

*Send us your old  
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the issue of the Levasseur  
Newsletter*

## Meeting with Eveline Levasseur

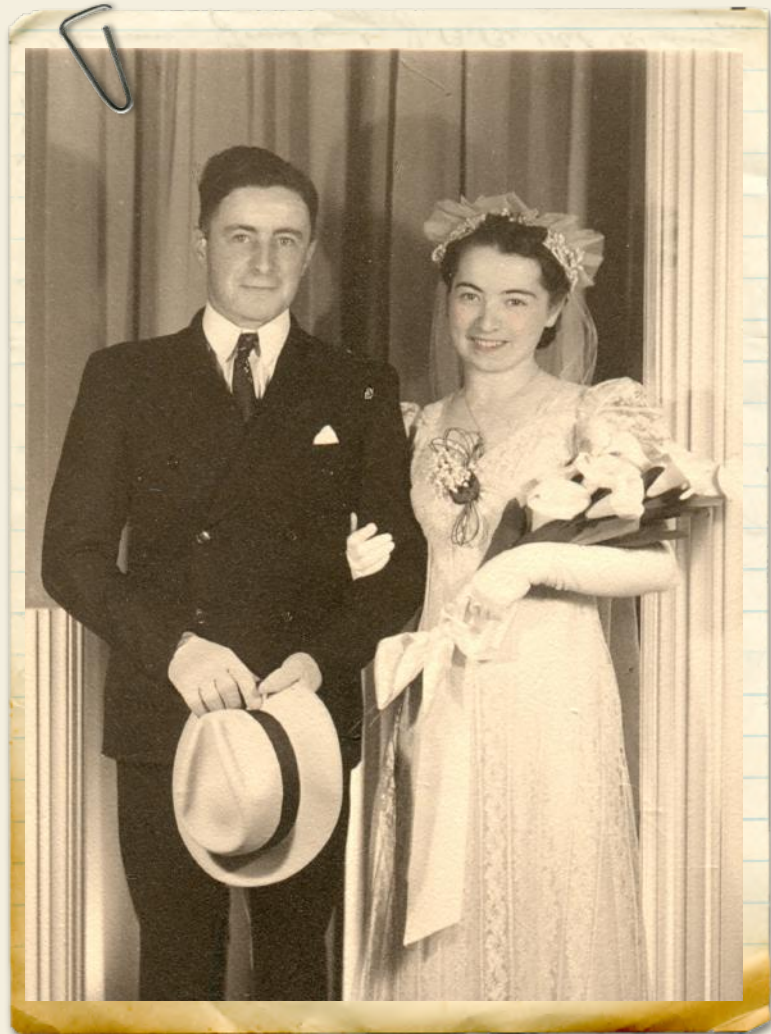
by: Thérèse Toutant

Source : Le Postillon - [Société Historique de Champlain](http://www.societe-historique-de-champlain.org)

*In 1918 Québec was terrorized by the Spanish flu. No towns or villages were spared. That same year Evéline was born on September 27 in the family home. This pandemic was the cause of 13,000 deaths in Québec. Her father Tancrede Levasseur and his wife, Marie Veilleux, lived on the Ste Marguerite concession in St-Maurice, county of Champlain. They had 16 children. As dictated by the customs of the time, the mother occupied her time by looking after all the home chores and the education of her family. The children played various board games including puzzles and in the winter they slid on a hill close to the river next to the farm.*

*At the age of 15, after completing her seventh grade, she spent a few years at home helping with the family chores. In 1936, thanks to her brother who was living in Montréal, Evéline was hired as a house maid for a family in Outremont. At the young age of 17 she did her best to keep the home tidy, learned to cook and do the washings. It was a worthwhile experience for her later years.*

*On May 31, 1938, her dad past away suddenly at the age of 60 years and 10 months. Tancrede left his wife and seven children at home. Evéline returned home to help her mother but shortly thereafter returned to Montréal to work as a house maid. Her brother, Louis-Joseph took over the farm. Her older sister, Aurore, married Urgel Dufresne on August 12, 1939. Her mother organized a family gathering at home to celebrate the event.*



*Éveline was at the family wedding party with a young man but she was attracted by another young man named Benoît, Urgel's brother. Benoît was at the wedding party with one of her cousins. But as of that day her life changed. After a few outings the love story of Benoît and Evéline began and they were married on August 7, 1941 in the St-Maurice Church. For their honeymoon, the two love birds went to Gaspésie. She recalls the gravel roads in the Lower St-Laurent at that time. Upon their return the young couple settled in the home of her father and mother in law, Mr Joseph Dufresne and Mrs Laura Cosette. Three couples lived in the large home. Her sister Aurore was living there with her husband Urgel. The family had two mills operating on the farm. Joseph ran the flour mill and Benoît and his brother Urgel ran wood mill.*



*Éveline with her children Maurice, Jean-Louis, Roland, Robert, Rosaire in his mother's arms and René on the right of his mother on the armchair.*

*Because it was important for Evéline, she asked her husband if they could visit her mother every Sunday. Her first pregnancy resulted in a miscarriage, a girl who died on February 21, 1942. She gave birth to a little boy on April 15, 1943 and called him Maurice. Three generations of Dufresne lived under the same roof, Joseph, Benoît and baby Maurice. Every second week Evéline got up early, pregnant or not, to prepare breakfast for the entire household. In addition to the families, there were employees who worked at the mills.*

*A third child is underway. In 1944 the couple with their family moved on the opposite side of the bridge in a house belonging to Benoît. Evéline asked her husband to have basic facilities installed to facilitate the task of caring for her family.*

*Éveline, was a resourceful woman. She had no time for leisure having given birth to 12 children, nine boys and three girls of which three passed away shortly after childbirth.*

*Her children were her priority, that they be educated and that their basic needs be always satisfied. She recalls seeing seven of her children leaving for school in the morning after having had a good breakfast and with their lunch, that she had prepared the previous evening. Many of her boys went to specialized schools and required costumes. This necessitated that she become a good seamstress sewing trousers and shirts. Today she is very proud. They all have successful lives.*

*In September 1981, there was a feast organized to celebrate her 40th wedding anniversary with Benoît. It was an exceptional day to socialize with the families.*

*On February 9, 1984, Benoît passed away at the age of 73 years and two months. He accepted with courage the disease that quickly put an end to his life. For a year and one half she lived alone in her home and mingled with members of the Golden age club in Champlain playing cards and visiting her family.*

*Her neighbour's father, M. Willie Poirier was fond of her and they were married on May 9, 1986 in Champlain where they lived for 13 years in Evéline's home. For their honeymoon they went to the Botanical Gardens in Montréal and visited families. Thanks to Willie she travelled to various countries. Willie died at the age of 90 on October 30, 1998 after a short illness*

*Winters were difficult alone in her big house and her children worried about her. In April 1999 she moved in a house in Trois Rivières. Soon thereafter she moved into an apartment at residence Richelieu in Trois Rivières. She has access to all necessary services and is in security. At the age of 93 she is still autonomous, looks after her apartment does some cooking and goes grocery shopping with her cousin. When an opportunity arises for an outing, she never says no. It is good for her spirit. She is always interested in the life of her children and they frequently visit her.*



*Éveline Levasseur with her husband Benoît Dufresne on the day of their 40th wedding anniversary*

*Her son Rosaire passed away at the age of 60 on August 23, 2010. He never had a chance to enjoy his retirement. Cancer of the colon quickly spread to his brain, an insidious disease, no pain and no family doctor. Two hours prior to his death, Éveline said to him: «Go, you have suffered enough» Éveline claims that: «It is said that our journey is pre-defined and I think it is true»*

*Éveline is proud to say « I can still be of service and provide assistance to members of my family when they are in need». In August 2011, her daughter Danielle had a brain operation and Éveline was at her side to accompany her. In 2011, her family includes six boys and two daughters, thirteen grand children and seven great-grand children*

*Here is the story of a mother who has been afflicted, though conscious of what she has lived through, she remains calm and serene willing to accept what life has given her.*

*Éveline confides to me « I am ready to go but I am in no hurry».*

*Thank you Madame Éveline, listening to you is a worthwhile lesson...*

*Mrs. Danielle Dufresne, daughter of Éveline Levasseur died on June 25, 2012 in Trois-Rivières. The Levasseur Association of America offers to Éveline and her family our condolences.*



## Errata

Errata on page 5 and 6 of the last Newsletter (December 2012) pertaining to the identification of a member.

The name of the person in the heading is Roger M. Levasseur from Tyngborough and not Roger Marchand Levasseur.

The direct lineage of the ancestor has also been corrected

The corrected pages 5 and 6 have been inserted in the archives of the Newsletter. You can access the corrected version by downloading the following:

French version: [http://www.levasseur.org/bulletin/pdf/2012\\_12\\_f\\_25.pdf](http://www.levasseur.org/bulletin/pdf/2012_12_f_25.pdf)

English version: [http://www.levasseur.org/bulletin/pdf/2012\\_12\\_f\\_25.pdf](http://www.levasseur.org/bulletin/pdf/2012_12_f_25.pdf)

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PHELANISE LEVASSEUR  
EPOUSE D'EUGENE GAHETTE

# New application to access the Levasseur of America data base



By: Jean-Pierre Levasseur (250)

You will notice a significant difference to gain access the Levasseur Association data base file. A major up-date was made when changing from the 4,10 versions to the 6,03 software. Of the major changes made, note the possibility of navigating through the genealogical tree of the person listed on the screen. Many different screen displays are recommended in the lower portion of the Web page.

If you have not already done so, go to the Web site and access the Data base after having inserted your user name and password.

We are grateful to François Levasseur whose contributions have led to the development of this new friendly user interface on the web.

## GENEWEB

GeneWeb is a genealogy software with a web interface created by Daniel de Rauglaudre. It can be installed locally on a stand-alone machine and on any web server. It comes with an efficient relationship and consanguinity calculator developed in collaboration with Didier Rémy, Research Director at INRIA.

## RELATIONSHIP AND CONSANGUINITY CALCULATOR

GeneWeb comes with an efficient relationship and consanguinity calculator. The relationship calculator calculates the family relationship between two persons

who share one or more common ancestors. It displays the lines from the two persons to the common ancestors and the type of relationship: cousin, once-removed, twice-removed, etc.

The consanguinity rate is 25% for siblings, 6.25% for first cousins, etc. It can help to understand inbreeding in families. For example, the consanguinity rate of the parents of Charles II of Spain was 25.26% because of multiple inbreeding marriages and though they were not siblings. GeneWeb is one of the few genealogy softwares that can calculate relationship and consanguinity rate.

## MULTILINGUAL INTERFACE

GeneWeb has a multilingual interface currently translated into the following languages: German, English, Danish, Spanish, Finnish, French, Italian, Dutch, Swedish.

Source : [www.geneweb.org](http://www.geneweb.org)

*Consanguinity ("blood relation", from the Latin consanguinitas) refers to the property of being from the same kinship as another person. In that respect, consanguinity is the quality of being descended from the same ancestor as another person.*

# The Levasseurs

## Master carpenters and sculptors

More concerned about their survival and well-being, our ancestors have nevertheless conserved a taste for beauty inherited from France. From the start the colony, this artistic concern was reflected in architecture, cabinet making, painting, sculpture and to a certain extent in music and theater. Since many of our forefathers were illiterate, they became involved in literature at a latter date..

The French-Canadian spirit wrote Mgr Camille Roy <sup>(1)</sup>, is certainly based on French qualities that were more or less modified by the new conditions in which they developed. This spirit kept the genius of the race, its intellectual virtues and an innate taste for the art. It also took pleasure in ideas and in general discussions of doctrine while retaining the traditional discipline: the need for a method, logic, clarity and elegance all characteristics of the French culture. It also contained elements of fiery passions, enthusiasm and mysticism received from violent and dreaming races who populated the North of France"

So, discipline, method, clarity and elegance are all qualities reflected in the Levasseur: the first dynasty among Canadian sculptors.

"Many will be astonished by the quality and diversity of the ancient sculptures of Quebec will note Jean Trudel <sup>(2)</sup>. If they are not considered "grand art", they are at least the equivalent of the French provincial production of the time. The frankness and the honesty of the execution (where the awkwardness sometimes create a certain charm) remains the dominant qualities of these sculptures which were never created in bad taste. They resembled those who created them or ordered them."

« In the seventeenth century, says Trudel, we soon ceased to import sculptures from France. And yet, there was a great need for the decoration of proliferating churches and chapels. The school of Saint-Joachim <sup>(3)</sup> proves this desire to manufacture everything at home. Perhaps it was for reasons of economy but it was most certainly the beginning of Canadian sculpture. Several sculptors came from France and Belgium and many more were carpenters. They switched easily from carpentry to sculpture when it was not to architecture"

The Levasseur family is the most striking example of master carpenters who, through their skill and initiative, invaded a natural field of action that was wide open. It is unclear whether the brothers Jean and Pierre Levasseur came together in New France. According to Gérard Morisset <sup>(4)</sup>. The older could have sailed to America with Governor Jean de Lauzon, in October 1651.



*Source : Le  
Nouveliste,  
Saturday, December  
27, 1980 (P20)*

*With the special  
contribution of  
Jacques Saint-Onge*

## Jean Levasseur said Lavigne

Jean Levasseur dit Lavigne was born circa 1622, the son of Noël, a master carpenter of Paris, and Geneviève Ganges (Ganche). They lived on the Rue Guérin-Boisseau, in the parish of Saint-Nicolas-des-Champs <sup>(5)</sup>. On 24 April 1645, before the notaries Phil Le Cat and Jean Le Semelier, Jean passed a marriage contract with Margaret Richard, daughter of Nicolas, a master artisan, and Jeanne Bonet. Louis, the eldest son, was born in France and crossed the Atlantic with his parents. Anne was born and baptized in Québec on July 22, 1652.

It appears that Jean Levasseur specifically came to Canada with the intention of sharing his experience in the art of carpentry with the inhabitants of this new country. On 13 August 1654, he was hired by Parish Council of Notre-Dame de Québec for the general maintenance of the church for the sum of thirty cents a day. Inadequate income of course, Louis D'ailleboust will try to provide compensation by giving him three concessions : one in Québec, another one in La Seigneurie de Coulonge and a third one on the north side of L'Ile d'Orléans.

In Paris, the house on the Rue Guérin-Boisseau was owned by Marguerite Richard and remained the property of the Levasseur family until their departure to Canada. In the fall of 1660, duly authorized and mandated by his wife, and accompanied by his son Louis, Jean sailed back to France to sell the building. Louis remained a few years in France since on 18 September 1662, he is at Montreuil-sous-Bois with Gilles de Beddé.

It's as first usher of the Council of the Sovereign of New France that Jean Levasseur is well known. His name is mentioned in hundreds of acts, minutes of proceedings and judgments of the Superior Court and Appeal Court. According to Morisset, this function forced Levasseur to neglect somewhat the practice of his profession. However, he took the opportunity to engage in property speculation. It appears that Jean was affected by the illness late in life, as stated in the marriage contract of his daughter Anne-Félicité with Jean Hamel, 23 April 1685 <sup>(7)</sup>. The ancestor is called to the House of "Le Père", August 30, 1686. His funeral will be conducted the next day in the parish church of Québec.

## Pierre Levasseur said l'espérance

Pierre Levasseur dit L'Espérance is more interested by those who bear this name in la Mauricie and les Bois-Francs as most of them, if not all, were his descendants. Born in France around 1629, this master carpenter may have crossed the seas with his brother Jean, although ancient manuscripts will only mention this for first time on the occasion of his marriage, October 23, 1655. That day, he stood at the altar of Notre-Dame de Québec to bless his marriage with Jeanne de Chanverlange, daughter of Antoine and Martha Guérin, Saint-Ursin at Bourges, Berry.

With Guillaume Loyer, Pierre Biron, François Gariépy, Pierre Miville and Ravmond Pagé, the brothers Jean and Pierre Levasseur appear as the leaders who demanded the formation of a "Brotherhood of Madame Sainte- Anne." This Organization was created the church of Québec, May 1, 1657, and the founding ceremony was presided by Father Joseph Poncet, duly authorized by his superior, Father Jean de Quen. "The Brotherhood, wrote Abbé Auguste Gosselin <sup>(8)</sup>, was intended primarily for the working class, carpenters and trades people in general. It was a true union of prayer and spiritual help. It was directed by a chaplain and two fellow brothers, who were elected annually by secret ballot. Entrance fees

Signature of Jean Levasseur

... « It appears that Jean Levasseur specifically came to Canada with the intention of sharing his experience in the art of carpentry with the inhabitants of this new country..»

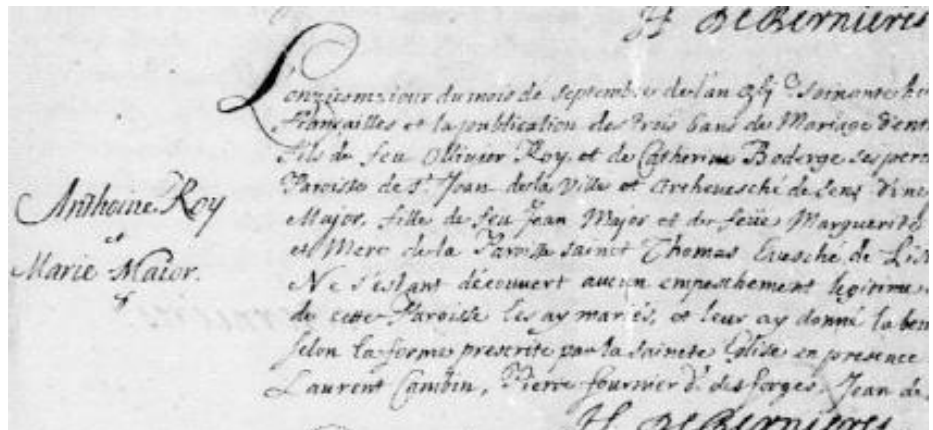
were paid, membership was signed and an annual fee levied. The income was used for celebration of mass, funeral services for deceased colleagues and the decoration of the Chapel of Sainte-Anne, also called the Chapel of the Workers.

Shortly after his marriage, Pierre Levasseur resided on a cliff-edge, with a double front land of approximately two acres by about twenty-four deep. The land was located in Grande Allée, between that of Pierre Chappau and the Seigneurie of Sillery. This land was granted in 1651 to Jacques Goulet, and then passed into the hands of Simon Legendre and Jacques Nourry. On 4 March 1657<sup>(9)</sup>, Nourry sold the property to Pierre Levasseur but the following year, Pierre denied being the owner although he had occupied it for the last two years. It was the truth as on 1 November 1662, Nourry will sell it to Sébastien Langelier for \$ 120 pounds complete with a building and a cabin<sup>(10)</sup>.

Meanwhile, Pierre Levasseur attempted to establish himself in the fief of Argentenay, L'Île d'Orléans. From 1658 he occupied a land near his brother Jean, without holding an official title. He even built a house and outbuildings but he never did get used to country life, away from his main passion, carpentry. On 20 August 1663<sup>(11)</sup> for the sum of 140 pounds, he sold his work complete with grain harvest to Vincent Chrétien saying he had worked in good faith with the hope of obtaining a title.

Between 1663 and 1689, Pierre Levasseur is cited several times in cases argued before the Sovereign Council. On 17 November 1663, the brothers Levasseur, master carpenters, as well as master-masons Jean Montfort and Jean Charlet, and the master carpenter Jean Lemire, were called to provide the result of their estimate for the presbytery of Québec. When sued for debt, Pierre will choose to be represented by his wife, wanting to avoid engaging himself in a kind of spectacle. The same minutes of the Sovereign Council mentions the work he performed at the Chateau St. Louis in 1665 and the church of Beauport in 1674. The following year his brother Jean used his services at the home of Nicolas Dupont in Neuville in the lower town of Québec. On August 15 1685<sup>(12)</sup>, with the collaboration of carpenter Léonard Paillard, Pierre will undertake to build a house for Robert LeClerc.

Like any good expert, the ancestor Pierre Levasseur dit Lespérance has trained students, including Richard Grouard, "dit La Rose and Jean Huet. His family had been listed in the census report for the first time in 1667; it will be again in 1681 in the Upper Town of Québec<sup>(13)</sup>. That year, the two eldest daughters,



Antoine Roy dit Desjardins married Marie Major from Normandy. She was a «fille du Roi» (daughter of the King). She was from the St. Thomas parish in the city of Touques in the Calvados district. Her parents were Jean, receiver of the «Heuqueville-en-Vexin et d'Aubeuf-en-Vexin, baronny» and her mother was Margueritte LePelé. Their marriage contract was signed in Jean Levasseur dit Lavigne's home. He housed many «filles du Roy» when they came to the country. Marie Major dowry was 300 pounds. (source: <http://histoiresdancetres.com>)

«Peu après son mariage, Pierre Levasseur ira demeurer sur la falaise, où il occupera une terre double d'un front de deux arpents sur environ vingt-quatre de profondeur.»



Françoise and Marguerite, had already left home as they had taken spouses. Jeanne Chanverlange is also absent, indicating that she may have already left for a better world in 1681. The ancestor is 52 years old, owns a cow and operates twelve acres of farm in Côte Saint-Michel (Sillery). His children Pierre, Jeanne, Félicité, Antoine and François are still with him.

In 1689, Pierre Levasseur was still alive. On 19 December 1694 <sup>(14)</sup>, the marriage contract of his son Francis, who had probably taken over the succession from his father at the Côte Saint-Michel, mentions that the ancestor had already left this world, having spent forty years in his adopted homeland helping the young colony to build a better future.

Notes :

- (1) Histoire de la littérature canadienne (Québec, 1930), page 13.
- (2) Sculpture traditionnelle de Québec (Québec, 1967), page 7.
- (3) The School of Arts and Crafts in St. Joachim was the first of its kind in Canada. It was led by a contingent of artisans, painters, guilders, carpenters, masons and sculptors. It included Michel François, Samuel Genner, Guillaume Jourdain dit Labrosse, Pierre Rivière, Michel Leblond dit Le Picard. This institution enjoyed the most fruitful period of its history under the leadership of Father John Soumande, between 1695 and 1705.
- (4) Dictionnaire biographique du Canada, volume I, page 484.
- (5) Mémoires de la Société généalogique canadienne-française , no 3 (1949), Pages 203 et 204.
- (6) Acte de Guillaume Audouart.
- (7) Acte de François Genaple.
- (8) Vie de Mgr de Laval, page 227 et 228.
- (9) Acte de Guillaume Audouart
- (10) Marcel Trudel, "Le terrier du Saint-Laurent en 1613", page 219.
- (11) Acte de Guillaume Audouart
- (12) Actes de Gilles Rageot.
- (13) Benjamin Sulte Histoire des Canadiens français, volume V, page 57.
- (14) Acte de François Genaple.



### *Carpenter's Brotherhood of Madame Sainte Anne*

*On August 5, 1658, the carpenters of Québec requested permission to establish the Carpentry Brotherhood of Sainte Anne similar to the Carpenter's Brotherhood in Paris. The request was granted according to the Jesuit Journal of the time on Sunday, the last day of March 1659*

*These Québec carpenters were the only trade group to abide by the rules of a brotherhood whose origins were from France. The French Brotherhood existed in the 12th century. In 1858 a Church edict annulled the Brotherhood. However, the corporation continued to grow with industrialization but was transformed to a union of trades keeping essential rules and statutes and abandoning religious rites*

*A master carpenter directed the brotherhood. He was responsible for the apprenticeship, religious and dutiful obligations of the members of the brotherhood. This lengthy apprenticeship was called, «Guilds».*

*Source : [http://bv.cdeacf.ca/RA\\_PDF/2876.pdf](http://bv.cdeacf.ca/RA_PDF/2876.pdf)*



## Roland Rene Levasseur 1934-2012

*Roland Rene Levasseur, 78, of Hudson and formerly of Lowell, MA, died Saturday morning, October 20, 2012 at Greenbriar Terrace Healthcare in Nashua after a period of declining health.*

*A native of Lowell, he was born on July 25, 1934, a son of the late Rene and Bertha (Coutu) Levasseur. Roland resided in Lowell for many years and was educated in local schools. A Marine Corps veteran, Mr. Levasseur served as a Sergeant during the Korean War from January 1954 to January 1957.*

*Roland married Theresa A. Leblanc in Lowell, MA on July 19, 1958. The Levasseur's moved to Hudson, NH in 1964 and have made their home there for the past 48 years. Mr. Levasseur had been employed with the Redman Card Clothing Company in Andover, MA for several years and later worked as a production foreman for Hampshire Manufacturing in Nashua until his retirement.*

*A communicant of St. John The Evangelist Church of Hudson, Roland was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5791 and was a member of the American Legion Post 48 both of Hudson. In his leisure time, Roland was an avid Ten Pin bowler.*

*Members of his family include his wife of 54 years, Theresa A. Levasseur of Hudson; two sons, Gerard Levasseur of Hudson and Roger Levasseur and his wife Joan of Tyngsborough, MA; two grandchildren, Matthew and Heather Levasseur of Tyngsborough; two brothers, Richard Joseph Levasseur and his wife Linda of Leesburg, Florida and Paul Levasseur of Concord, NH; a sister, Suzanne Renoux and her husband Kenneth of Meredith, NH; also nieces, nephews and cousins.*

*Laurent Levasseur about 1648 -1726*

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*Pierre Levasseur 1679-1738*

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*Joseph Levasseur about 1719-1781*

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*Joseph Levasseur about 1748-1823*

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*Joseph Levasseur 1790-1873*

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*Joseph Levasseur 1816-1903*

|

*Louis Levasseur 1852-1943*

|

*Pierre Pantaleon Levasseur 1884-1954*

|

*René Levasseur 1910-1988*

|

*Roland R. Levasseur 1934-2012*



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Send us your business card and it will be published in all printed and electronically produced issues of the Levasseur Newsletter. It will also be listed on our Web site in the section «Our Sponsors». The cost: \$ 30.00 per year. This opportunity offers you a modern and ideal method to reach potential clients. It will also help support the Association financially. You can contact us at: [webmaster@levasseur.org](mailto:webmaster@levasseur.org) to initiate this promotion.



The Coat of Arms has been granted and assigned by the Herald of Canada on October 15, 1997 to l'Association des Levasseur d'Amérique:

Azure a chevron between an oak tree an base and a chief Argent charged with a maple leaf Gules between dexter a fleur-de-lis and sinister a mullet Azure ; And for a Motto: DU MIEUX QUE JE PUIS

The Association, Levasseur d'Amérique Inc. is a non-profit organization, founded in 1988, in accordance to a federal charter. Its goals are:

To join together and unite a large number of Levasseur and other descendants who have adopted the patronymic Borgia, Carmel, Carmell, Vasseur, Vassor, Vasser.

To organize meetings and gatherings that reinforce links between the members of the great Levasseur family.

To promote, develop and diffuse historical genealogical knowledge about the Levasseur families with Internet, an electronic Newsletter published three times per year also the publication of genealogical dictionaries.

To maintain and update, on an ongoing basis, the genealogical data base available to members at all times on the Internet.

To make available to members a family photo album and the Newsletters that the Association has published since 1988.

To honor the memory of our forefathers and their descendants by way of monuments, plaques or symbolic gestures that commemorate historic events that are chronicle the Levasseur family.

To gather all documents related to the Levasseur family for the purpose of constructing archives that will constitute the heritage or our Association and that will provide a source of information for historians and genealogists.

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## The Levasseur Newsletter

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