



*Bulletin des*

# *Levasseur*

*Newsletter*

Vol 20 No 4

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## News of the Levasseur Association's Board of Directors meeting

At the Levasseur Association's Board of Directors meeting held in St-Grégoire, Québec on October 25, 2008, members spoke about the annual meeting held in Québec last August. All expressed general satisfaction and thanks were offered to the organizers and collaborators of the event.

A special thanks to Jocelyne for the work she accomplished to prepare the genealogical dictionaries. A problem with the printer delayed the availability of the volumes with soft covers but they should be available shortly. The hard cover volumes will be available a little later.

It was agreed that the genealogical search services posted on the Internet site and replies received will remain active on the web site as long as all necessary information is obtained.

Roger provided an update on the petition to have doctor Irma Levasseur recognized. He has communicated with the Secretary of State and the Deputy, Royal Galipeau to this end. He will seek the participation of Pauline Gill to prepare a chronology on the life of Doctor Irma Levasseur. Together they will participate to prepare the petition that will credit Doctor Irma LeVasseur for her contribution to the care of children.

We also learned that Jocelyne and Huguette will represent the Association for the unveiling of a mural at the F.X. Garneau Cégep in Québec. This mural, from the department of history, will represent 10 personalities who contributed to the history of Quebec, amongst them, Doctor Irma LeVasseur.

For administrative reasons, it was decided to offer life time memberships for on-line members only at a cost of 12 times the yearly subscription fees.

Jean-Pierre made a presentation of the new Web site particularly on the photo album section and the electronic archives of our numbered documentation. Members were impressed with the work and its quality and expressed their appreciation to Jean-Pierre. Bravo.

Roger agreed to keep on as president for a term with the help of Gilles the outgoing president. Thank you Roger.

The next board of directors meeting will be held in Ottawa on August 22, 2009. Details will follow later.

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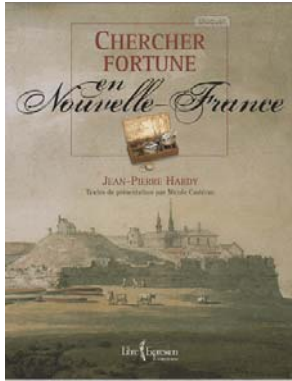
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*Please note that our database has been updated. Close to 108,000 entries! Our thanks to our team of genealogist for their work. Consult our [database](http://www.levasseur.org) at: [www.levasseur.org](http://www.levasseur.org)*



*Merry Christmas*

by : [André Levasseur](#) (66)



*The photos are taken from Jean-Pierre Hardy's book «Chercher Fortune en Nouvelle-France»*

## How our ancestors moved about during the 17<sup>th</sup> century

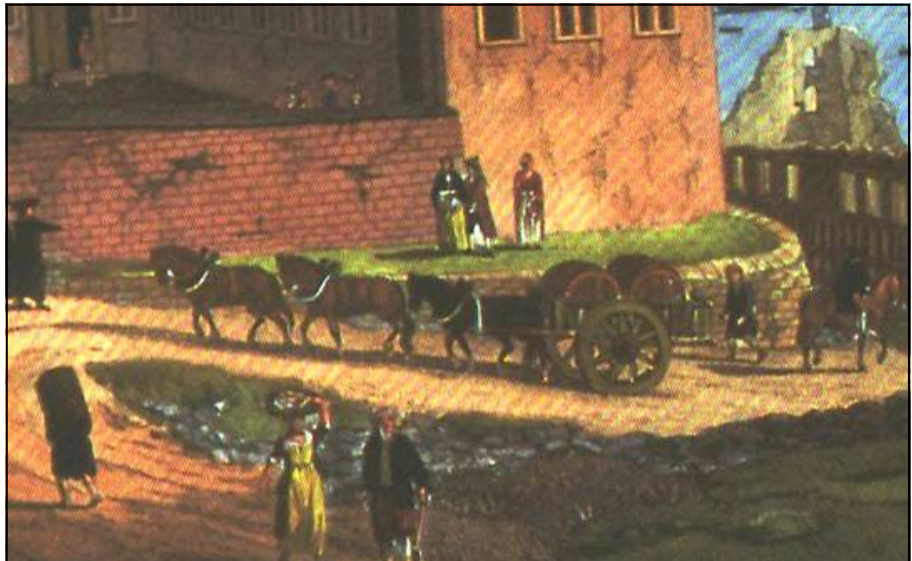
by: [Roger Levasseur](#) (004)

### By water ways

In his book «Chercher Fortune en Nouvelle France» Jean-Pierre Hardy tells us that even after the construction of The King's Way, (le Chemin du Roy) built in 1737, (the route linking Québec to Montréal) rivers were the preferred ways for moving about and transporting merchandise.

Note that 85 years after the arrival of the first Levasseurs, Jean, Pierre and Laurent, the inhabitants of New France traveled principally by means of the water ways. That explains why the first settlers chose to settle on the land adjacent to the Saint-Laurent River and connecting water ways.

The transport of merchandise on water was by birch bark canoe, by pirogue, schooner and flat bottom boats. The canoes were used by the «coureurs de bois» for their travel. However the craft of choice for the transport of merchandise are crafts like schooners and flat bottom boats.



These boats were sturdier and more stable and facilitated the transport of barrels and bundles that frequently weighed more than 100 pounds.

The average house required 15 to 20 cords of wood for heating and cooking during the winter months. To transport grain some settlers used a type of pirogue that was made from a large pine tree trunk that was dug out with an axe and an adze.

The pirogue had the form of a floating trough. The settler used the pirogue to go to the market to sell his vegetables, wood and his animals. The merchandise transported to the cities from the farms were in addition to fire wood, goods required for trapping, fishing and hunting, furs, fish, grain to be milled and flour. Many of the first settlers earned a good living from inshore navigation.

During the XVIIIth century rivers and the Saint-Laurent were the principal ways used by the settlers in New France to move about and to transport goods even after the construction of the first dirt route built linking Québec to Montreal via Trois-Rivières called the Way of the King (le chemin du Roy). A reason why properties were divided in long slender strips of land was to provide easy access to the water ways.



A type of pirogue, more sturdy and manageable than the canoe, it was used to transport the settlers and their merchandise on short hauls.

### On the road, the King's Road (le Chemin du Roy)

We were at the third generation of Levasseurs, that of Denis-Joseph, the son of Pierre and Anne Mesnage when the construction of the King's Road began with the intendant Gilles Hocquart. Denis-Joseph chose to settle in Trois-Rivières with his wife Charlotte Couturier (marriage at St-François du Lac in 1738). The intendant Hocquart claimed that the King's Road would contribute to the economic growth of the colony.

Building a road was not an easy task for the settlers. Since their arrival in New France they used limited passage ways between small groups of population and the Lord's Domain or to access water ways. Certain historians claim that routes between towns necessitated taxation and tolls, two things the settlers wanted to avoid.

In 1730 the route linking Québec and Trois-Rivières became suitable for bogies and carts and in



1737 it linked Montreal . The growth of the population and the development of agriculture in outlying areas contributed to the necessity and the need for roadways linking Québec, Trois-Rivières and Montréal.

Voluntary work «La corvée royale» was implemented by the authorities requiring the settlers to work and provide materials for the construction of roadways and bridges. Tolls had to be paid. However, as the population grew and the settlers saw the merit and the economic and social benefits of routes and bridges there was less resistance and more cooperation for their construction. The habitants of outlying areas who were removed from water ways recognized the importance of having roads for commerce and to access their parish.



Horses are in line and not in tandem to transport heavy loads and to circulate on narrow routes and to cope with sharp slopes. A grid payment schedule was set up for the use of roads.

In the winter to go sell their products, the settlers preferred snow covered passage ways and the frozen rivers over the bumpy and rough roads.

The settlers had a wagon for the summer and one for the winter. The winter wagon was a sleigh and in the summer they used a calèche or a cart. The calèche was used more in the towns or where the roads were in a better state.



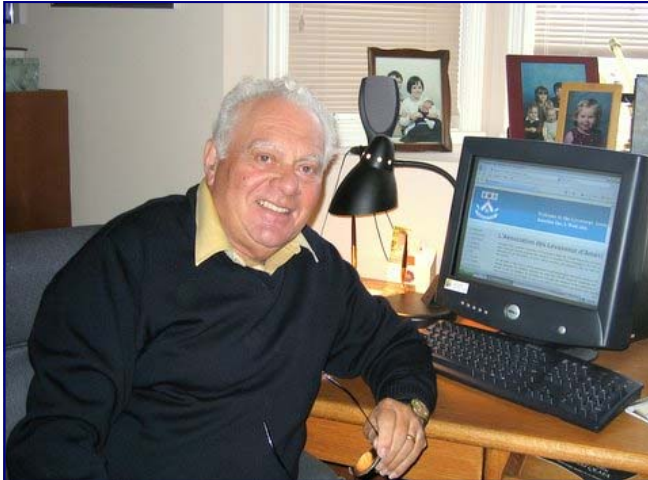
Many had a cart that served to carry people and merchandise. The cart was in the form of a box with sides to carry goods and merchandise for the market place, for farming and for the farmer and his family to move about.

For more than 150 years after the founding of Québec by Champlain, our ancestors preferred using water ways rather than dirt roads to move about and transport goods between towns. Water ways offered the occasion to transport heavy loads of merchandise such as fire wood, wood for construction, grain, animals and other merchandise.



# The president message

by: Roger Levasseur (004)



Dear members of the Association

On behalf of your board members and myself, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous, and healthy New Year.

Once again, it is that time of the year when we share gifts with those who are dear to us and to those we want to appreciate. I am offering you an opportunity to do both with one gift. By giving a membership subscription to a loved one, the Levasseur Association also receives a gift.

Indeed, the money that we receive from the subscription enables us to continue to offer excellent genealogical services on our website. In addition to access to an incomparable database, the recipient of your gift will also receive the Association newsletter, benefit from the ability to make his/her personal genealogy more thorough with photos of ancestors, and remain informed about news concerning the Levasseur family. You have recently received an invitation to give a new subscription to a relative, and I encourage you consider this wonderful opportunity. Not only will you make that relative happy, you will also contribute to the improvement of your Association.

Another ideal gift might be one of the two dictionaries that contain information about our ancestors Jean and Pierre, and Laurent. They would be a valuable treasure for a child, grandchild or relative interested in knowing more about his/her origins. Most sections of the dictionaries are fully translated to English. The major section with the listing of the ancestors requires the reader to know only three French words: **birth = naissance, marriage = mariage** and **death = décès**.

In closing I wish to inform you that your Association has chosen to continue to be a member of the Fédération des Familles Souches. This decision was made mainly for the insurance provided for Board Members in the event of legal proceedings, and for other services offered. And finally, the petition to have Dr. Irma Levasseur recognized are proceeding, and you will be kept informed of its progress, and other events, on the website and in the newsletter.

Joyeux Noël !

Roger Levasseur



## Onesime Levasseur of Van Buren, ME

by : Jacquelyn Dailey (355)

Van Buren, Maine was the birthplace of all-immediate family member's of my father's family, the LeVasseurs. Onesime was my grandfather and his wife was Jane Violette of the same town. He and Jane married in 1900 and farmed land I believe belonged to Jane's father. As Jane was an only child, the land was passed to her and her husband. These were the times when large extended families lived together as you can see in the group pictures.

The land provided a cash crop (potatoes) and separate from that were the gardens, which provided food for the table. Jane and the girls were responsible for the cooking and household chores and the boys were working the farm and gardens. The women were great cooks throughout their lives and it was wonderful to eat at Grandma Jane's. The men of the family retained their love of growing things and my father's garden was his joy and a refuge from his busy life.

It is hard to imagine the workdays of the women of the household. Cooking two huge meals a day (breakfast and noon dinner), preserving foods, having and raising the children and coping with the day-to-day life happenings seems an exhausting experience with little time off for social events but church was a very important place and Onesime marched every one to two masses on Sunday. First the early mass and then back home for a big breakfast and back for high mass. Social time was Sunday afternoons, a time for family picnics and picture taking and family all together.

Onesime managed the huge farm, which lay along the river. The farm was a narrow piece of land but long in length. Onesime was a successful farmer and the family prospered until 1922. That was a fateful year for many farmers. There were a few years when crop prices were low and farmers had to borrow money and mortgage the land to buy fertilizer. This happened to Onesime and Jane and they lost their land to the fertilizer company.

Forced off the land, Onesime left Maine to find work in Lawrence, Massachusetts. The family stayed behind in Maine, until Onesime could get work and save money to send for them. Times were tough. My father was fifteen at the time and he was left to provide food for the group by hunting. He never got over the lack of food and the fact that the family was hungry. In fact, I believe this was a factor in the careers the boys in the family eventually settled into. My father worked all his life for the "First National Stores" and two of his brothers were store owners and managers.

Eventually, all of the family came to Bristol, Connecticut, and settled into a community of French speaking, displaced farmers and workers

*"..My father worked all his life for the "First National Stores" and two of his brothers were store owners and managers"*

from their area. Everyone worked in the surrounding factories and all family members contributed to the financial survival of the family. Onesime always found a piece of land to grow vegetables on. In fact, I remember visiting him at his garden spot more times than I remember seeing him at his home. Must have been his refuge also.

Onesime and Jane lived long and relatively healthy lives. Their children married and prospered and they were happy for that. Onesime died on July 14th 1957. He was 81 years old. Jane died in 1961.



**Onesime and Jane - 50 th anniversary - February 1950**

2nd row from the left: Arthur, Joseph, Stella, Ludger, Leo  
1st row from the left: Antonio, Onesime, Jane, Yvonne, Bella



**Mrs Agnès Violette, Napoléon  
Levasseur's spouse and  
Onésime's wife**

**Direct Lineage**

Laurent Levasseur  
*ca 1648-1726*  
|  
Pierre Levasseur  
*1679-1738*  
|  
Jean-Timothée Levasseur  
*????-1816*  
|  
Benjamin Levasseur  
*1765-1845*  
|  
Benjamin Levasseur  
*1788-1868*  
|  
Napoléon Levasseur *1843-1914*  
|  
**Onésime Levasseur**  
*1876 -1957*  
|  
Lionel Patrice Levasseur  
*1907-1993*  
|  
Jacquelyn Daily *1936*  
& Helen Liscinsky *1937*

*You will find  
additional photos and  
documents on the  
Onesime Levasseur  
family on our Web site  
in the section [Photos](#)  
[Album](#).*



# Family sheet

## ONÉSIME LEVASSEUR

- Born on 19 January 1876 - Van Buren, ME
- Baptized on 19 January 1876 - Van Buren, St. Bruno, ME
- Died on 14 July 1957

### Parents

- Napoléon Levasseur 1843-1914
- Agnès Violette 1846-1930

### Marriage and children

- Married on 19 February 1900, Van Buren, ME, to Jane Jeanne Violette 1878, with:

- Yvonne Louise 1901-
- Bella 1902-
- Antoinette Florine 1903-
- Antonio Wilfrid 1905-1981
- Lionel Patrice O'Neil 1907-1993 (father of Jacquelyn)
- Stella M. 1909-2006
- Ludger 1911-
- Wilfrid 1913-1913
- Joseph Euclide 1914-1991
- Arthur 1915-2007
- Blanche Yvette 1918-1919



## Genealogical assistance

Your Association seeks the assistance of Levasseurs and others to resolve questions that remain unanswered.

With your assistance we will be able to complete the Association's data base. Solutions will be posted in future issues of the Newsletter.

1. We are looking for the parents and marriage of **Louis Barrière** and **Réjeanne Levasseur**. Réjeanne was Magalie Levasseur's aunt who died on September 10, 2008 in Brossard.
2. We are looking for the parents of **Donald Levasseur** married to **Ann Liimatainen**. He died on September 1, 2008 in New Haven, CT, at the age of 44. He was the father of Donald K (Michele) and Brian (Kelly), both from Stratford.
3. We are looking for the parents of **Robert G. Levasseur** from Nashua, N.H. husband of **Magella Simone Lachance** (June 7, 1927 to September 28, 2008) born at Chicopee Falls. His wife was the daughter of **Léda Gregory** and **Napoléon Lachance** of Canada. Magella Lachance was also the wife of late **Roland Joseph Arsenault**.
4. Looking for the marriage of the parents of **Rémi Levasseur** and **Claire Marengère**. They are the parents of **Gabrielle Renée Marie** who was baptized on November 18, 1990 at Sacré-Cœur, Sturgeon Falls, Ontario.
5. Looking for the parents of **Dominic Levasseur** and **Louise Bradley**. They are the parents of **Véronique Gisèle. Véronique Levasseur** was baptized on October 12 1986 at Sacré-Cœur, Sturgeon Falls, Ontario.
6. Looking for the marriage of the parents of **Gaétan Levasseur** and **Gaétane Marleau**. They are the parents of **Crystal Ann Marie Levasseur**, baptized on June 7, 1981 at Sacré-Cœur, Sturgeon Falls, Ontario.
7. We are looking for the parents and the marriage of **Suzie Bellavance** and **Réal Levasseur**. Their daughter **Magalie** died on September 10, 2008 in Brossard.

If you have information on the above, please send by:

E-mail to: [jolevasseur@videotron.ca](mailto:jolevasseur@videotron.ca) or to [gcarmel@videotron.ca](mailto:gcarmel@videotron.ca)

Or mail to:

L'Association des Levasseur d'Amérique

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WEB SITE  
WWW.LEVASSEUR.ORG



Our motto ,  
*DU MIEUX QUE JE PUIS*

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Our thanks to those who contributed to produce this Newsletter : Jacquelyn Daily, André Levasseur, Joceline Levasseur, Gilles Carmel and Jean-Pierre Levasseur

## The Association welcomes these new members

David Vasser	Fraser, MI
Claire Hodkins	Kennington, MD
Magaret King	Agassiz, BC
Yvon Thifaut	Montréal, QC
Richard G LeVasseur	Oakwoog, GA
Ted Levasseur	Hinsdale, NH
Michel Lagacé	Winnipeg, MB
Clement Nadon	Edmonton, AB
Charles Levasseur	Moncton, NB
Cara Stretch	Baltimore, MD
Jean-Philippe Carmel	Longueuil, QC
Louis-Paul Carmel	Montréal, QC
François Levasseur	Québec, QC
Marie-Annie Levasseur	Winnipeg, MB
Diane Levasseur	St-Honoré, QC
Thomas Levasseur	Paris, France
Diane Levasseur	St-Honoré, QC
Richard LeVasseur	Las Vegas, NV

## Distribution of our members in North America

