



John Vasseur: a Grand Falls Carpenter

by: Peggy Moore Vasseur (483)



I began taking an interest in my family history after the death of my uncle in 2003, and this passion is still very much alive and well, although it often simmers on the back burner.

I do not have many primary sources. John Napoleon Vasseur, my husband's grandfather, died before Bill was born, but he remembers his grandmother a wee bit. Everyone loved Kate. She referred to her husband as "my John." I sense that their marriage and family bonds were strong and healthy. On their marriage certificate, her name is typed as Catherine but she signed it "Kate." I

married into a wonderful family and we gather together for a visit each summer in Grand Falls where my mother-in-law, Hilda (Godreau) Vasseur, still lives a relatively healthy life at almost 93 years of age. We will gather on Canada weekend this summer. Jack (John) was a carpenter by profession and a musician by hobby. In his diary, he talks about his own shop and tools, and also working for the town of Grand Falls. He built houses and buildings, worked on the bridge and at the church, and built furniture. We have a small plant stand in our living room that he built. He mentions forming their orchestra and also joining and leaving the CMBA, which appears to have something to do with music.

Kate (Catherine Mallen), his wife, is the daughter of Lawrence and Marie (Roberge) Mallen. My in-laws cared for her in her old age, until she had to go to a nursing home in St. Basile, New Brunswick. They gave her excellent care at their home, according to Aunt Pearl. She braided rugs when she lived with them. A traveling salesman used to bring scraps and rags to the garage where Thomas worked, and he brought them home for her to use in her rugs. I remember them from under the rockers in Bill's home in Grand Falls.

Each summer I try to rummage through the archives at the Grand Falls library and museum to learn about my daughters' Vasseur/Levasseur roots. Last year I came upon John's diary. It amuses me that he refers to births of other peoples' children but not to his own. Perhaps he was too overwhelmed with his wife's fourteen pregnancies.

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L'Association des Levasseur d'Amérique

William's diary is similar in style to John's but more detailed, and it is his own handwriting. His means of earning a living seemed to vary, from game warden to liquor store manager to guide. He loved music, plays, dances and hunting. He seemed quite interested in world news.

James and Severine Levasseur had three children, according to our copy of the family history, Mathilde, John and William. William never married, and is buried beside his parents in the Assumption Church cemetery in Grand Falls.

I only learned about Mathilde a few days ago. I found information about her in the Paroisse Assomption, Grand Falls, website, and also Automated Genealogy. She married a gentleman by the name of Joseph Crozier.

My in-laws, Thomas and Hilda Vasseur, cared for Uncle Billy (William) in his last years, so Bill's sisters remember him well. Their fondest recollections are of his evening serenades. At bedtime he pulled out his fiddle, tuned it up, and played his repertoire of songs. He always concluded with "Pop Goes the Weasel," which signaled lights out.

The Vasseur brothers ran a dance hall in Grand Falls. As you see in John's diary, they had a slot machine in their hall. My father-in-law Thomas and his brother/partner, Wilmot, later kept it at their garage. Thomas always kept coins there for his children to use to play the machine after school. Eventually, someone decided it was a negative influence on the children and they discarded this piece of history.

I find the Mallen family difficult to trace. Bill and I drove around Comeau Ridge looking for an old cemetery but the only one I could find is about a century old. The 1911 website states that Lawrence is Irish. According to automated genealogy and his diary, John boarded with the Lawrence Mallen family before he married their daughter.

References:

www.automatedgenealogy.com

www.archives.gnb.ca/archives

www.geocities.com/heartland/8787/histor.htm



On July 31, 2006, I located a diary in the Museum of Grand Falls, NB. I have typed it "as is," with the exception of putting it in order by date. I believe that it has been typed by someone else as they have inserted several question marks. For complete transcription, follow this link :

<http://www.levasseur.org/liaison/102007/doc/johndiary.pdf>

For William's diary, click on this link :

<http://www.levasseur.org/liaison/102007/doc/williamdiary.htm>



John Vasseur



Catherine Mallen



John's brother, William. He is the fellow on the right.

John's "children" taken at a family reunion c. 1980





Family record

John N Vasseur (1877-1943)

- Born on 3 September 1877 - Grand-Falls, Madawaska, NB
- Baptized on 5 September 1877 - Grand-Falls, Madawaska, NB
- Died on 30 June 1943 - Grand-Falls, Madawaska, NB

Parents

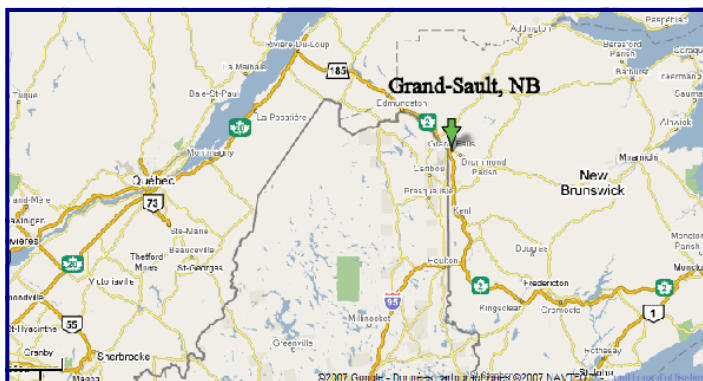
- Jacques Levasseur 1849-1917
- Séverine Bellefleur 1850-1906

Marriages and children

Married on 29 October 1901, Grand-Falls, Madawaska, NB, to Catherine Mallen 1883-1970, with :

- Sadie Stella 1902-1987
- Pearl Elmire 1903-1981
- Jesse David 1905-1987
- Berthe Carrie 1906-1997
- Rachel Minnie 1908-1996
- Wilmot Ralph 1910-1988
- Thomas Théodore 1913-1985
- Stephen Harold 1914-2003
- Francis Roméo 1917-1988
- Anita Hazel 1918-1918
- Constance Catherine 1920
- Isabelle 1921-
- Joseph 1924-1924

Laurent Levasseur
abt 1648-1726
|
Pierre Levasseur
1679-1738
|
Joseph Levasseur
abt 1719-1781
|
Joseph Levasseur
abt 1748-1823
|
Charles Levasseur
1772-????
|
Jean Levasseur
1808-1869
|
Jacques Levasseur
1849-1917
|
John Vasseur
1877-1943



Grand Falls

Situated in mid-western New Brunswick, the Grand Falls Region is within ready access to Atlantic Canada and Central Canada, as well to the New England States. The town of Grand Falls is the center of economic activity for the region which encompasses eight communities and a population of approximately 30 000 within a radius of 30 km. The region contains valleys, high plateaus, two great rivers, and countless streams and lakes.

Joseph-Marie Levasseur is no longer with us.

by : Laurent Leblond (Journal L'Avantage)



Photo of Joseph-Marie Levasseur (on the right), for the inauguration of the Gilles-Vigneault Library

A well known person in the Rimouski area, the historian Joseph-Marie Levasseur passed away due to Alzheimer on August 28th 2007). He was 78 years old. Joseph-Marie was born in Lac Simon and studied at the Rimouski Seminary. He was a class mate of Gilles Vigneault (photo on the left). After completing his university studies, he was a professor of French and History for 36 years at the Rimouski Seminary and ended his teaching profession the Cégep de Rimouski.

Socially involved in his community, Joseph-Marie was an unconditional defender of the French language and of the Regional History. He wrote many articles, amongst them, they were published in «Revue d'histoire du Bas-Saint-Laurent» and later in «L'Estuaire». He also initiated the book «Mosaïque rimouskoise» for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Saint-Germain de Rimouski Parrish in 1978. He published various articles on the Matapédia area, the Saint-Germain Cathedral, and the Rimouski Seminary and also participated in the foundation of the Museum of the Sea. Joseph-Marie played the trumpet with the Antoine Perreault Ensemble. On frequent occasions he participated on radio and television programs such as the 50th celebration of Radio CJBR in 1987.



Laurent Levasseur
C 1646 -1726

|

Pierre Levasseur
1679-1738

|

Jean-Timothée Levasseur
-1816

|

Benjamin Levasseur
1765-1845

|

Benjamin Levasseur
1788-1868

|

Jérémie Levasseur
1820-1889

|

Alfred Levasseur
1856-1909

|

Joseph Levasseur
1899-1990

|

Joseph Marie Levasseur
1928– 2007



The President message

by: Gilles Carmel (352)



On behalf of the board of directors, I wish express to Joseph Levasseur, Vice-President of our Association, and his children Lisa, Marc and Denis our sincere sympathy. Jeannette Le Blanc, Joseph's wife, passed away on October 9, 2007.

Jeannette was an endearing person participating with Joseph at all of the Association's meetings. It is with great sadness that we were given this news.

Jeannette was born on January 16, 1934 in Manchester, NH. She was the daughter of Aimée I. Le Blanc and to Eva Josephine Auger. She married Joseph in 1956 at the St.-Augustine parish in Manchester.

Joseph and Jeannette had four children. Their son Paul Joseph died on October 14, 1984 at the age of 22. Joseph's and Jeannette's three remaining children are all members of our Association.

Jeannette volunteered in the local scout organization and worked for many years for Hamel's Market and Laible Manufacturing (Thomas Edison).

See you again Jeannette. We will miss you.

Gilles Carmel,
President

Le saviez-vous ?



Roses are the most popular flowers of all flower plants cultivated today, by gardeners. Rose bushes are vigorous rustic plants that resist to the harsh North American climate. Roses can be found in a wide range of colors, foliage and in height. It is suitable for all types of gardens. The « F. J. Grootendorst » is a cross of two varieties, the « r. rugosa rubra » and the « Norbert Levasseur ». The illustration on the left was sent to us by Mrs. Juliette Levasseur who found the information in the Larousse Encyclopedia of 1920. Link: <http://www.gnb.ca/0171/30/0171300015-f.asp>

Distribution of our members in North America

by : Jean-Pierre Levasseur (250)



Created with Google Maps (<http://maps.google.com/>)



The Levasseur genealogy who contributed to the foundation of the LaSalle parish in Manitoba in 1896.

by: Roger Levasseur (004)

Since the beginning of time man has been curious to know his origins. Usually one knows his immediate family relatively well. Who his father and mother are, where they came from, where they went to school, where they worked, who is grand parents are and his uncles and aunts. However, he may know very little about his great grand parents and where they were born and their way of life. What brought them to the area where he was born. In order to satisfy this curiosity I have endeavoured to find information about my origins, my great grand parents, where they came from, who were their parents and will share them with you in this brief expose of my Levasseur ancestors where my great grand father, Joseph and his wife, Marie-Clara (née Cormier) settled in LaSalle Manitoba in 1896.



Joseph Levasseur and Marie Clara Cormier, La Salle Manitoba. (photo circa 1916)

Joseph Levasseur was born in Ste-Angèle de Laval on May 10 1857 and died in Lorette Manitoba on May 22 1929. He married Marie-Clara Cormier on September 16, 1878 in Ste-Angèle. I had always been told that he was an only sun but data published by genealogist Vincent Levasseur indicates that he had a brother Ligouri Albert who died shortly after birth and two sisters, Alice and Cécile for whom there is no information available. Joseph and his wife Marie-Clara had seven children, five sons and two daughters. They are Antonio, Donat, Roméo, (my grand father) Ligouri and Willy and the daughters were Mariana and Bertha.

My great grandfather's father was Prosper levasseur. Prosper was born in Bécancourt on November 28 1816 and died in Ste-Angtèle de Laval on February 22, 1889. Prosper was married to Margueritte Ducharme in Bécancourt on September 30, 1850. She died four days after her husband on February 26, 1889. Prosper and his wife were buried under the central isle of the Sainte-Angèle church. There is also a plaque on the left side of the main alter of the church in Ste-Angèle with an inscription of his name and also on a station of the cross. Prosper's father Étienne Augustin was married twice, first to Antoinette Genest dit Labarre on February 21, 1803, with whom he had ten children. With his second wife, Mélanie Vigneault, he had six children of whom Prosper an only son. Consequently the Levasseurs who's grand parents originated in Manitoba have only indirect links with other Levasseurs that are usually retraced to Denis Joseph. (third generation)

Direct lineage of Roger Levasseur

1. Noël Levasseur and Geneviève Ganche Married in Paris France.
2. Pierre, born circa 1629, married to Jeanne De Chanverlange in Québec on October 23, 1655, Québec.
3. Pierre François, born April 30, 1661, married (2nd marriage) Anne Mesnage, March 18 1696, Québec.
4. Denis Joseph, born February 11, 1712, married Charlotte Couturier on February 4, 1738, St François du Lac
5. Joseph, born January 6, 1741, married Madeleine Dehornnais Laneuville on January 7, 1765, Bécancourt.
6. Étienne Augustin, born October 3, 1777, married Mélanie Vigneault on February 2, 1816, St-Grégoire.
7. Prosper, born November 28, 1816, married Margueritte Ducharme September 30, 1850, Bécancourt.(only son)
8. Joseph, born May 10, 1857, married Marie Clara Cormier on September 16, 1878 in Ste-Angèle de Laval.(only son)
9. Roméo, (my grand father) born July 10, 1882, married on July 14 1908 in St-Norbert Manitoba with Amanda Champagne, daughter of Edmond Champagne and Rosina Paiement.
10. Conrad Levasseur, born in LaSalle Manitoba on March 30, 1914, Married Gilberte Lagacé in St-Norbert on June 30, 1938.
11. Roger Levasseur, born in St-Boniface Manitoba on August 20, 1940. married Marie Josephe Fisette on December 26, 1962 in St-Boniface, Manitoba

The Parish of La Salle Manitoba, a small town 30 Km or 18 miles south east of Winnipeg, where Joseph settled with his wife, Marie-Clara Cormier, in 1896

The founding of the parish of Saint-Hyacinthe in La Salle in Manitoba preceded by a few years the arrival of Joseph Levasseur and his family. Reverend Charles Agapit Beaudry, from the Diocese of Saint-Hyacinthe Quebec, is the founder with the participation of Mgr Taché. Bishop Taché requested that he act as a colonizing missionary for Manitoba. His task was to recruit settlers from Québec to settle on rich farm land in Manitoba rather than immigrate to Eastern United States. On August 21, 1982 I had the pleasure of meeting with M. Uldérice Rheault in a residence for elderly in Nicolet, Quebec. Mr. Rheault was over 100 years old and had been a class mate of my grand father in Ste-Angèle de Laval.



L'Association des Levasseur d'Amérique



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*Roméo Levasseur And Amanda Champagne. Bujaut's Studio
Winnipeg Manitoba. (1908)*

My grand father Roméo Levasseur, his wife Amanda née Champagne and their eleven children. Back row from left to right. Thérèse, (born December 28, 1925 died March 25, 2000 LaBroquerie Manitoba. She was married to Benoit Blanchet, Hélena, (born June 28, 1909 died June 17, 1999 in St-Boniface Manitoba. She was married to James McConnell, Alma, born October 17, 1915 died 2003 in St-Boniface Manitoba. She was married to Henri De Moissac. Solange, born July 5 1917 died 2003 in Winnipeg Manitoba. She was married to Camille Lambert.



He remembered hearing priest from the pulpits at Sunday masses boasting about the merits of Western Canada where one could immigrate with their family and settled on rich farm land in French Canadian villages thus preserving their culture, language and religion. They also stressed the advantages of living off the land instead of working in factories in the New England States. In the late 1800 many French Canadians families could not make a decent living from the land and elected to go the United States to work in factories. To stop or at least minimize this outflow of families to urban life and to a predominantly English Country, the Catholic church encouraged them to settle in French Canadian towns in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Mr Reault remembers the names of many of the families who chose to immigrate: Bellefeuille, Dureault, Cormier, Levasseur, Piché etc.

A group of alumni priests from the Saint-Hyacinthe College decided to found the Parish of Saint-Hyacinthe in LaSalle Manitoba. They were, Bishop Taché from St-Boniface Manitoba, who was originally from the Saint-Hyacinthe College , along with the Superior Mr. Dumesnil, the procurator, Mr. Chartier and the Reverend Beaudry missionary and colonizer and Mr. Bourque Parish Pastor of The Presentation Parish. According to Dom Benoit, Mgr Tache was thrilled with joy at the announcement of this new project and wrote the following letter to reverend Beaudry on January 17, 1888

« I invite you to come as a camping priest while a church is being built awaiting the new parish. You can name it Presentation or whatever name you chose as Saint-Hyacinthe would say. I own 160 acres of land that is available to the pastor to establish the new parish. »

At that time there were two catholic families residing in the area, That of Amable Beaudry and H.A. Bertrand. The following Spring, in 1889, Arthur Mercier bought 1000 acres of cultivable land in proximity of the LaSalle railroad station. He built two homes on that land, one he owned and the other for his brother in law, M. Painchaud. In June 1889, the Saint-Hyacinthe College purchased 840 acres three mile west of the town. Reverend Dumesnil, the College superior, visited the site in July 1889 and began the construction of the what became the College Farm on which Adelard Noiseux settled. The following year, Reverend J. Primeau, pastor of Boucherville purchased 1000 acres and established his brother Louis Primeau and his family on a farm. His nephew, Josephat Faubert, opened the first general store.

On August 16, 1890, Bishop Tache erected canonically the official parish of Saint-Hyacinthe de La Salle Manitoba.

Fathers Beaudry, Chartier and Gendron, priest from Saint Hyacinthe College came to La Salle offering religious services, initially in M. Flaubert's store that served as school on weekdays and a chapel on Sundays. The First church was built in 1892. It had was a two storey building and measured 50 by 30 feet. The first storey served as a school and rectory and the second served as a church. The existing church was officially blessed on October 19, 1915. The old church then served as a parochial hall. Additional families from Quebec contributed to the growth of this new parish, Theroux, Comeau, Lagacé, Vigeant.



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*Our motto ,
DU MIEUX QUE JE PUIS*

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**IMPRIMÉ—PRINTED PAPER
SURFACE**

For your prayers Jeannette I. (Le Blanc) Levasseur



Jeannette I. (Le Blanc) Levasseur, 73, of Manchester, died October 9, 2007 at the Community Hospice House in Merrimack after a long battle with cancer.

She was born in Manchester, NH, on January 16, 1934, the daughter of Aimee and Eva (Auger) Le Blanc. She was educated in the local school system.

Prior to retirement, she had been employed at Hamel's Market and Laible Manufacturing (Thomas Edison) for many years.

Also, for many years Jeannette did child care in her home.

She enjoyed her time with her grandchildren, doing crafts, and wintering in Florida. She was involved with the Boy Scouts and volunteered at the Daniel Webster Council Scout office.

She was predeceased by her son, Paul J. Levasseur.

Family members include her husband of 51 years, Joseph A. Levasseur of Manchester; two sons, Marc R. Levasseur and his wife Sandra, and Denis Levasseur and his wife Chantal; one daughter, Lesa Levasseur; four grandchildren, Joshua, Melissa, Sarah, and Jessica Levasseur.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated in St. Anthony of Padua Church, Belmont St, on Friday October 12, 2007.

Jeannette was Joseph Levasseur's wife. Joseph (Joe) has been a director on the Association's board since its early beginnings. Jeanette was always an active participant with the Levasseur Association of America. They were intimate friends of our founder, Vincent and his wife Murielle. Our sincere sympathy to Joseph and the Levasseur family

