



Bulletin des

# Levasseur

Newsletter

Vol 21 No 1

March 2009

## A new site to promote the recognition of Irma LeVasseur

by: Jean-Pierre Levasseur (250)

As you have learned in previous communications, The Levasseur Association has taken the initiative to have the Government of Canada recognize Dr. Irma LeVasseur. She has made numerous contributions to medicine in French Canada. Not only was she the first female French-Canadian physician, she was also the instigator for the foundation of the Sainte-Justine Hospital in Montréal and l'Enfant-Jésus in Québec City; in addition, she devoted many years of service to First World War Canadian soldiers during the war. We invite you to visit this web site on the life of Dr. Irma LeVasseur.

<http://irma.levasseur.org>

This site will be a valuable reference for all those interested in the life and career of Madame Irma LeVasseur.

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L'ASSOCIATION DES LEVASSEUR D'AMÉRIQUE

**Irma LeVasseur**

L'Association des Levasseur a pris l'initiative de faire reconnaître par le Gouvernement du Canada, la Dre Irma LeVasseur pour ses nombreuses contributions à la médecine au Canada français. Non seulement elle fut la première femme médecin canadienne-française, mais elle fut aussi l'instigatrice de la fondation des hôpitaux Sainte-Justine à Montréal et l'Enfant-Jésus à Québec; de plus, elle consacra plusieurs années au service des soldats canadiens durant la première guerre mondiale.

Irma LeVasseur a vécu de 1878 à 1964. Étant donné que les universités de langue française n'acceptaient pas les femmes et que celles de langue anglaise ne comprenaient pas de stage pratique, elle fit ses études en médecine aux États-Unis. Malgré ses années de spécialisation en pédiatrie à New York et à Paris, la Dre LeVasseur a dû surmonter de nombreux obstacles avant d'être reconnue par ses pairs et les associations médicales du Québec. C'est grâce à une loi privée de l'Assemblée législative du Québec qu'elle fut finalement admise au Collège des médecins et chirurgiens du Québec en 1903.

La Dre LeVasseur a consacré sa carrière à la médecine pour enfants au Canada français. Elle est à l'origine de l'hôpital Sainte-Justine de Montréal et en 1923, avec deux collègues, elle a fondé l'hôpital de l'Enfant-Jésus de Québec. Pourtant, elle est morte dans l'oubli total.

On commence toutefois à la connaître : Radio-Canada lui a consacré une émission de Remarquables oubliés et l'auteure Pauline Gill a écrit deux romans historiques sur elle. Mais il n'y a toujours pas de reconnaissance officielle.

Dans un texte de Bibliothèque et Archives Canada, on lit ce qui suit :

*- La Dre Irma LeVasseur est décédée en janvier 1964 sans avoir droit à l'éloge et à la reconnaissance de la presse et de ses pairs. C'est*

**Lignée généalogique de Irma Levasseur**

Laurent Levasseur  
1648 -1726  
|  
Pierre Levasseur  
1679-1738  
|  
Jean-Timothée Levasseur  
— -1816  
|  
Jean Levasseur  
1762-1836  
|  
Jean Levasseur  
1786-1858  
|  
Zéphirin Levasseur



Reserve your copy  
of the genealogical  
dictionaries soon!  
Some copies are  
still available.

## The president world

by: Roger Levasseur (004)



Our dictionaries have finally arrived. The wait was worth it. You will find this dictionary to be a priceless document that provides the history of our Levasseurs ancestors. The reader will also find an explanation about our Coat of Arms, information about ancestors other than Jean, Pierre and Laurent, who have either spent time in New France or for whom there is no known lineage. Think of Guillaume Levasseur, a cartographer and his contributions to establish the geography of Eastern Canada or the sister of our two ancestors, Jeanne Levasseur, who married a Drolet and whose son is at the origin of all the Drolets in Canada.

What is said about our ancestors Jean, Pierre and Laurent who, as master builders, contributed to build the colony, the children that ensured the continuity of the Levasseur name. A family name that gives us pride and the desire to always do one's best as did our ancestors. The way our genealogist Joceline prepared the section that enables us to trace our individual ancestry is a remarkable accomplishment and it is easy to use even if your command of French is limited. What a tool to learn more about our respective families. If not already done, I encourage you to order your copy for you and your family members. I also encourage you to provide us with updates of births, marriages and death notices of our individual families.

I encourage you to forward to Gilles Levasseur death notices of any members of your family to be posted in the obituary section of our Web site. This new section was initiated by our founder Vincent. Information can be sent to [webmaster@levasseur.org](mailto:webmaster@levasseur.org).

The office of the Prime Minister of Canada has advised the Association that our request to have Dr. Irma LeVasseur recognized has been sent to the Governor General for further action. You will be kept advised about this request in future Newsletters of the Association.

I have a comment about the sermon published in this issue of the Newsletter by reverend Father Lavac following the celebration in 1957 of the Levasseur families.

One must remember that the sermon was written when the role of the Clergy and the participation of the faithful in religious activities are very different than what is done today. The article is published for the reader to recognize the important role the Levasseur family played in the creation of the Sainte Anne Fraternity and how the Levasseur families contributed for the propagation of the catholic faith in Québec.

## The 1957 Levasseur family reunion at Sainte-Anne de Beaupré and the Brotherhood (confraternity) of Sainte-Anne

by: Jean-Pierre Levasseur (250)



### Full text of the sermon of Father David Levack (1957)

*Father David Levack has participated in the organization of several gatherings of families in the 1950's which included the Lessard and Bernier families.*

*Also in this issue an article on the origin of the carpenter's trade in Europe.*

It is proper, I believe, to begin the sermon on this special occasion by reading the message that the Holy Father, Pope Pius XII has been so kind as to send to the Levasseur Family through the Apostolic Delegate to Canada, His Excellency Archbishop Giovanni Panico:

«Tree hundred years ago, Jean and Pierre Levasseur founded at Quebec, in a gesture of faith, the confraternity of Sainte Anne. On the occasion of this anniversary, the descendants of these two brothers have had the pious idea of gathering on August 18 next, in the National Shrine of Sainte Anne de Beaupré.

Traditionally bound to the Sovereign Pontiff by the bonds of filial piety and of gratitude for a Bull of Indulgence granted to the Confraternity in 1660, this great family has desired on this occasion to turn respectfully to the Common Father, and implore his Blessing.

His Holiness is pleased to see in the increase of the Levasseur family, a certain sign of heavenly favor and he hopes that the beneficiaries thereof will give due thanks to God in the solemnity of a common ceremony as well as in the humble efforts of the Christian daily life. It is as an earnest of these graces of fidelity that the Holy Father sends with all his heart to each member of the Levasseur Family and of the still active Confraternity of Saint Anne, a Special Apostolic Blessing »

Before making any comment on the august words of this pontifical message, I wish first, in the name of all the Levasseur Family, to thank most cordially Son Excellence Monseigneur Mélançon, évêque de



The origin of this brotherhood is very old and its creation dates back to the early 16th century.

Mr Lambiotte (parish priest of Bouvignes 1776 to 1802) has pointed out in his notes that it already existed before 1472.

However the basis of the evidence is not known.

The oldest register is dated 1712 and is found in the parish archives. However, we find in these same archives, older traces of the Brotherhood in the register for obituary payments transcribed by Adrien Wauthier (parish priest of Bouvignes 1658 to 1659).

Source :

<http://confreriesainteanne.skynetblogs.be/>

most cordially His Excellency Bishop Melançon of Chicoutimi. Your presence here this morning, Most Reverend Excellency, indicates once more your devotion to the families of our nation and your deep devotion to Good Saint Anne. At the great Rally of Saint Anne's Feast day, at Saint Anne of Chicoutimi, you pronounced in July a magnificent slogan which should be the slogan of the Tercentennial of Saint Anne de Beaupré in the words:

«Saint Anne must become once more the Queen of all our parishes.»

Saint Anne has been the Queen of Canada since the origins of our country. Nothing gives greater proof of it than the founding, on May 1, 1657, of the Confraternity of Saint Anne in the parish of Our Lady of Quebec and of which this year we are celebrating the Tercentennial.

### **THE CONFRATERNITY OF SAINT ANNE AT QUÉBEC**

By the varied persons that history shows us as having been implicated in the foundation and development of this confraternity, it is possible to see almost tangibly the prestige Saint Anne exercised over all the classes of society in our country from the outset of the Colony.

First, there are the Jesuit missionaries in the persons of Fathers Dequen, the discoverer of Lake Saint John, and Joseph Poncet, who show special zeal for the foundation and development of this Confraternity. After founding it, they draw down upon it the blessings and favors of the Holy Apostolic See, which, at their request, granted to the new Confraternity a Bull of indulgence bearing the date of December 11, 1660, which is thus the oldest in the country.

Then we note the Bishops, one after the other, who attend with paternal care over this humble confraternity of Saint Anne, persuaded as they are that it is a chosen instrument for the sanctification of their flock. Bishop Laval, in 1678, modified the rules of the Confraternity in order to adapt it to new circumstances with rules which remained in force for nearly two centuries.

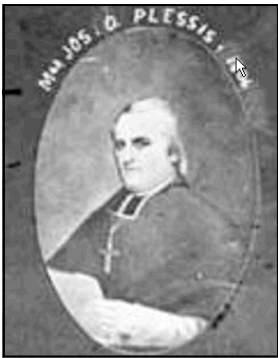
Thanks to Bishop St. Valier, two new Pontifical Bulls were obtained in favor of the Confraternity of Saint Anne at Quebec, on May 15, 1694.

In 1778, Bishop Briand worked for the reestablishment of the confraternity, which had suffered the effects of the Conquest of 1760. He wrote to the Pastor of Our Lady of Quebec the following words:



« The founders of this Confraternity were holy men and fervent Christians, so that I can say to your parishioners: You are the children and the successors of saints; Sanctorum filii estis»

On November 26, 1820, Bishop Plessis, in response to the petition of the joiners of Quebec, reestablished the Confraternity in its pristine splendor.



In 1858, Bishop Baillargeon transferred the seat of the Confraternity from the parish of Notre Dame to that of Saint John the Baptist, as the majority of its members belonged to the latter parish. In his Decree, he summed up the entire history of the Confraternity.

The Parish priests of the parish of Notre Dame of Quebec watched with pastoral zeal over the development of the confraternity, as can be seen by leafing through the ancient registers and the announcement-books of the Notre Dame parish over a period of two hundred years.

*Joseph-Octave Plessis*

Finally, the part played by laymen in this Confraternity of Saint Anne at Quebec shows clearly that the devotion to Saint Anne had penetrated into the very soul of the Canadian people. It is not just women, but men who give the impulsion: in the first place laboring joiners and carpenters, but also men of all walks of life that are eager to belong to the Confraternity of Good Saint Anne. The entire French Canadian family places itself under the protection of Good Saint Anne from the very beginning of the French Colony in America.

Among the laymen who presided at the foundation of the Confraternity of Saint Anne at Quebec, we are happy to-day to mention with particular pride, the name of Jean and Pierre Levasseur.

## **JEAN AND PIERRE LEVASSEUR**

It is with legitimate pride that the descendants of these two Levasseurs read, under the petition presented on May 1, 1678, requesting the foundation of the Confraternity of Saint Anne in the parish of Our Lady of Quebec, the names of Jean and Pierre Levasseur, carpenters settled in Quebec.

The first settlers were builders; they had come to build up a new community. These Master-joiners came from France, where they had belonged to the Guild of Joiners and the Confraternity of Saint Anne attached to the Joiners' Guild. They had brought with them their knowledge of the building craft, but also deep in the hearts, a profound sense of piety. That piety had a marked preference for Saint Anne, who had been chosen since time immemorial as the Patron, Saint of Joiners and Carpenters.



And it is precisely this preference that has contributed most the fact that their names have been handed down to posterity. These two Levasseur brothers were modest artisans, and if after three centuries they are still mentioned with praise, it is particularly because of the role they played in the foundation of the Confraternity of Saint Anne at Quebec

One fact sets before us the charming figure of Jean Levasseur. On January 30, 1655, he obtained from Governor Lauzon the concession to a fine broad domain on the Beaupré shore. It was there that he intended to settle his family, but his functions kept him in Quebec, and he never was able to fulfill his plan. But he was not for that less attached to this little corner. His offering is inscribed next to that of Father Morel, the worthy priest chosen by Bishop Laval to organize the parish of Saint Anne de Beaupré. He even had the honor of inaugurating the Golden Book of Good Saint Anne, in which so many, illustrious persons were later to place their names.

This is not the place to recall the historical facts relative to the two Levasseur brothers and their numerous descendants. But it would be useful to highlight the lessons which may be drawn from today's ceremony, which has gathered together the great Levasseur family.

These lessons have been summed up for us in the pontifical message which I read out to you at the beginning of this sermon.

### **LESSON TO BE DRAWN FROM THE REUNION OF THE LEVASSEUR FAMILY**

A lesson of Gratitude

“His Holiness is pleased to see in the increase of the Levasseur Family a certain sign of heavenly favor, and he hopes that the beneficiaries thereof will give due thanks to God in the solemnities of a common ceremony.”

This common ceremony is above all the pilgrimage which has brought to the feet of Good Saint Anne representatives of the Levasseur families from all corners of Canada and the United States. Let us send our gratitude heaven-wards through the hands of Good Saint Anne who for three centuries has been the benevolent protector of the Levasseur families who are descendants of Jean and Pierre Levasseur.

Let us thank God for these three centuries of a fidelity which has been the distinctive mark of the descendants of Levasseur, and still is, at these present celebrations, a manifest proof of Fidelity to God and to His Church in the first place. Hundreds of priests and Religious members make up a glorious areola for the name of Levasseur in our country, and bear witness to the religious vitality of the different generations of the family.

Fidelity too, to those family traditions which earned for our ancestors the encomiums of our religious leaders. Fidelity to the spirit of hard work: in conformity with the motto of the Levasseurs: DU MIEUX QUE JE PEUX - THE BEST I CAN, several generations of Levasseur, artisans, sculptors and architects, have left in many places in our province very well executed examples of their work.

### **Lesson of Christian and Family life**

In his august message, the Sovereign Pontiff speaks very appropriately of “the humble efforts of the Christian daily life.” It is principally therein that the ancestors whose memory we commemorate today served the different generations that followed them in our Canadian or American land.

“One of the greatest marvels of the Church in the XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries,” writes the Historian Msgr. Taché. “Is the French Canadian family.”

It is the memory of these profoundly Christian families that today’s ceremonies recall to our minds; families wherein the father or mother gave the example of all the domestic virtues and, in the words of Bishop St-Valier.”made up for the lack of priests, who were far too few.” Families where the children acknowledged even to a fairly advanced age the authority of the parents: families which had placed all their trust in Good Saint Anne; her name was always intimately connected with every event of importance in the families, especially the birth and the education of the children. One remarkable fact that is noticed by those who study the Levasseur family tree is the considerable number of daughters confided to the protection of Saint Anne by being given her name.

May the Levasseur families of today and tomorrow show themselves always worthy of the Levasseurs of former days: Let this be the hope we express, in the name of all, on this festive occasion, as well as the prayer we send up to Good Saint Anne on the occasion of this pilgrimage of the Levasseur Family to Saint Anne de Beaupré.

And, so that this hope may be realized, and this prayer heard. I call upon His Excellency the Bishop of Chicoutimi to be so kind as to bring down upon all of us the Apostolic Blessing so paternally granted to us by Sovereign Pontiff.

His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

*DU MIEUX QUE JE PEUX*

*(THE LEVASSEUR MOTTO)*



## At the time of the carpenters

by : Jean-Pierre Levasseur (250)

Source : <http://www.batiweb.com>

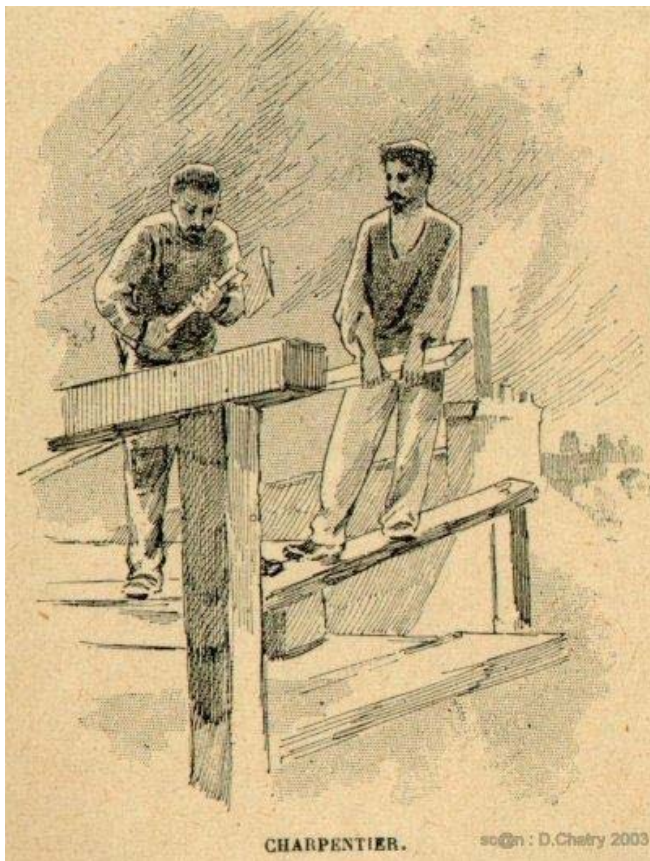


*Jean Levasseur, the son of Noël Levasseur and Geneviève Gaugé or Gauché was a Master-Builder from Paris where he was born in 1622. Jean and his brother Pierre can be considered as the lay founders of the brotherhood of Sainte-Anne in Québec.*

*The goal of brotherhood at that time was to assemble workers of a same trade. Many carpenters came to Québec at the beginning of the colonization because there was a dire need of them to build new buildings. Some of them had belonged to the brotherhood of Sainte-Anne in Paris. It was therefore understandable for them to regroup as an Association in New-France.*

Prior to the ninth century in France, carpenters were called fabri lignarii as they use lumber to build floors and roofs of buildings. At that time, the word carpentarius is used only to describe «wheelwrights», those who made chariots or cart or wagon builders, the carpenta ...

But from that moment, the word generally refers to all those who work with lumber. There were two kinds of crafts: carpenters and joiners. Some were called big ax, the carpenters, and the others were named small ax carpenters, the joiner, does the finishing.



Among the oldest statutes introducing the organization of the Brotherhood of Carpenters are found in the Book Trades of Étienne Boileau. These regulations of the thirteenth century were not strictly speaking statutes but were only "records" of witnesses describing the rules relative the trade at that time.

The statutes of the carpenters of the city of Angers provides with sufficient details of the practices of the corporation. The election of the master jurors or the trades guardian took place on the anniversary of Sainte-Anne. St-Joseph and Ste-Anne have always shared the patronage of carpenters. Each master paid annually to the Brotherhood of St-Anne a sum of eight cents and four «deniers» tokens as well as two «deniers» tokens on a weekly basis. Companions contibuted only one «denier» tokens per week.



Direct Lineage  
Marie-Eve Levasseur

Pierre Levasseur

1627-1694

|

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

|

Chs-Auguste Levasseur

1918-2007

|

André Levasseur

1950-

|

Marie-Ève Levasseur

## Business Profile: Levasseur Marketing Marie-Ève Levasseur, General Manager

by : Jean-Pierre Levasseur (250)



Graduate with a degree in Hotel Management from the College Laflèche in Trois-Rivieres, Marie-Ève Levasseur loves challenges. Since 2002, she has held various management positions in several hotels at Mont-Tremblant. Furthermore, she has over 7 years experience in sales and marketing in the fields of tourism and the hotel industry. In February 2007, she founded her own marketing business in Mauricie area. Thanks to the determination, professionalism and ability to listen to customers, Levasseur Marketing has a known a excellent growth.

Marie-Ève was born in Nicolet, QC. She is the daughter of André Levasseur, a former President of our Association, and France Desaulniers. She is also the granddaughter of Dr. Charles Auguste Levasseur and Marguerite Roger. Dr. Levasseur has left his mark in the community.

Charles Auguste Levasseur was born on 13 April 1918 and was baptized the same day at Sainte-Angèle-de-Laval, Nicolet, QC. He died on 12 May 2007 at Saint-Grégoire, Nicolet, QC and buried on 16 May 2007 in Sainte-Angèle-de-Laval, Nicolet, QC at the age of 89 years. He married Marguerite Roger on 17 June 1946 in Montreal, in the parish of Saint-François-Solano.

An article was also published in the Bulletin of Levasseur in 1996. [Click here](#) to read this article.

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## A search of old photos? Visit the Musée du Bas-St-Laurent

<http://www.mbsl.qc.ca>

by : Jean-Pierre Levasseur (250)

When researching the surname Levasseur, what was my surprise to discover a website where more than 470 old photos of Levasseur were scanned and indexed. I even found photographs of some of the children of the family of my great-grandfather, Alphonse Levasseur.

Since 1975, the Museum has built one of the largest collections of old photographs in Canada. A dozen photographic themes, containing nearly 200,000 images, have been upgraded and distributed by the institution. This major visual heritage covers mainly the first half of the twentieth century. Topics such as transportation, daily life, special events, architecture and public life are shown, as well as memorable moments experienced by the population of Eastern Quebec.

As heir of the Museum of Archeology in Eastern Quebec, the Museum also has in its collection some pieces related to euro-quebec culture as well as an important collections of artifacts relating to metal and wood workmanship.

Source: Le Musée du Bas-St-Laurent ([www.mbsl.qc.ca](http://www.mbsl.qc.ca))

### Some photos of Levasseur found on the website of the Museum





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J6E 9G4

WEB SITE  
WWW.LEVASSEUR.ORG



*Our motto ,  
DU MIEUX QUE JE PUIS*

### Newsletter Team

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## The Association welcomes these new members

Gia Pallone	Westerfield, CT
Joline Fortier	Auburn, ME
Cheryl Morvillo	Webster, TX
Danielle Mallette	Ottawa, ON
Henry K Brooks	Brandon, FL
Norbert Levasseur	Lac Brome, QC

## Genealogical assistance

We seek the assistance of all Levasseurs and other persons who can help us answer certain questions about some Levasseurs. With your help, we may be able to complete the Levasseur Associations of America's Database. Responses will be published in future Newsletters

We are looking for the parents of:

8. **Gregory Levasseur** from Palmer, married to Denise Kusek. She is the daughter of John J Kusek (1941-2009) and of Cynthia Lamery. Gregory Levasseur has 2 children: Sydney and Kendall Levasseur
9. **Evelyn Levasseur** (1933-2005). Died in L'Annonciation, Qc, July 17, 2005 at the age of 71, wife of passed Duncan Naylor, mother of Donald and Nancy (Gordon Beach).
10. **Frank Levasseur**, husband of Claudia Angelis (Ferdinand Angelis (1930-31 December 2008) and of Shirley Kester.
11. **Zélia Levasseur**, married to Evangelist "Bill" Wagner. She had one son, Emery L. Wagner, born June 27, 1924 died in Lowell, Mass on June 27, 1924, husband since he is 58 years old to Frances Boisvert. Emery had one son, Don T. Wagner of Norwalk; 2 daughters, Debra J. and her husband, Jacob J. Kozar, Jr. of Norwalk and Arleen H. and her husband, Keith Hegedus of Pepperell, Mass; Zélia, also had another son, Raymond Wagner and a daughter, Irene Wagner.

All information can be sent by E-Mail to:  
[jolevasseur@videotron.ca](mailto:jolevasseur@videotron.ca) or to [gcarmel@videotron.ca](mailto:gcarmel@videotron.ca) or by mail to:

L'Association des Levasseur d'Amérique, C.P. 57063, Succ.,  
Visitation St-Charles-Borromée, QC, J6E 9G4



***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
<b>Jean and Pierre genealogical dictionary (650) pages</b>		
Rigid cover	80.00 \$	
Soft cover	60.00\$	
<b>Laurent genealogical dictionary (750) pages</b>		
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.

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For more information: Joceline Levasseur : [jolevasseur@videotron.ca](mailto:jolevasseur@videotron.ca)