



Bulletin des

Levasseur

Newsletter

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Nathalie Levasseur Awareness and Roots, Tight Knitting

by : Gilles Matte

Note from the translator : The following text is an interpretation of the text written in French by Mr. G. Matte. Our translators had some difficulties translating literally certain sentences in the French text and chose to interpret the author's thoughts. In a few instances parts of long sentences were omitted.

What report can art have with genealogy? This is the question raised by a visit to the exhibition, "Awareness and Roots", that was presented in 2008 by Nathalie Levasseur at the Le Grave de Victoriaville. In an obvious attempt to reconcile the two, the display shows how the artist's universe intersects with historical daily life. Nathalie had been fascinated to learn that the first Levasseurs who walked the land of New France were sculptors and cabinet makers and this heritage had been passed from father to son. She wanted to explore this idea by retracing her own artistic progress and the frequently subtle transmission of inherited skills.



« As best I can », Installation: drawings, Ancient wooden and metal wooden supports, woollen socks: Nathalie Levasseur, 2008, courtesy of the artist

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See the insert regarding the Annual general meeting of members of the Levasseur of America Association.

For members receiving the electronic version of the Newsletter please note that links are inserted in the articles.



Nathalie's work has always combined sculpture and fiber. While working on this project, she discovered that her grandparents raised sheep and wove their wool. At the entrance of the hall, with a mischievous smile about her progression as an artist, she set the tone for the display with the Levasseur motto "As best I can" next to her grandmother's woolen socks!

The gallery is spacious. One wanders leisurely in the rooms. Some reveal the ways of life, others show sculptures and memorable objects that stand alone or are connected by an Ariane thread. These artistic items bring us in touch with the desires and the intimate silences of the artist. If many of the assembled artifacts bring us back to her youth, certain others reach well back in time, beyond the names or faces that she would have known. I think of this antique chair above which are suspended, by invisible links, many generations of seat covers.

Next to the entrance, on her childhood rocking chair, four knitting needles rest between a strange unfinished seat cover! That is a remarkable intergenerational wink at a past time and a technique that the artist learned. She acquired this knowledge by accessing old archives of all kinds.



If we felt at ease in this room, tacitly invited to feel at home, we may perhaps pass by the mirror. The photographic albums and the books that are spread about tell us about her Levasseur lineage. The varied portraits of ancestors rest on a real brick wall made in Lower Canada. Now, observe the admiration the little girl has for her father and consider the homage to the women of her genealogical family tree.

The visitor eventually sits on a couch or stretches out on a chair in the room looking at suspended embroidered quilts. He may play with a doll or with the small umbrellas used on birthday cakes. He may nonchalantly rest on a minute installation of posts or simply dip his fingers in the peanut bowl. He may surprise himself and enter his inner life to sense his own genealogical ties. When a spectator senses his own genealogical roots, the title word of Nathalie's exhibit appear: Awareness. According to Nathalie, awareness of this evolutionary heredity impregnates our senses like deep rooted tributes. At times we may forget of these hereditary traits that affect the process of becoming who we are.

« Awareness and Roots» Installation: old chairs, ancient recovered chair bottoms: Nathalie Levasseur, 2008, courtesy of the artist.

To truly grasp the meaning of our history one must go back in time. One must recognize and accept the transmission from one generation to the other of psychological and physical traits. Let us not forget that we have known only two or three generations of this heredity that has modulated our individual personalities. Also, the majority amongst us has refused to listen to our inner conscience, the source of our inherited physical and psychological traits.

Direct lineage of Nathalie Levasseur

1 **Laurent Levasseur** b. abt 1648 France d. 26 dec 1726 Quebec, QC m. Marie Marchand m. 30 apr 1670 Quebec, QC b. abt 1651 St-Martin, Ile de Ré, Aunis d. avant 4-5-1716 Quebec, QC [daughter of Louis Marchand and Françoise Morineau]

2 **Pierre Levasseur** b. 2 jan 1679 Lauzon, St-Joseph, Lévis, QC d. 26 oct 1738 Kamouraska, QC m. Élisabeth Michaud m. 8 mai 1703 Rivière-Ouelle, Kamouraska, QC b. 10 nov 1685 Rivière-Ouelle, Kamouraska, QC d. 29 jul 1766 Kamouraska, QC [daughter of Pierre Michel Michaud and Marie Ancelin]

3 **Joseph Levasseur** b. abt 1719 d. 15 sep 1781 Kamouraska, QC m. Marie-Madeleine Albert m. 15 jan 1742 Kamouraska, QC b. abt 1717 d. 3 apr 1763 Kamouraska, QC [daughter of Pierre Albert and Louise Grondin]

4 **Joseph Levasseur** b. abt 1748 d. 30 jan 1823 Kamouraska, QC m. Josephite Ouellet m. 26 apr 1773 Kamouraska, QC b. 30 oct 1748 Kamouraska, QC d. 15 jan 1829 Kamouraska, QC [daughter of Jean-Baptiste Ouellet and Marie-Geneviève Tardif]

5 **Raphael Levasseur** b. 2 jul 1787 Kamouraska, QC d. 9 jan 1869 Kamouraska, QC m. Félicité Lebel m. 17 aug 1812 Kamouraska, QC b. abt 1792 [daughter of Jean-Baptiste Lebel and Catherine Soucy]

6 **Adolphe Levasseur** b. 30 oct 1813 Kamouraska, QC d. 19 jan 1892 Tingwick, Arthabaska, QC m. Archange Gagné m. 29 aug 1842 St-André, Kamouraska, QC b. 25 mar 1823 d. 21 feb 1902 Tingwick, Arthabaska, QC [daughter of François Gagné/Bellavance and Françoise Ouellet]

7 **Rémi Levasseur** b. 16 aug 1848 St-André, Kamouraska, QC d. 1 nov 1915 Tingwick, Arthabaska, QC m. Amanda Cayouette m. 15 mai 1877 Tingwick, Arthabaska, QC b. 16 nov 1859 d. 6 mar 1934 Victoriaville, Arthabaska, QC [daughter of Philippe Cayouette and Rose de Lima Ouellet]

8 **Lucien Levasseur** b. 24 nov 1898 Tingwick, Arthabaska, QC d. 2 sep 1963 Victoriaville, Arthabaska, QC m. Laura DeSerre m. 17 jun 1924 Tingwick, Arthabaska, QC b. 3 jan 1902 Tingwick, Arthabaska, QC [daughter of François DeSerre and Louise Pothier]

9 **Roland Levasseur** b. 6 feb 1928 Tingwick, Arthabaska, QC m. Hélène Héneault m. 27 jun 1964 Victoriaville, Sts-Martyrs-Canadiens, QC b. 17 apr 1942 Warwick, Arthabaska, QC [daughter of Alcide Héneault and Jeanne Pepin]

10 **Nathalie Levasseur** b. 9 jul 1965 Thetford Mines, Hôp. St-Joseph, QC m. Gilles Matte

Nathalie Levasseur
Sculptured works
Intergrate various substances of either vegetable, animal or mineral origins opposing man to his environment. At times she integrates photography and multi-media elements.
She has participated in many exhibits either on her own or collectively in Quebec, Canada, Japon and Spain.
Her projects received, on numerous occasions the support from: «Conseil des Arts et des Lettres du Québec»



Lucien Levasseur and Laura de Serre (circa 1925)

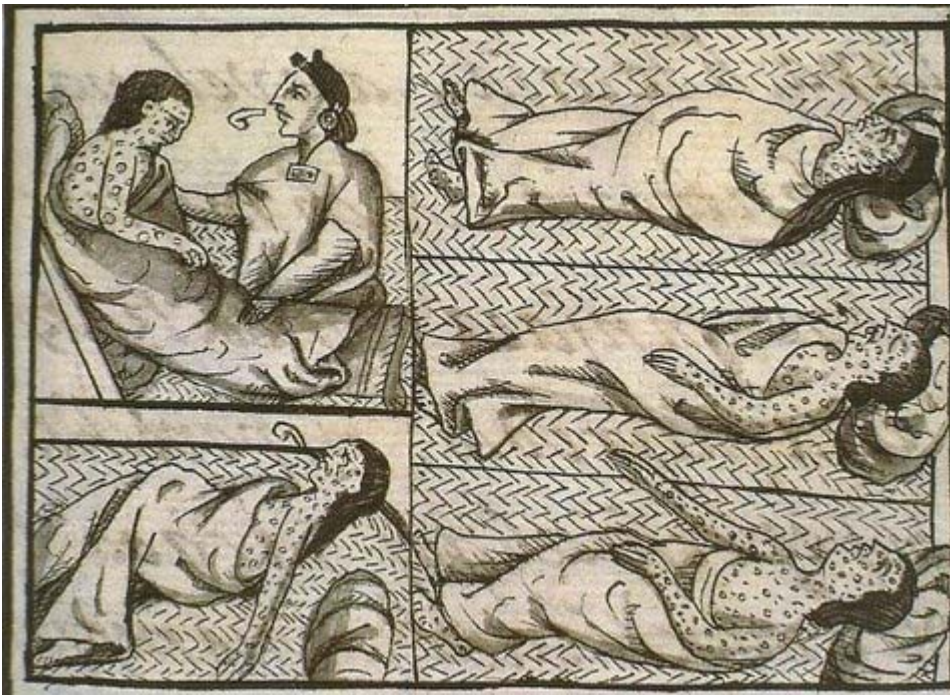
Reference :

http://www.artdiagonale.org/03_membres/01_Repertoire.html
www.nathalielevasseur.net



Diseases that predominated in New France in the XVIIth and XVIIIth century (part 1)

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



Many observers, including Pierre Boucher who became governor of Trois Rivières and Lord of Boucherville said in 1664 that one seldom sees diseases in Canada because the air is extremely healthy, but especially in winter due to the cold. In addition to this comment, Ruette d'Auteuil one half-century later, had written in his writings: "In Canada the cold air purifies the air of all the diseases and one does not see contagious diseases unless they are brought from outside sources. In spite of these

very comments one cannot deny that many diseases and epidemics affected the first inhabitants of New France. They were primarily influenza, bronchitis and throat irritations frequently due to intense cold and a tendency to overheat the small houses. Also frost bites and scurvy are rather frequent attributable to the difficulty of obtaining vegetables and fruits which ensured the availability of the vitamin C. The drawing on the left is that of Aztec patients inflicted with chicken pox or small pox



brought by Europeans. These diseases were also propagated amongst the White population. The majority of the epidemics came mainly from the ships which entered to the port of Quebec. The deplorable hygiene conditions and the unhealthy food habits of the crew members were the prime cause of these diseases. The vessels of XVII th and the XVIII th centuries were carriers of germs. Dysentery, pneumonias, scabies, rheumatism colds and coughing were the leading cause of death in New France.

All information hereafter is drawn from Jean-Pierre Hardy's book
"Chercher fortune en Nouvelle-France"

From the president

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



I encourage all our members to send us information about their Levasseur family. When surfing on the Association's site, notice on the left hand side of the home page «Biography of our pioneer families». You will find interesting stories about our pioneer Levasseur families from who settled in various locations across North America. The Association would like to read and include on the Web site the story of your grand parents. We ask you to tell us how they lived their life when they settled in Quebec, another Province in Canada or in a town or city in the United States. Future generations and mainly your descendants would like to know how these

pioneers lived. To facilitate your task listed below are a few questions that you could answer in order to produce your own family history. I encourage you to do it before it is too late. We would also appreciate receiving photos of your ancestors and of the place where they settled.

- In what year did my ancestors settle in this region?
- Describe the village or city in which they settled. Talk about their religious beliefs, their social life, the system of education and the difficulties they had to overcome.
- Why did they settle in this region?
- How many were you in the family, did you have uncles and aunts or other family members who settled in the same location?
- What were the trades of your ancestors or where did they work, what kind of factory?
- Were there other French-Canadian families that settled in the same town?
- Did they accomplish something remarkable like contributing to the building of the local Church, built their own home, contributed to the establishment of various charity groups or establish a business?

By writing one or two sentences on each of the points here above listed you will have contributed to the writing of your family history. The Association would like to include your family history to the section: «Biography of our pioneer families» or have it published in the Levasseur Newsletter. Your contribution will benefit those interested in genealogy and primarily to your own Levasseur descendants.

The information can be sent to our Web site at : http://www.levasseur.org/en/Help_us_please/

Roger Levasseur



Pauline Gill is a novelist (historical) and professor in Québec.

She was born on the south shore county of L'Islet and received her bachelor of arts with majors in history, sociology and literature.

Pauline Gill resided in Longueuil for thirty three years before settling in Verchères in 2006.

She taught at «Collège Marie-Victorin» and was a linguistic reviewer at «Le Collège Rosemont».

She is a member of the Union of Québec writers she did some research for «l'Institut national de la recherche scientifique».

Many of her publications are best sellers including: «La saga de la cordonnière».

Source : [Wikipedia](#)

Other reference :

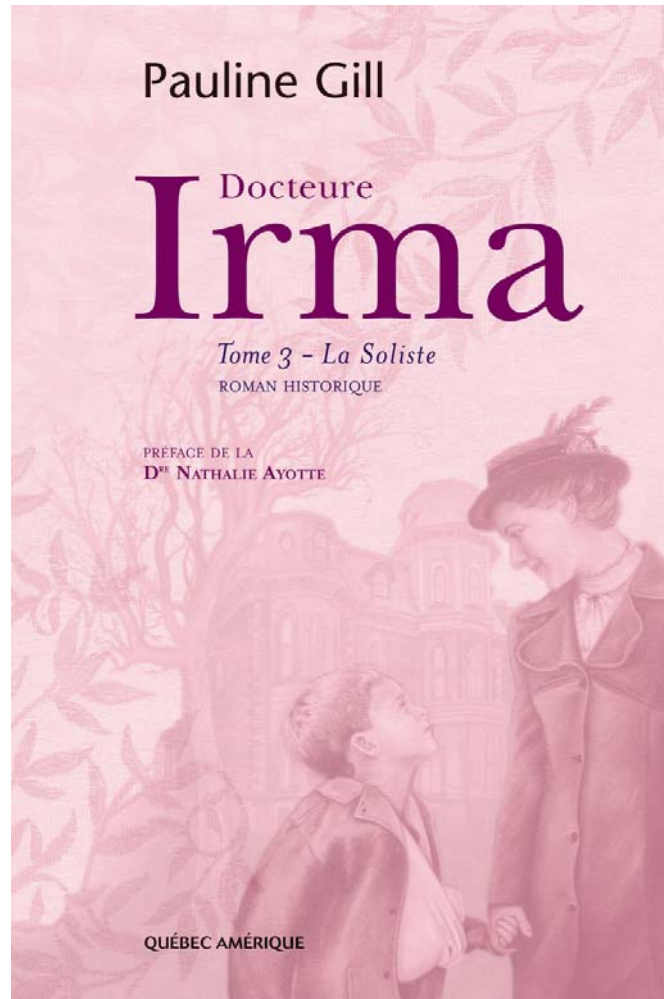
www.paulinegill.com

Publish by :

www.quebec-amerique.com

New novel by Mrs Pauline Gill

Docteur Irma tome 3 - La Soliste



Returning to Canada in 1922, Dr. Irma LeVasseur, now experienced and financially stable, felt the time had come to establish a children's hospital in Quebec City. More determined than ever, she purchased the residence located at 55 Grande-Allée. With medical colleagues and a group of volunteer women, she founded what would become the Hôpital de l'Enfant-Jésus.

Will she be successful in remaining director of her hospital? This is a big challenge for a pediatrician whose temperament, ideals and requirements are frequently at odds with those of powerful adversaries... Who will support her in the face of these obstacles? At the age of eighty, Irma LeVasseur has not yet fought her last battles. Will she succeed? This last chapter in the life of an exceptional woman contains many surprises. May the tributes to her memory be worthy of her merits.

Profile of the comedian Denis Levasseur



By training, Denis Levasseur is a comedian, who became known on the TV program "Surprise surprise" on the French Network that aired from 1986 to 1992.

He acted in the program «Content-Comptant» (translated as Happy and for Cash) from 1986 to 1988. In 1993 he hosted a program called "Saturday Night Activities" and two years later, he was a columnist on the program «De Quoi j'ai de l'air» (What do I look like). In 1995, he became a stand up comedian, appearing at various festivals including «Le Grand Rire» (The Big Laugh) de Québec and from 2003 to 2006 «Le Grand Rire» de Sherbrooke

Since 2001, he has participated in the French edition of "Just for Laughs" which is broadcast in more than 100 countries. In 2006 he played the role of a plumber in the famous TV program called «Les Bougons» and «C'est aussi ça la vie» (That is Life). He also participated in the program «OOOPS» that broadcasted on CBC French Network in many countries. As a comedian for more than 20 years, he has also been featured in many advertising campaigns for companies like Pacini, Bell, SAQ and many others.

Source : <http://www.justepourrire.com/users/68-denis-levasseur>



Small altar of repose at l'Ile-aux-Coudres
That was built at the Levasseur workshop.
(Photo Nicole Levasseur)



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DU MIEUX QUE JE PUIS

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News on the web

by: [Jean-Pierre Levasseur](#) (250)



Lately some new sections and applications have been added to our web-site. Amongst these, you will note a new created site dedicated for the recognition of Doctor Irma Leaser (irma.levasseur.org), new section permitting our members and visitors to quickly send files and photos for our archives or our the web site

http://www.levasseur.org/fr/Help_us_Please/), an update of the archive section for the Levasseur Newsletter providing access to all previous issues in PDF format and new photos and documents sent by members for the section «[Ancient photos](#)» We also rely on Gilles who continually adds new document in the obituary section.

One must not forget the Association's [Data base section](#) that is continually updated, thanks to the ongoing work of our genealogist Joceline and her team. The Data base has now more than 110,000 registrations. Joceline receives regularly new data on the genealogical data forms that are available on our web site.

We have also integrated, in the lower portion of our Home page, a section that automatically gathers all activities pertaining to the Levasseur patronymic (the family name). This section called "Google Alert" will enable you to follow all activities pertaining to the Levasseur name whether used in the political cultural or other related fields.

Since our board members are located in various parts of America and that we continually exchange large data files we have subscribed to an external service to store our files. In addition to providing reliable and rapid communication, this service enables us to securely store copies of our archives and important documents accessible to certain Board members

More work remains to be done and your suggestions to improve our site are always welcomed.

Thanks to the vision and creativity of our Board members, the Levasseur Association of America, over the past fifteen years, is one of the first Association of genealogical families to make use of the new Internet media. Since 1995 we are engaged and involved in giving our members an interactive and dynamic service that few Associations are presently offering