Bulletin des



Levasseur

Newsletter

Vol. 20 Issue 3

September 2008

August 16, 2008 at the Montmarte

20 th anniversary of the foundation of the family association Levasseur of America



Réjean Levasseur

children.

Activities began at 10 o'clock under the directions of Réjean Levasseur our master of ceremonies. He thanked Joceline, her sister Huguette, their families and Jean-Pierre for the many hours they spent to organize this gathering. He then presented the President of the Association, Gilles Carmel, the president, welcomed the participants and summarized the 20 years of existence of the Association. He mentioned that the first newsletter was published in English and French

Gilles Carmel

in January 1989 by Vincent, Roger and Réjean.

The master of ceremonies then invited Roger to speak about the life of our ancestors Jean, Pierre and Laurent when they came to New France in the 17 h century. Their names were projected on a screen:

- Noël Levasseur / Geneviève Ganche, parish St-Gilles, St-Leu Paris.
- parish St-Gilles, St-Leu Paris.

 Jean Levasseur / Marguerite Richard, Paris, France. Québec 15/10/1665 -10
- Pierre Levasseur / Jeanne de Chanvelange, Québec 25/10/1665 9 children.
- Jeanne Levasseur, Pierre's sister, married Christophe de Rollet in Québec. They returned to France and left their son in Canada. He is the ancestor of all the DeRollet.
- Laurent Levasseur de Rouen / Marie Marchand, Québec 30/10/1670 They had 13 children.

Returning 400 years ago. Roger wore a costume of the times. He documented himself with a book by Jean-Pierre Hardy: « *Chercher fortune en Nouvelle-France* ».

Here in a few lines is a brief summary of the lives of our predecessors as

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The photos in this publication and many others are available on our Web site in the section «<u>Activities</u>».

Members who are online to receive this Newsletter can follow the links for additional information.

L'Association des Levasseur d'Amérique



Roger Levasseur

presented by Roger.

The first settlers ignored the rigors of the Canadian winters. They suffered from the cold and scurvy. Many died and had it not been for the assistance of the Indians the colony could have been disseminated. To survive our ancestors hunted game and cultivated vegetables and cereals. The had to cut wood to build a home and to keep warm. They also learned to dress with warmer clothes since the clothes they brought from France was not adapted to our harsh winters.

In the spring some «coureurs des bois» (trappers) would trap furs and ship them to France They were in high demand to make coats and hats. Our ancestors learned how to care and treat diseases with herbs and the sap from certain trees. Shortly thereafter, religious orders came and built hospitals, churches and schooling facilities. Bulls were principally used for farming, horses came latter. The first ploughs were made with wood and the pitchforks were made with two prongs of wood. Rakes were also made of wood. As time progressed our ancestors sowed various grains and harvested their crops keeping some grain for the following year. To harvest they would use a flail to thresh the wheat, oats and barley. The grains would then be milled for flour a part for animal feed and for seeding next spring. Our ancestors had to adapt to this manual labour that was very demanding.

When listening to Roger, we realize that our daily activities are far different than those of our ancestors.



Jean-Pierre Levasseur

This presentation in a combination of French and English was very instructive and the participants applauded warmly his informative review of how our ancestors lived in the early years of the colony.

Jean-Pierre then presented the Association's new web site. Various interactive sections were added and there are video extracts on the Association's blog. This is how all previous Newsletters were numbered and are available on the site. Because of Jean-Pierre the Association is completely computerized. He devoted many hours and was involved for the past years on this project. Many thanks to you Jean-Pierre you have provided a tremendous service to our Association.

The official launch of our two dictionaries was delayed. On the eve of our meeting Joceline was told that they would not be delivered on time for the 20th anniversary. Joceline expressed some deception because her presentation was based on doing technical research with the new dictionaries.

She thanked the participants for their understanding and their unfailing support. The participants applauded her for her dedication in this lengthy project. Participants who had ordered the dictionaries will be advised



Joceline Levasseur

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when they become available.

Lunch was served at noon and at 1:15 pm the group visited <u>The Capital's Observatory</u>. It is situated on the 31st storey at a height of 221 meters. The overview of the city was greatly appreciated with a magnificent view of the St-Laurent, the Laurentians Mountains and the Old City.

By 4:00 pm the participants were back for the annual meeting and the election of administrators.

Late afternoon Réjean presented <u>Pauline Gill</u>, author of two historical novels on the life of Doctor Irma Levasseur. She spoke about her third novel and and she wants to restore the name of this female

physician. Irma Levasseur was the first French Canadian to practice medicine in Québec. She loved children. According to the author she was the true instigator and founder of the Hôpital Sainte-Justine in Montréal and founder of the Hôpital Enfant-Jésus in Québec.

She was not a member of the Montreal upper-class. The directors of the Hôpital Sainte-Justine refused to recognize her as the founder on the hospital's 100th anniversary.

Based on information given to her by her relatives, preserved archives and her extensive research she is hoping to restore the name of Irma Levasseur for her significant contribution to the practice of medicine for children in French Canada. Members of the Association appreciated her presentation and thanked Mrs Gill warmly.



Pauline Gill, author



gathering was a success.

The banquet at 6:00 pm was preceded by a cocktail offered by the Association.

The evening was animated by the accordionist Guy St-Jean who led the group in songs and dance. The atmosphere was one of feast, happiness and joy.

Bravo to the organizers and thanks to the participants who attended to celebrate the Association's 20th anniversary. Thanks to all this



The President's message



Dear members of the Association,

To all of you who worked to make the gathering in Québec City a success, I say thank you. I want to mention primarily the tremendous work Joceline did to publish the two elaborate dictionaries on Jean and Pierre Levasseur and that of Laurent Levasseur. These two dictionaries would be the envy and many family Associations.

They enable you to retrace your roots to this day. I believe it is important for every family to have at least one copy of these dictionaries. They are extremely easy to use and to find not only your name in them but also the name of your spouse, your parents, your children and all of your antecedents up to your first ancestor Pierre, jean or Laurent.

These dictionaries are a gold mine and should be handed down to your descendants for them to know who their grand and great grand parents. One of your children or grand child may someday want to know more about his ancestors. When he lays his hands on the dictionary he will find an unbelievable quantity of valuable information relative to his family

Whether you are anglophone or francophone the dictionaries are extremely easy to use. The required vocabulary required by anglophone to carry out research with the dictionary are the following three words baptême = baptism, mariage = marriage et décès = death. These three words are in French only and also the names of persons and places of birth, marriage and death. Like the name of persons the name of localities are unvarying.

All other sections of the dictionaries are in both French and in English. That includes the preface, the Coat of Arms, the Levasseurs prior to 1800 who returned to France, the biographies of Jean, Pierre and Laurent, how to carry out a research and the abbreviations that are used. I honestly believe all the Levasseurs should get a copy of this valuable document not only for him but also for his descendants. To order your copy communicate with Joceline Levasseur (jolevasseur@videotron.ca).

In closing, I invite you to get involve with the Association. Send us information about your family, photos of your ancestors and spread the word to your relatives about the Association in order to increase our member ship. If you can offer your services that also would be greatly appreciated. By contributing you are enabling us to better serve you

Thank you with the hope of seeing you at our next meeting.

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L'Association des Levasseur d'Amérique

New genealogical dictionaries of the Levasseur families

We are pleased to advise that the two dictionaries of the Levasseur families are completed.

The Jean and Pierre genealogical dictionary has 650 pages and covers 13 generations Laurent's dictionary has 750 pages and also covers 13 generations

These dictionaries are based on the Associations data base. Thanks to them you are able to retrace your genealogical tree as well as the family history of each of your ancestors. You will find the dates of baptism, marriages and deaths of each of your ancestors.

To order complete the attached order form

	Sale price	Quantity
Jean and Pierre genealogical dictionary (650) pages		
Rigid cover	80.00 \$	
Soft cover	60.00\$	
Laurent genealogical dictionary (750) pages		
Rigid cover	85.00\$	
Soft cover	65.00 \$	

For Canada postal rates are 20\$ in additions. Taxes are included. Payment can be made by check or with Paypal. Upon receipt of your payment the dictionary will be sent to you. For those residing in Québec there will be a location where the dictionaries may be purchased.

Name:		
Address:		
Town:		
Postal code/Zip :	Telephone :	
F-mail address		

Send your order form to:
Association des Levasseur d'Amérique inc.
C.P. 57 063 Succursale Visitation
St-Charles-Borromée, Québec, J6E 9G4

For more information: Joceline Levasseur : jolevasseur@videotron.ca



In 1937 Matane was proclaimed a city. Thanks to the Augustin Levasseur and Maria Roy family

In the fall of 1937, Maria Roy and Augustin Levasseur with their sixteen children left Kedgwick in New Brunswick to settle in Matane.

Their arrival pleased the mayor Raoul Fafard. With 18 new members Matane was able to claim the status of a City. My father was a forester and my mother opened a grocery store according to a youngster of the family, Laurence Levasseur Rouleau.

At that time Matane was only a town. The mayor was quick to call a meeting of his councilors and initiate the request to have Matane recognized as a city.

Augustin Levasseur

(descendant of Laurent Levasseur)

Born February 18, 1886 at Baie-des-Sables, Matane, QC. Baptised February 22, 1886 at Baie-des-Sables, Matane, QC. Death June 30, 1945 at Amqui, Matapédia, QC, at the age of 59.

Parents

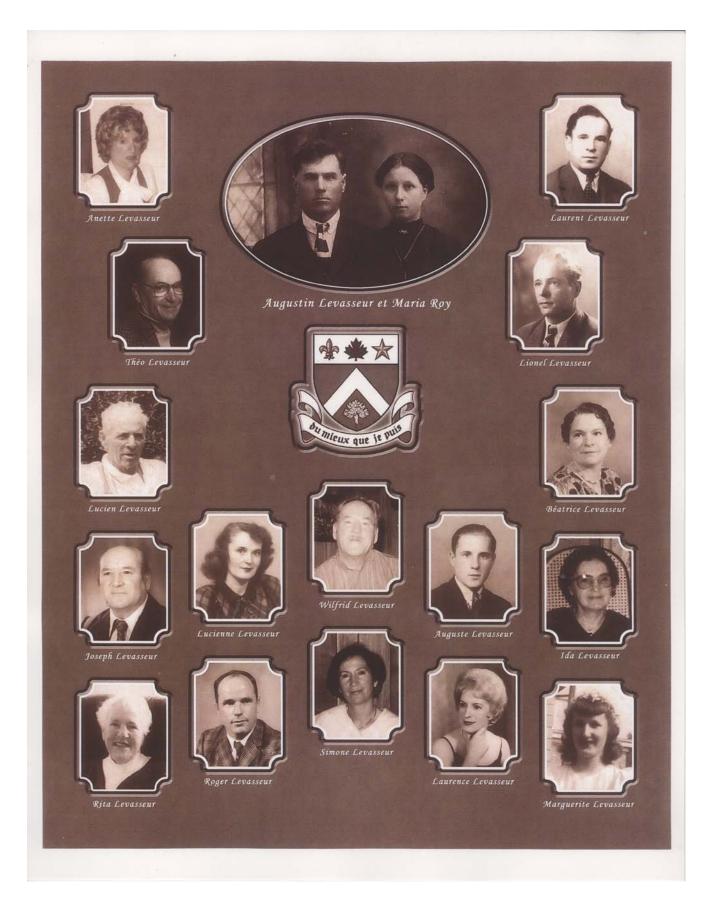
• Étienne Levasseur 1856 and Félicité Martin 1860-1931

Marriages and children

- Married September 25 1911, in Amqui, Matapédia, QC, avec Maria Roy 1893.
 - 1. Annette 1912-1990
 - 2. Théodore 1914
 - 3. Lucien 1915-1992
 - 4. Laurent 1916
 - 5. Lionel 1917-1981
 - 6. Béatrice 1919
 - 7. Joseph 1920
 - 8. Antonio 1921-1922
 - 9. Rita 1923-1923
 - 10. Lucienne 1924
 - 11. Wilfrid 1925-2003
 - 12. Augustin 1927-
 - 13. Berthe Ida 1929-
 - 14. Rita 1929-
 - 15. Roger 1931-
 - 16. Simone 1932-
 - 17. Laurence 1934-
 - 18. Marguerite Véronique 1936-

See the Association data base for more details (www.levasseur.org)

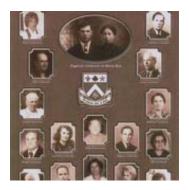
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Photos on our web site

(http://levasseur.org/en/Photos_album/)



From Florence Levasseur (1)



From Arthur Lizotte (2)



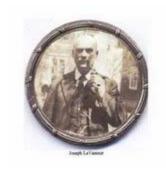
From Nicole Levasseur (1)



From Jean-Pierre Levasseur (66)



From Peggy Moore Vasseur (7)



From Louise-Anne Shreer (3)



From Roger M. Levasseur (6)



From Gilles Carmel (12)



From Joceline Levasseur (55)

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A member receives an homage posthumously

(source : info.dimanche.com)



Benoit Guay, president of the committee gave his son, Nicolas Levasseur, an honorary plaque posthumously.

In 1974 he began his career as a baseball umpire.

In 1975 he participates in his first true competition, the Eastern Quebec games. As of that date he is frequently invited to be umpire at various tournaments and championships and thus establishes a solid reputation as an umpire. His efforts were recognized when in 1980 he was awarded the Quebec level five (5).

In 1984 he fulfilled the necessary requirements to obtain the Canadian grade. Then followed successfully the grades of novice trainer, junior and senior. He was a founding member of the Rivière-du-Loup Association of umpires and conducted 150 clinics on the role of umpires in Eastern Ouébec.

1986: Senior provincial baseball champion ship in Louisville, umpire of the year in Eastern Québec an umpire of the year in Ouebec.

1987: World series of the Continental baseball Association, Collegiate amateur division of Québec.

1988: Provincial champion-ship of Senior baseball in Rimouski. That same year he was the umpire at a game between Jamestown and an elite Quebec team at the Olympic stadium in the Canada USA challenge and Team Alberta against the Bas Saint Laurent Stars in Cabano.

1991: Senior Canadian Champion ship in Rimouski named

the umpire of the year in Bas Saint-Laurent and official of the year at the Meritas evening of the Council of Sports of the bas Saint-Laurent.

1992: Canadian Champion ship of Midget baseball in Trois-Rivières.

1994: First Quebec umpire to receive his Canadian level 5 grade. His dream was to be an umpire for the Olympic games. Unfortunately his dream came to a sudden halt when he was killed in a road accident on March 6, 1996.

Note from the editor: Denis is the son of Treffflé Levasseur and Juliette Deschesnes. He had planned to organize a Levasseur gathering in Rivière-du-Loup in the summer of 1996.



Denis Levasseur, a former member



The president's speech at the August 16 2008 gathering in Quebec City.



Welcome to each of you and my sincere thanks to Joceline, Jean-Pierre and Huguette for organizing this gathering. They were assisted by an energized team. They spent many hours to make this event a success. It is my pleasure to great you here today. Québec is celebrating 400th anniversary. 400 years ago, specifically on July 3rd 1608 Samuel de Champlain set foot in Québec. Thus begins the story of the city of Québec and that of the

French who came to America. New France covered an extensive part of the continent. Prior to 1713 (Utrecht treaty), New France was comprised of five large regions:

- 1. Quebec and the Great Lakes (Detroit),
- 2. L'Acadie, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and l'Île Royal
- 3. Plaisance in Newfoundland,
- 4. Hudson Bay and the rest of Canada
- 5. Louisiana

For more information see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nouvelle_France

Many Levasseurs settled through out this land like Detroit which was then part of New France. There is 6 million people of French origin in Québec and 15 million in the rest of Canada and in the USA. For more information see the site: http://agora.qc.ca/francophonie.nsf/ Dossiers/Etats-Unis

Few French crossed the ocean to settle in New France, Approximately 15,000 persons of French origin decided to come to New France in the VXIIth century and more than two thirds chose to return to France. Many did not marry and died here without any known descendants.

We are also celebrating the Associations 20th anniversary. It is time to rejoice. The Association was created in 1988. It is due to the efforts of its founder Vincent Levasseur, Pierre, Gilles and Réjean. They signed the copies of our first rules and regulations on April 12, 1988. Thank you to each of them.

The first Newsletter is dated 1989. It was mailed to 75 members. Vincent combed the Country recruiting new members getting their names from phone books in the localities he visited.

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L'Association des Levasseur d'Amérique



Today our membership is composed of members from 16 States and 6 Provinces. Membership cost \$20.00.

The Association first official meeting was held in Québec City. In July 1990. The second one was in Montréal. The third one in Manchester and others followed in The Capital region of Canada, Kamouraska, Edmunston (a memorable gathering organized by Marie Noëlle) and in Rimouski in 1996.

Pass president included in addition to Vincent: Gilles, Réjean, Paul, André, Joseph and Roger.

Our Web site was launched in January of 1987 due to Jean Pierre. Today our Association's Web site is envied. Because of Jean-Pierre's continued dedication to this project the data base of some 58,000 names increased to 110,000 today. In addition to a photo album, previous issues of the Newsletter, the web site is a valuable source of information. It also offers the members an opportunity to include their own information about their respective families.

The Newsletter increased from 3 to 4 publications per year. It became available electronically in July 2004. In 2005 the Association offers on-line memberships for its members. Today 55% of our members are Cyber-members and Paypal payment was made available to facilitate the payment of dues or for ordering books.

In 2005 our founding president, Vincent passed away. He would be proud to be with us today to see the Association's accomplishments. He was honored posthumously by the FFSQ and given the award «Grand Bénévole». Joceline has now become the Association's official genealogist.

Much remains to be done and I ask your assistance for the Association to continue progressing by giving us more information and photos of your ancestors. Volunteers are required to ensure the Association continues to grow. I dream of a greater Web site with video-clips of a grand-father Levasseur, somewhere in America, celebrating his 100th anniversary or seeing a special gathering of Levasseurs, Carmels Belisles or Borgia somewhere in America.

To fulfill my dream and our mission new volunteers are required I will be leaving after four years of dedication hoping that others will follow and offer their help to I may be leaving but rest assured I will remain involved with this great Association.

Gilles Carmel



Association des Levasseur d'Amérique inc

C.P. 57063, Succursale Visitation St-Charles-Borromée, QC, J6E 9G4

Web site: www.levasseur.org E-mail: webmaster@levasseur.org

WEB SITE WWW.LEVASSEUR.ORG



Notre devise , DU MIEUX QUE JE PUIS

Publié par / Published by:

L'Association des Levasseur d'Amérique

Postes Canada/Post Canada

Numéro de la convention / convention number: 40069967

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Return to the following address:

Association des Levasseur d'Amérique

C.P. 57063

Succursale Visitation

St-Charles-Borromée, QC

J6E 9G4

Brief News

By: Jean-Pierre Levasseur (250)

Genealogical database

The next update of the <u>database</u> on the Web is scheduled in October. See the Web site for more information.

Videos on the web site

A few videos were inserted on the Web site. To view them, see our <u>blog section</u>.

Last date for articles for the next Newsletter

Send us articles or photos prior to October 15. Send it to <u>André Levasseur</u> as soon as possible.

Destination Sherbrooke!

At the Association's annual meeting on August 16 in Québec City, it was decided that the next large gathering of the Levasseur families would be held in Sherbrooke, Québec in 2011. Until then, it was mentioned that it would advantageous to have regional family gatherings in various locations. Should any of you want to organize such a gathering they can rely on the Association for assistance. Whether you are a member or not, advise us if you are planning the organization of a family gathering. We can assist by delegating one of our members to attend and inform your participants about the history of the Levasseur families.

Reserve a copy

The genealogical dictionnaries will soon be available. Contact Joceline Levasseur (jolevasseur@videotron.ca) to order a copy. Quantities are limited. You will be receiving an order form soon by E-Mail.

New postal address

Please note the Association's new address: Association des Levasseur d'Amérique, C.P. 57063, Succursale Visitation, St-Charles-Borromée, QC, J6E 9G4