneWeb service à http://70.80.24.81:2317". Below this, there are two input fields: "Utilisateur :" with the text "yourname@domain.com" and "Mot de passe :" with "***". At the bottom, there is a checkbox labeled "Utiliser le gestionnaire de mots de passe pour se souvenir de ce mot de passe." and two buttons: "OK" and "Annuler".

The President message

by: Gilles Carmel (352)



The next general meeting will be held on October 20, 2007 at the Motel 55 in Bécancour in Bécancour at 2:00pm. We are counting on and appreciate your participation.

The association's newsletter publication team is looking for assistance to continue publishing the newsletter. Jean-Pierre provides time and effort to do the page layout. Diane, Michele, Roger and Réjean make a great translation team. Huguette edits all of the articles to ensure the least possible errors. However, this system works best when there are articles from you, the association members. Without articles there can be no newsletter and it will become impossible to publish three times a year. Therefore, we need articles from each of you. I invite you to send us articles about the achievements and stories of your parents and ancestors. A variety of articles is welcomed and encouraged.

We have begun a verification audit to update our database. Every member of the association will receive, by e-mail or by regular mail, a family tree. I ask you to please verify the data. Please let us know of any corrections that need to be made to the dates or places, and of any additions concerning births, baptisms, marriages and deaths. Concerning new marriages, we would like to request the name of the spouse and of his/her parents.

I wish you a great summer.

Gilles Carmel, president



A unique moment for three sisters from Pohénégamook.



The story I am about to tell you may sound like a fairy tale; however, it is quite real. It will most certainly remain forever engraved in the memory of Véronique, Nadine and Nellie Levasseur from [Pohénégamook](#). The three daughters of Céline Morel and Guy Levasseur got married at the same time on July 29, 2006. That's right, three sisters, one wedding and hundreds of guests. What a beautiful dream that Info-Dimanche has the honor to share with you thanks to happy couples.

This story started a long time ago. The idea of a three sister wedding seemed a silly idea for many years; but it became a possibility the day Nellie became engaged to the love of her life, Emmanuel Deschenes. She quickly spoke to her sisters who decided unanimously with their partners to make this long time joke a reality. For the next year, Nellie and Emmanuel, Nadine and her partner Marco Michaud, Véronique and her partner, Adam Charron, fussed about the numerous small details to make their day unforgettable. Countless family meetings and discussions produced many marvelous moments. As predicted, the wedding was a magical day filled with much emotion. The wedding ceremony was held at the Escourt Church and afterward, friends and families of the spouses celebrated the event at the Universel Hotel of Riviere-du-Loup. Nearly 500 people attended the wedding.

Véronique and Adam already have three children, Mathis (5 years old), Angélique (3 years old) and Dorothée (9 months). Nellie and Emmanuel have a little girl, Elénore (2 years old). With regards to Nadine and Marco, they are expecting soon. I wish them all the happiness in the world. I will conclude by telling you that this extraordinary beautiful family story goes even further since Véronique, Nellie, Emmanuel, Marco and Adam all work in the family business, [Transport Guy Levasseur](#). Nadine is the exception; she is a technician in a medial laboratory in Lévis. These young couples are now bound by a unique life experience which will surely be very amusing to tell their children and grandchildren!

Original text : [Journal Info-Dimanche](#)

Photos : [Jocelyn Landry](#), Rivière-du-Loup

- I - Laurent Levasseur** circa 1648– 1726
Married April 30, 1670, Québec, Notre-Dame, QC, to Marie Marchand
|
- II - Pierre Levasseur** 1679-1738
Married May 8, 1703, Rivière-Ouelle, Kamouraska, QC, to Élisabeth Michaud
|
- III - Jean-Timothée Levasseur** ????-1816
Married January 17, 1750, undetermined location (in Québec), to Marie-Claire Nadeau
|
- IV - Benjamin Levasseur** 1765 -1845
Married January 29, 1786, Kamouraska, St-Louis, QC, to Rosalie Paradis
|
- V - Fabien Levasseur** 1802 -1888
Married February 10, 1824, La Pocatière, Kamouraska, QC, to Émilie Roy
|
- VI - Olivier Levasseur** - 1828-1893
Married October 11, 1853, St-Alexandre, Kamouraska, QC, Obéline Bouchard
|
- VII- Michel Levasseur** 1857-1938
Married September 30, 1878, St-Alexandre, Kamouraska, QC, to Marie Febvre
|
- VIII - Georges Levasseur** 1880-1956
Married October 3, 1898, St-Éleuthère, Kamouraska, QC, to Philomène St-Pierre
|
- IX - Noël Levasseur** 1922 -1996
Married December 26, 1946, Val-d'Amour, NB, to Thérèse Bouchard
|
- X - Guy Levasseur** 1954-
Married September 8, 1973, St-Éleuthère, Kamouraska, QC, to Céline Morin\Morel
|
- XI- Véronique** born, 1974
Married July 29, 2006, Escourt, QC to Adam Charron
- XI- Nadine** born, 1976
Married July 29, 2006, Escourt, QC to Marco Michaud
- XI - Nellie** born 1979
Married July 29, 2006, à Escourt, QC to Emmanuel Deschênes
- XI - Billy** born 1981



Personality Chronicle

Name : John Gagnon (son of Sophie Levasseur)

by: Gilles Carmel (352)

hailed from Caribou

front ranks of America's professional strong men.

Travis, confident he could prevail over the Mainer, blithely accepted the challenge. And in fact, before the Tuesday evening match, Travis posted a \$5,000 challenge "for anyone who will follow me in my stunts."

The 40-year-old strong man from Caribou accepted the challenge.

The contest took place at city hall, where townspeople and strong-men watchers from throughout the state witnessed one of Gagnon's greatest career performances.

Among other things, Travis was reported to be "astonished" by his competitor's physical prowess.

Gagnon opened the show by bending a sixty-penny spike double with his hands. Next he placed a 3/8-inch iron bar between his teeth and bent it in an arc. Moving along, Gagnon held two horseshoes upright in one hand, forming a W, and then asked for eight strong recruits - from the audience (four on each side) to try and pull the steel shoes apart. But they could not.

Whenever Travis demonstrated a lift, Gagnon countered with a heavier one. The climax of the evening came when Gagnon lifted 23 men on a platform that empty, weighed 710 pounds. His total lift was 4,040 pounds. A stunned Travis, whose record for that kind of lift was 3,560, competed no further with the "local boy."

Travis told reporters the following day that Gagnon's unorthodox techniques made it difficult for him to judge the match. But obviously embarrassed by the outcome in Augusta, Travis challenged Gagnon to a return match in New York. The prize, he said, would be the diamond belt and the title of "World's Strongest Man."

Gagnon's manager tried several times to schedule the rematch, but the suggested dates were never agreeable to Travis.

Some 16 years later, long after he gave up weight lifting (at the urging of his wife and two daughters), Gagnon died in his sleep of coronary thrombosis. He was 56 years old.

But even now, more than 100 years after his birth and 63 winters after he defeated Travis in a show of superhuman strength, the memory of

John B. Gagnon lives on. And chances are that his legend will remain intact as long as there are professional strong men in the world to try and surpass his remarkable feats of power.

Information for this article was compiled by Caribou Historical Society member, Basil S. Chapman, Sr., and was also taken from a 1979 Down East magazine article on John B. Gagnon, written by J.H. Lowell.



A GENTLE GIANT WITH FAMILY - Pictured here with his wife, Elizabeth, and year-old daughter, Yvonne, is the unofficial "World's Strongest Man." John B. Gagnon of Caribou, at about the age of 20. Gagnon, who moved from Caribou at the turn of the century, made a name for himself as a weight lifter in Augusta, setting strong-man records from 1909 through 1923. He was victorious over New York's Warren L. Travis in February 1923, at a time when Travis was the diamond belt holder and the official "World's Strongest Man." The above photo of Gagnon and his family is believed to have been taken around 1903, prior to the birth of the Gagnons second daughter, Edna.

John Gagnon was one of 5 sons of Louis Gagnon and Sophie Levasseur. He was born on October 5, 1883 in Caribou, Maine. John had a colossal stature weighing 230 pounds at 5 feet 10 inches with 17" biceps, and was one of the strongest men in the world.

His strength was said to come from his mother's side of the family. His great grandmother was Salomé Cyr. J.H. Lowell from Down East Magazine, among others, observed in 1979 a possible family link with Louis Cyr (see below) because he believed Louis was the brother of Salomé. However, Louis Cyr and Salomé Cyr were not brother and sister. The parents of Louis were Pierre Cyr and Philomène Berger, and the parents of Salomé were Antoine Cyr and Geneviève Violet.

His fame started in 1909 when he lifted a granite rock weighing 1800 pounds. Just like Louis Cyr, John worked in a circus. John's most famous competition occurred on February 13, 1923 when he

successfully accepted a challenge from Warren L. Travis, a world champion weight lifter with a lift record of 3660 pounds. Gagnon lifted 4170 pounds. That day, Travis did not even attempt to reach the new record, and never competed against Gagnon again. Unfortunately for Gagnon, that competition was not officially recognized.

Gagnon was recognized in 1923 as the strongest man in the world in the "Records of the World's Five Strongest Men" when he beat Travis, [Louis Cyr](#), Arthur Saxon and Eugene Sandow. Although he used an unorthodox technique, he lifted 16,650 pounds in 25 minutes in 10 lifts. Each lift was held for three minutes.

In 1979 these records were still holding except for the back lift, (Paul Anderson from Georgia lifted 6207 pounds in 1957).

He then worked for 15 years as manager of a trucking company and was also a carpenter at the Augusta Opera House.

Nicknamed the Humble Hercules, John Gagnon died in his sleep from a coronary thrombosis.

You can learn more on the following websites :

http://joshshainin.com/JohnGagnon/John_Gagnon_Documents.html

http://joshshainin.com/JohnGagnon/John_Gagnon_Graphics.html

John Gagnon is a descendent of Laurent Levasseur

- **Laurent Levasseur**
- Pierre Levasseur
- Pierre Levasseur
- Jean-Baptiste Levasseur
- Pierre Levasseur
- Jean-Baptiste Levasseur
- Sophie Levasseur
- John Gagnon

**John Gagnon is the grandson, at the 8th generation,
of Laurent Levasseur, and the son of Sophie Levasseur.**

You will find more information in our data base by visiting our website :
www.levasseur.org

John B. Gagnon's Record	
Finger lift	794 pounds
One-hand lift	1,111 pounds
Two-hand lift	1,575 pounds
Two-hand and knees lift	2,195 pounds
Neck lift	1,317 pounds
Harnes lift	2,689 pounds
Teeth lift	627 pounds
One-arm lift	924 pounds
Two-arm lift	1,248 pounds
Back lift	4,170 pounds
Whole performance completed in 25 minutes	





Thank you to the many contributors to the Levasseur Newsletter

by: Jean-Pierre Levasseur (250)



We do not recognize often enough the people who contribute to this publication. After a quick calculation, I have estimated that it takes at least 150 hours to publish this newsletter. The major steps in producing the newsletter are: searching for articles, editing, translation, transposition of the articles and pictures, revision of the articles, conversion in PDF format, printing and finally, publishing it on the internet.

To produce each newsletter, more than a dozen people will have volunteered their time so that you can read it. This exercise repeated three or four times a year, means for the most part, a lot of sacrifice from the people involved.

Unfortunately, the work is not always easy to maintain. To ensure the life of this publication, and that of our Association, it is essential that we can count on a team who will provide articles for the newsletter, and help with translation and design on a regular basis. Gilles, in the "President's Message" asks you to actively participate in the future of your Association. Your involvement must become apparent in 2007 more than ever; it is of primary importance. Please send us an article about your family, or the achievements of your parents and grandparents. We welcome all articles about Levasseurs living in the Americas.

Thank you for your valuable collaboration and enjoy a great summer!

**For a third year, the Levasseur Association was present
at the Salon des familles-souches**

by: Jean-Pierre Levasseur (250)



From February 23-25, 2007, families once again met in the heart of the Centre Place Laurier in Quebec, at the Salon des familles-souches. Many members of your Association were present to meet Levasseurs from the Quebec region, and to invite them to our large gathering in 2008 in Quebec City. Thank you to all who participated: Gilles Carmel, Jean-Pierre Levasseur, Jean Levasseur, France Côté, André Levasseur, Robert Levasseur, Roxanne Wilkin, Huguette Levasseur, François Dupuis, and Joceline Levasseur.

NFB Documentary about Adélarde Levasseur

by: Jean-Pierre Levasseur (250)

Mrs. Juliette Levasseur has informed us that the National Film Board (NFB) has produced a [documentary](#) about her great uncle, Adélarde Levasseur. The documentary, “Au bout de mon âge”, is an emotionally charged film that illustrates, with special images and spontaneous remarks, the long psychological road of two beings touched by age. George Dufault produced the documentary in 1975. Adélarde was the son of Michel Levasseur and Jeanne Lagacé. He and his wife, Joséphine, adopted Henriette, who is the daughter of Patrick Levasseur and Annie Ouellet. Adélarde worked at the General Bakeries factory of Montreal for many years.



Adélarde Levasseur was born on November 11, 1894 in Rivière-du-Loup, Quebec, and was baptized the next day in the Saint-Patrice parish. He was married on September 3, 1917 in Montreal at the Saint-Enfant-Jésus parish to Joséphine Laflamme. He passed away on September 24, 1975 at the age of 80. He is a descendent of Laurent Levasseur.



The National Film Board of Canada (NFB) is a federal cultural agency within the portfolio of the Canadian Heritage Department. Initially known as the National Film Commission, it was created by an act of Parliament in 1939. Its mandate, as set forth in the National Film Act, 1950, is “to produce and distribute and to promote the production and distribution of films designed to interpret Canada to Canadians and to other nations.” Web site: www.onf.ca



Information – Dictionary

by: Joceline Levasseur (328)

We would like to thank everyone who has reserved copies of the Genealogist's Dictionary of Laurent Levasseur and the Genealogist's Dictionary of Pierre and Jean Levasseur. Please continue to send in requests as soon as possible.

These dictionaries are the fruits of many years of research. It can be said that three generations of genealogists have contributed to the new dictionaries.

First generation,

The first genealogist was Jean-Charles-Henri Levasseur (1892-1968), an American from Portland, Oregon. Jean-Charles spent at least twenty years of his life consulting the Canadian and US censuses, and writing to many priests to obtain indexes of birth, death and marriage notices for Levasseurs. He also regularly corresponded with Archange Godbout, a great genealogist from Québec. Godbout did some research in France from 1940-1950 to trace our ancestors. You will find the genealogist dictionary of Jean-Charles-Henri Levasseur, as well as his correspondence with Archange Godbout in the Godbout Trust, available at the Quebec National Archives. The Levasseur Association has a photocopy.

Second generation,

In the 1980's, Vincent Levasseur (1923-2005) started to do a compilation of all the Levasseurs in North America. He created a database containing more than 100,000 names, made available to all the members of the Association via the internet. Vincent communicated with hundreds of Levasseurs by mail, telephone or e-mail. While on vacation, he would go on camping trips with his family in different regions of Quebec, New-Brunswick, Ontario and Maine to find information for his database and talk about the Levasseur Association to Levasseurs in those regions. Vincent did not find the work of Jean-Charles-Henri Levasseur until 1987, after his research was well underway. He integrated Jean-Charles' research with the database. In addition to Vincent's research, many other people provided him with much assistance. Of particular help were his brother Jean-Marie Levasseur, and Adrien Levasseur* plus, all of the families who provided important information. In 1992, Vincent Levasseur published two genealogist's dictionaries. While those volumes are no longer available in print, Vincent did pass on his database to the Levasseur Association of America.

Third generation,

Recently, a few members of the Association decided to publish an updated dictionary of the Levasseur's genealogy. Joceline Levasseur, Huguette Levasseur and Gilles Carmel have formed a team that is currently working on the publication of the new dictionary. For the last five years, this team has revised information concerning Levasseurs, and their spouses and children. They have also added previously missing information, as well as the references consulted. Their research has been facilitated with the use of new research tools, which are becoming more readily accessible.

In Quebec, the principle references consulted are:

- PRDH for the period from 1630-1799
- Church records 1800-1940
- Indexes of Birth, death and marriage notices extracted from Church records
- [BMS 2000](#)
- ISQ marriages and ISQ deaths 1926-1996
- Obituaries
- The families

For New-Brunswick, the references consulted are:

- Church records: 1792-1992
- Indexes of Birth, death and marriage notices extracted from Church records
- The families

Finally, for the United States and Ontario, the references consulted are:

- Indexes of Birth, death and marriage notices extracted from Church records
- A few Church records
- Obituaries
- The families

We would like to thank all the families that provided us with information concerning births, marriages and death notices of their loved ones. Your collaboration is essential, as it is often very difficult for us to find such information.

The Dictionaries of the descendents of Laurent Levasseur and the Dictionary of the descendents of Jean and Pierre Levasseur will be published in 2008. Please reserve your copy as soon as possible, if it is not already done. Please send in your reservation to:

Joceline Levasseur, 3640 Pélissier, Québec, G1X 3W8, QC, Canada
jolevasseur@videotron.ca

**Adrien Levasseur published the Dictionnaire des familles Levasseur in 1988*

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Québec 2008 Preliminary program

Saturday, August 16, 2008

9:00am-9:45am - Registration (coffee and juice)

9:45am - Welcome from the president

10:00am - Conferences and workshops

*11:00am - Genealogy workshop, displays of family monographs,
photographs*

12:15pm-1:15pm - Lunch served in the Marie-Guyart hall

1:30pm - Activity offsite (returning around 4:00pm)

*4:15pm-5:30pm - General Assembly of the Association and
Elections of the board members*

5:30pm-6:30pm - Free

*6:30pm-11:00pm - Banquet and animated evening (note: for
supper and the evening, a bar will be available for alcoholic
drinks (wine and beer))*

Sunday, August 17, 2008

10:00am – Group lunch (optional)

*Note: The registration form will be available at the beginning of
2008*

