

Levasseur

Newsletter

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Photo of the main page:

Port of La Rochelle from which 36 King's daughters departed in 1663

Photo :

<http://genealogiefrancoisbigras.wordpress.com/origine/>



Other topics for the next Newsletter (December 2014)

- Report on the Levasseur gathering in Trois Rivières
- Report on the General meeting of the Association
- New procedure for the distribution of the Newsletter
- The Association's shop site store



Editorial

When you read these lines, the gathering of families Levasseur in Trois-Rivières will have been held. Given the number of entries received, it appears that the remarkable participation of Levasseurs from the Trois-Rivières area will have made this event a noteworthy success.

It would be difficult to express individual thanks to all those who contributed to the organization of this gathering. However, we express our special gratitude to the team, who under the direction of André Levasseur and his wife Irene, contributed to make this event a success.

It is already time to think about the next meeting of the Levasseur. We invite our members to initiate and organize in their locality the next Levasseur gathering.

In this issue, you will find a continuation of Huguette Levasseur's article on Les Filles du Roy (King's Daughters) a short history of the sinking of the Empress of Ireland and a biography of Reverend Brother Gérard Levasseur, of the St-Viateur religious order. Some time ago, Brother Gérard was my teacher during my early school years when I lived in Trois-Pistoles. I remember his perseverance to make us love and properly apply the rules of the French language grammar.

For the production of this issue of the Newsletter our volunteers have spent many hours. Four times per year, our challenge is to gather articles for publication and also ensure the availability of our support team to review and translate the articles published.

This is a call to all. You are invited to submit articles for future issues of the newsletter. Send us information with photos about your respective Levasseur family or articles pertaining to accomplishments by Levasseurs. It is essential to assure the continuation of the newsletter four times per year. Our publication is probably the best media for the continuity of the history of the Levasseur family. The newsletter team needs your help!

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



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Port of La Rochelle from which 36 King's daughters departed in 1663

Anne LeBlanc,

grandmother of 16 Levasseur

by: [Huguette Levasseur](#) (380)

A large number of Québécois have among their ancestors one of the King's daughters. In 1663 the colony of New France had only 3000 people and King Louis XIV wanted to increase its population. From 1663 to 1672, some 764 girls came to the country to marry and participate in the development of the colony. Our ancestors, Jean and Pierre Levasseur, who lived in the country before 1663, were already married. Jean was married in Paris and Pierre was married in Québec. The ancestor Laurent Levasseur, arrived in New France in 1663. He married, on April 30, 1670 in Québec, Marie Marchand, a young girl who arrived in the colony with her parents. It can be said that ancestors Levasseur, Jean, Pierre and Laurent did not marry any of the King's Daughters in New-France.

Let's look at the second generation of the Levasseur living in New-France. Did the children of the Levasseur ancestors marry their either sons or daughters

Pierre Levasseur's son, Pierre, was married to a girl whose mother was a King's daughter.

with children of women who were King's daughters? According to the book 'the King's daughters and their husbands' and the genealogical dictionaries published by the Levasseur Association of America, for Jean, Pierre and Laurent Levasseur, neither Jean or Laurent's children were married to children whose mothers were King's daughters.

However, Pierre Levasseur's son, Pierre, was married to a girl whose mother was a King's daughter. He married, in second marriage, Anne Ménage on March 18, 1696, in the Notre-Dame de Québec church. Anne was the daughter of Pierre Ménage and Anne LeBlanc, a King's Daughter.

Anne LeBlanc, King's Daughter

Anne LeBlanc, according to author Yves Landry, is the daughter of Nicolas LeBlanc and late Anne Gaultier. Her father was a merchant and Inn keeper. Jeanne was baptized on December 7, 1654, in Saint-Martin de Île de Ré, a parish in the diocese of La Rochelle. Anne has a brother who was baptized on April 16, 1656. His mother died at the age of 40 and was buried on March 29, 1669, at Saint-Martin. Her father married a second time July 29, 1670, with Suzanne Prévost, at Saint-Martin.

On June 9, 1672, three years after the death of her mother, Anne LeBlanc with a group of 15 girls came to New-France. Most of them embark from the port in Le Havre in France, on the ship "The Nativity" bound for Quebec. The boat made a stop in La Rochelle. Anne more than likely boarded at this location. The boat arrived in Quebec City on August 3, 1672, after some fifty-five days of sailing. Anne was 17 years old bringing goods valued at 200 pounds.

In New-France, at that time, there were more men of marrying age than there were girls. Men who had a land and a job were more likely to find a mate. Four months after her arrival at Quebec, on November 30, 1672, Anne LeBlanc entered a contract before notary Becquet with Pierre Ménage, a 32 years old, carpenter who resided in the Rivière Saint-Charles, Quebec. The contract indicates that many people attended the event including: Louis Buade Frontenac,

Governor of New-France, a few members of his entourage, Marie Langlois, cousin of the future bride, and her husband Julien Constantineau, who resided in the Rivière Saint-Charles. The religious marriage of Anne LeBlanc and Pierre Ménage was held a few months later on March 13, 1673 at Notre-Dame de Québec. Anne knew how to sign. Pierre did not know. After their marriage, the couple is expected to have lived on the Saint-Charles River for a few years, as Pierre was a land owner in this location. The acts of baptism of their first two children indicate that the parents lived in the Petite Rivière (Saint-Charles).

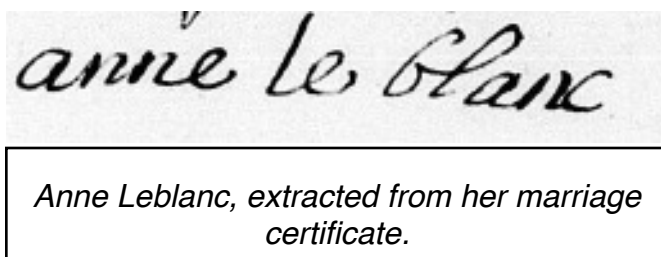
Pierre Ménage, Anne Leblanc's husband

Who is Pierre Ménage? He is a carpenter who arrived a few years previously in New-France. He is the son of the late François Mesnage, a merchant

from Poitiers in Poitou, and Françoise Lunette. Pierre was baptized January 4, 1641. A record of his name is first noted in the colony, on April 23, 1669, for his confirmation at the Notre-Dame de Québec church. On November, 17 of the same year, he bought 120 acres on the Rivière Saint-Charles, Quebec, land situated in the seigneurie of Saint-Ignace. Today, this land is located in the sector of boulevard Père Lelièvre, Québec. Pierre Ménage entered a first contract to marry on December 7, 1670 before the notary Duquet with Dorothee Brassard, however this contract was annulled on May 3, 1671.

Pierre Ménage rented his land on March 15, 1671 to Jean Gelly in return for half of the grain harvest. It is believed that Pierre, the carpenter, wanted to move closer to the Upper Town of Quebec to practice his profession. There were many institutions in this locality, such as: the Fort and Château Saint-Louis, the Jesuits convent, that of the Ursulines, the Hôtel-Dieu and the parish church. On November 30, 1673, Pierre Ménage purchased from of Adrien Michelin a quarter acre in the Haute-Ville de Québec, located on rue St.-Louis, on the corner of the street, rue des Jardins.

Many contracts certify that Pierre Ménage worked on several projects in this area. Listed are a few. Pierre, in exchange for a dwelling situated on land having two acres of frontage by thirty in depth in Côte St-Gabriel, built in 1675 the small house for the



slate roofer, François Jacquet, a house situated on rue St.-Louis, in the western corner of la rue des Jardins in Québec. This typical house under the French Regime had 25 feet of frontage and 20 feet in width. It still exists today and houses the restaurant «Les Anciens Canadiens».

In 1678, Pierre Ménage was awarded the official title of carpenter by the King. The same year, he sold his home of the Côte Saint-Gabriel for the sum of £ 500, payable by an annuity of £ 25. In 1681, with his colleague Jean Marchand, he is hired by the order, Les Religieuses Hospitallières de Hôtel-Dieu, to build a mansard, three pavilions and three staircases.

The 1681 census, mentions that the couple Ménage-LeBlanc lived in the Upper Town of Quebec. They were the parents of four children aged one year, 3, 5 and 7 years. Pierre owned a rifle, two cows and six acres. It is believed that Pierre Ménage, after buying land in 1675, at the corner of Street Saint-Louis and les Jardins street, built a house. We know that his house on rue St.-Louis, had two floors and measured seventy feet and ten inches by fifty-seven feet and a half. This house consisted of two parts. One of them was rented. We don't know the date of construction of the house. We know that in 1682, he hired the services of the masons François Lavergne and Pierre Serat to build four chimneys of stone for his home.

In 1682, a serious fire broke out in the Lower Town of Quebec. Fifty-five buildings were destroyed. In 1683, Pierre Ménage associated himself with Jean Caillé to build houses (la Basse-ville) Lower Town, namely the construction of a house for the Jesuits in the port of Québec, the construction of loft on Leber house in Upper Town. He also worked with his partner

on François Hurault's house. After the fire of their convent in 1686, the Ursuline nuns hired both partners, under contract for the reconstruction of the structure of their monastery. They also build a main building. At the end of 1688, Monseigneur de Saint-Vallier uses their services. Ménage and Caillé are called upon to build a loft and a small bell-tower on the masonry of the Church in Lower-Town, which today is called, Notre-Dame-des-Victoires Church. They are also committed to build a Bell Tower on the Quebec cathedral.



Maison François-Jacquet-Dit-Langevin 34, rue Saint-Louis, Québec, Québec, G1R, Canada

In November 1691, Pierre Ménage and his partner Caillé are entrusted the task of building a structure 100 feet in length by the Order, Les Religieuses Hospitallières de Hôtel-Dieu. The following year, in 1692, the Governor of New-France, Louis Buade de Frontenac hires them to build the first part of his house located in the Château St-

Louis and in 1693, their services are retained for the construction of the other half of the House.

Pierre Ménage enters into many other contracts. He also trains few students as apprentices. After renting his home on the Saint-Charles River for several years, he sold it on 16, 1686 to Sylvain Duplais. He also rented a portion of his house on rue St.-Louis, starting in 1688. Pierre Ménage is hospitalized at Hôtel-Dieu of Quebec, on July 1, 1692. In 1699 he trades his house on rue St.-Louis, with that of François Lajoue, his son-in-law, who lives at Les Jardins street. Pierre died in Quebec City on April 16, 1715, at the age of 74. He was buried the next day.

Anne LeBlanc, mother.

According to PRDH, the couple Anne LeBlanc and Pierre Ménage gave birth to ten children, four sons and six daughters. Four children died in infancy.

Marie-Anne Ménage was born on February 22, 1674 at the Petite Rivière (Saint-Charles) in Québec. She married François Lajoüe on November 3, 1689 in Quebec City at the age of 15, he was about 33 years old. This surveyor, architect-contractor, master mason and engineer had arrived that same year and lived in the Ménage home before his marriage. François Lajoüe was involved in the construction of numerous buildings in Quebec City including: the construction of a building for the Order of les Religieuses Hospitalières de Hôtel-Dieu, the preparation of plans for the Chateau and the new Fort St-Louis, the construction of the Saint-Jean gate. François Lajoüe contributed to the restoration of the Church of Sainte-Famille. He played a very important role in construction field in Quebec. The Lajoüe -Ménage couple lived in Quebec, on rue St.-Louis, in the Jacquet house between 1689 and 1699. Marie-Anne had inherited this house upon the death of her godfather François Jacquet in 1677. The couple will give birth to seven girls. One of them, Marie-Agnes Lajoüe married on January 7, 1719, Pierre-Noël Levasseur, son of Pierre 2 and his first wife, Madeleine Chapeau. Pierre-Noël is the grandson of the ancestor Pierre Levasseur. Marie-Anne Ménage was buried March 16, 1703, at the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec cemetery. She was 29 years old.

Marie Anne Ménage was born November 7, 1676, Petite Rivière (Saint-Charles) in Québec. She uses the name of Anne when she married Pierre Levasseur Dit Lespérance on 18 March 1696, at Notre-Dame de Québec. The couple received a waiver of the three bans and for lent. Sixteen children were born of their union. (See text below)

François Ménage was born on December 22, 1678, in Quebec City. He died on May 8, 1687, at the age of 8.

Marie Madeleine Ménage was born on 26 April 1681. Her parents lived the Upper Town of Quebec. The child died two months later.

Marie Madeleine Ménage was born on October 5, 1682 and died a month and a half later.

Jean Ménage was born on February 9, 1684, in Quebec City. He became a priest and parish priest of Deschambault and Grondines. He died at the

dawn of his 89 years; He was buried on January 12, 1773 at Deschambault.

Marie-Madeleine Ménage was born on May 1, 1686 in Quebec. At 19, she married Pierre Gauvreau, widower, master-gunsmith aged 31, on November 23, 1686 in Quebec. The couple had eight children of whom five died at a very young age. Pierre died on 4 February 1717, at the age of 43. Marie Madeleine married, in second marriage, Philippe Damour on February 12, 1722, in Quebec City. The couple had three children. Marie-Madeleine died on April 17, 1726 in Quebec, a few days after the birth of her third child and on the eve of her 40th birthday.

François Ménage was born on January 26, 1688, in Quebec and died September 16, 1690, at the age of 2 and a half.

Marie Thérèse Ménage was born on April 23, 1690, in Québec. She joined the religious Order of les Religieuses Hospitalières de Hôtel Dieu de Québec in 1707. Her parents paid 2,500 pounds for her pension on November 26, 1707. Marie-Thérèse died on December 19, 1736, at the age of 46.

François Ménage was born on September 20, 1692, in Quebec City. Anne LeBlanc, his mother asks for a guardianship for him on March 10, 1717, following the death of her husband, Pierre Ménage. François travelled to the islands of America. Anne has little hope of his return. It is believed that Francis left for the islands of Martinique or Guadeloupe in the French colonies.

Anne LeBlanc, mother-in-law of Pierre Levasseur 2

Anne Ménage, one of the daughters of Anne LeBlanc and Pierre Ménage. She entered a marriage with Pierre Levasseur before the notary, Bellefonds Genaple, on March 17, 1696. The religious wedding was celebrated March 18, 1696, in Quebec City. Marie-Anne was 19 years old whereas Pierre was 35. Pierre is a widower since June 1, 1695, following the death of his first wife Madeleine Chapeau at the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec. Three children were born of this first union. Their first child died in infancy. Marie Madeleine died at the age of 6 ½ and Pierre-Noël at the age of 5 shortly before the time of his father's remarriage. Pierre is master carpenter and lives on Mont-Carmel street in Québec. Today his house would be located where the Château Frontenac presently stands, on Mont-Carmel, West of des Carrières street and facing Le Jardin des Gouverneurs.

His residence is in proximity of the Fort and Château Saint-Louis. The Ménage and Levasseur families knew one another because of their father's profession, the first being master carpenter and the other also a master carpenter. The two families lived in Upper Town of Quebec

Anne LeBlanc, grandmother of 16 Levasseur.

Anne Ménage and Pierre Levasseur 2 had sixteen children born in Quebec of which nine make it to adulthood. In 1703, a smallpox epidemic was raging in Quebec and 300-400 people died. Quebec lost a quarter of its population. It is believed that their first two children, who died a few days apart, were victims of this epidemic.

Marie-Anne Levasseur was born on February 12, 1697 and died January 13, 1703, in Quebec City, at the age of 6.

Marie-Jeanne Levasseur was born on October 30, 1698 and died January 4, 1703, at the age of 4.

François Levasseur/Chaverlange was born on 29 July 1700. He married Marie Madeleine Legris Lépine in Quebec City on April 5, 1728. They had six children. The couple lived in Québec. The parish census of Québec from 1744, record their family as living in Upper Town, near Fort St-Louis. François died July 4, 1747 in Quebec.

Anne Levasseur was born on 5 March 1702.

Pierre Levasseur dit Carmel was born on 19 November 1703. He married four times. Pierre was master carpenter. He died in Boucherville where he resided on February 27, 1779, at the age of 75. Descendants of Pierre Levasseur dit Carmel today bear the name of Carmel. Here is the list of his marriages:

1 st marriage: Pierre married Marie-Anne Bénard in Boucherville, November 14, 1729. The couple had no children.

2 nd marriage: Pierre married Marie-Anne Pépin on February 26, 1732 in Boucherville. Three daughters were born of this marriage.

3 rd marriage: Pierre married Jeanne Lupien/Baron on November 28, 1744 at the church Notre-Dame de Montréal. The couple had 5 children.

4 th marriage: Pierre married Anne Catherine Lacoudray on October 2, 1758 in Varennes. The couple had no children.

Barthélémy Levasseur was born on 15 January 1705. He married Marie-Louise Favreau in Boucherville on April 28, 1732. The couple had six children. Barthélemy died on October 8, 1744 in Boucherville.

Marie Anne Levasseur was born on March 16, 1706, and died four days later..

François Louis Borgia Levasseur was born on April 4, 1704. He married Marie-Hélène Moreau in Quebec, on May 2, 1730. The couple had 22 children. François Louis died February 7, 1780, in Quebec City. Their descendants will bear the family name of Borgia.

François Ignace Levasseur was born on September 3, 1708. He was ordained priest in Quebec City, October 18, 1734. He was parish priest of Champlain in 1739, and then at Lorette, in 1752. He died July 20, 1765, in l'Ancienne-Lorette.

Augustin Alexis Levasseur was born on November 26, 1709 and died November 13, 1720, at Quebec, at age 11.

Étienne Levasseur was born on 6 January 1711.

Denis-Joseph Levasseur was born on February 11, 1712. He married Marie Charlotte Couturier on February 4, 1738, in Saint-François-du-Lac. The bride and groom knew how to sign. Nine children were born from that union. Denis-Joseph died at Trois-Rivières on 14 October 1792. This couple had numerous descendants in the region of Trois-Rivières and in the Province of Quebec.

Marie-Anne Thérèse Levasseur was born on February 25, 1713. She was married at Sainte-Foy, on May 10, 1734, with Philippe Hamel. The couple had no children. Marie-Thérèse died at Sainte-Foy, November 8, 1738, at the age of 25.

Marie Madeleine Levasseur was born on July 23, 1714 and died twelve days later on August 4, 1714 in Charlesbourg.

Jean Baptiste Levasseur was born on September 19, 1715. He married Marie Angélique Favreau May 2, 1742 in Boucherville. The couple had 2 children who died at a very young age. Jean

Baptiste died on June 3, 1745, at Contrecoeur at the age of 29.

François Didace Levasseur was born on October 20, 1717 and died on 12 January 1744, in Quebec City, at the age 26 years.

After the death of Pierre Ménage, in 1715, Anne LeBlanc, a King's daughter manages the estate of her husband. Pierre Ménage had no debts; he passes on to her a house and a location on Saint-Louis Street in Quebec City. For many years, Anne rents a portion of his house. Anne died on rue Mont-Carmel, at her daughter Anne home on the eve of his 80th birthday. She was Pierre Levasseur's widow. Anne was buried on November 28, 1734, in Quebec City. The succession of the Ménage-LeBlanc took several years to settle. Research on Ménage-LeBlanc couple is not complete. The profession exercised by Pierre Ménage has left numerous traces in the archives. Several documents can be consulted, contracts, inventories at the time of death, payments received and annuities etc. Deciphering these documents would enable us to better understand how this couple lived, the grandparents of sixteen grandchildren Levasseur.

Anne LeBlanc came to New France as a King's daughter. She lived in Quebec, the administrative, military and religious Capital of New France from 1672 to 1735. This King's daughter is one of the 'mothers of the Quebec nation' which helped the colony of New France to develop up to our days. Anne LeBlanc, wife of Pierre Ménage and grandmother of 16 Levasseur, and her daughter Anne Ménage, married to Pierre Levasseur 2, have a multitude of descendants. Many great-great-great-grandchildren Levasseur, Carmel and Borgia originate from her. Anne LeBlanc, a King's daughter (Une Fille du Roy), deserves all our affection.



Monastery of the Ursulines in Quebec. Source: Museum of the Ursulines in Quebec
<http://www.museedesursulines.com/fr/peintures/>

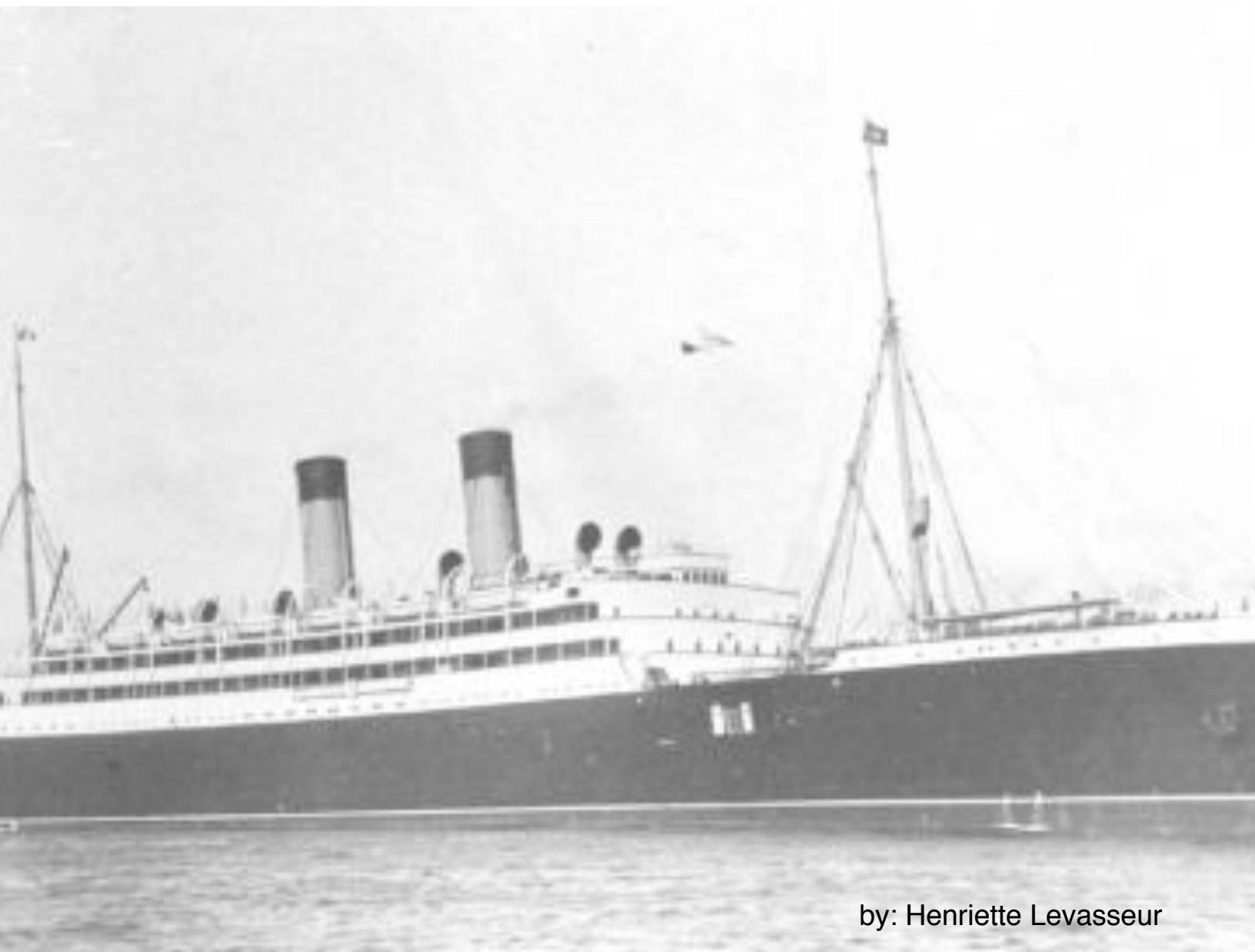
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Map of surroundings of Quebec in the New France in 1685 and 1686 by Devilleneuve The King's engineer. Roy SR
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by: Henriette Levasseur

The Sinking of the Empress of Ireland

*On May 29, 2014, 100 years to the day following the sinking of the Empress of Ireland, the Canadian Museum of History (formerly the Canadian Museum of Civilization) opened a large-scale exhibition entitled *The Empress of Ireland – Canada's Titanic*.*

The accident occurred in the early morning of May 29, 1914, when two ships wrapped in fog collided on the St. Lawrence Seaway, near Rimouski. The Empress of Ireland and some 1500 people on board sank in less than 15 minutes. More than 1000 passengers and crew members died.

The exhibition is organized in five distinct areas: a dynamic reconstitution of the historical and economic context of the period; the festive mood on the ship following its departure from Quebec City; the confusion in the fog that led to the fatal collision; the desperate rush to leave the sinking ship; and the commemoration of this largely forgotten tragic event.

The exhibition brings to life the period of intense growth in Canada early in the twentieth century. The economy was in full strength, railroads and factories were opening up all over, cities boomed and agriculture

prospered. The demand for workers was strong and in addition to passengers travelling on holidays or on business, thousands of immigrants were aboard the Empress.

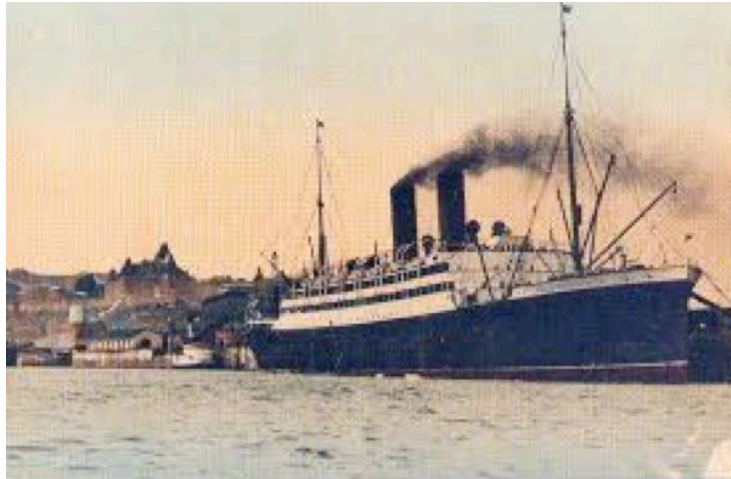
The exhibition includes a large number of artefacts that have been recovered from the shipwreck near Pointe-au-Père or acquired from divers and survivors, including the bell and compass from the ship. There are also witness accounts that bring to life the attempts to save lives and the devastation, the courage and despair, the survival and the sorrow.

The exhibition follows an emotionally moving course since it reconstructs, in fine detail, the moments leading to the disaster. Through projections as well as visual and sound effects, we enter the turmoil of events during and following the disaster. Documented

stories of victims and survivors are all the more captivating knowing they are true.

They help us realize the effects on the families that were affected by the largest catastrophe in Canada's maritime history.

On now at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, until April 6, 2015.



Empress of Ireland



Bell from the Empress of Ireland



Florence Barbour (Second class)

Travelling with her mother, Sabena, and her sister, Evelyn

Birthplace: Canada

Place of residence: Silverton, British Columbia

Purpose of trip: The Barbours were going to visit family in England. Their maternal grandmother had sent new dresses to both eight-year-old Florence and three-year-old Evelyn for the voyage.

Fate:

Florence Barbour: Survived

Sabena Barbour (mother): Perished

Evelyn Barbour (sister): Perished

After the sinking, Florence (8 year-old) would be raised in England by the family of her deceased father. It would be another 50 years before she returned to her childhood home in British Columbia, in 1964.

© Canadian Museum of History, IMG2012-0381-0001, Philippe Beaudry Collection



Chair made of wood and leather.
This chair is in excellent
condition.
©CMH, photo Frank Wimart,
2012



Edward Seybold (First class)
The couple celebrated their
43rd wedding anniversary on
the day of departure. They
were taking a trip to Europe
for the occasion.
Fate:
Edward Seybold: Survived
Susanna Seybold: Perished



Bottles recovered from the wreck
of the Empress; these may have
been used in the course of the
meal served on the evening of the
29th of May, 1914.
©CMH, photo Frank Wimart.

External links (search for «*Empress of Ireland*» on Google)

[*Empress of Ireland* — Wikipédia](#)

[*Commémoration Empress of Ireland 2014*](#)

[*Sombré dans l'oubli: L'histoire de l'Empress of Ireland ...*](#)

Tribute to brother Gérard Levasseur, s.c. brother Emery 1917-2012

By: Brother Lionel Goulet, S.C.

Lucid and a good walker until the end, our good brother Gérard was a religious and well known educator, in the Bas-St-Laurent and Gaspésie regions. He has left his mark primarily as a teacher and as a Director of schools. On his 50e anniversary of religious profession in 1986, he wrote to his family and colleagues notes titled: You have to walk a long road. Based on his diary, he explains his life in religion and as an educator course.

His family

Gerard is originally from Saint-Rémi-de-Tingwick in the Arthabaska County. His father was a farmer-cheese maker and a skilled cabinetmaker, very interested in local and provincial politics. His mother was a sweet and joyful woman he loved her. She was a skilled seamstress and during the winter months she made carpets and quilts. She will tell him later: "For you, I need not worry." Gerard grew up in a family of 11 children.

The road that opens before him

After his early years in school, Gérard sought to continue his studies. Due to a chance encounter, he was introduced to the college for religious brothers in Athabasca where he could study for a dollar per month. His father told him the day before his departure: "listen, if you go with the brothers, you will not be able to marry. But being somewhat naive, Gerard missed the point his dad was making. His father added: "Be careful not to upset the brothers because it will make life miserable for you. Gerard later said: « I entered religious life driven by my desire to learn, but with time, I enjoyed the vocation of religious-educator ».

The routes of the early years

In Arthabaska, Gérard studied in a junior scholastically and religious college managed by an order of brothers for a period of five years. He eventually earned a certificate to teach. With this basic knowledge he was ready to undertake a long road in the field of education. In the first eight years he taught in five different schools:

Saint-Jean Baptiste (Sherbrooke), Saint-Patrice (Magog), Saint-Aimé (Asbestos), Sacré Coeur (La Pérade) and Sacré Coeur (Sherbrooke). Despite his complaints to his superiors whether he liked it or not he abided by their directives.

The roads of the Bas-St-Laurent

In 1946, he was assigned to the Lower Saint-Laurence and Gaspésie region. For thirty years from 1946 to 1976 he dedicated himself to the area. He loved the people of Causapsca, Matane, Bonaventure, Price, Trois-Pistoles and he was appreciated by them. But even here, he barely had time to organize himself and was on the road again. There was one exception however, in Trois-Pistoles, he remained for fifteen years where he was highly productive.



The roads of Europe and the Holy Land

A nasty bronchitis put an end to his teaching career in 1976. He was offered the opportunity to go to Europe, initially to France and eventually to Italy and Rome. He had not been overly impressed with his religious teachings in the novitiate in 1958 but was impressed and marked by the spiritual sessions he experienced in Rome and his voyage to the Holy Land of which he said " the session was really great in all respects. It freed me and renewed my spiritual faith. I give thanks to the Lord. »

Roads of Acadia

On his return, he hit the road again, this time in New Brunswick in Atholville. With the help of a colleague, Pierre-Paul Heppell, he took over the direction of the kitchen, he who had never cooked managed the task well according to his confreres and remained in Atholville from 1977 to 1994. He loved the region, life and culture of the Acadians and the work of his confreres at the school.

In 1994 , he was off to Rimouski, for his final retirement. He remained there until 2007, providing landscaping services and carrying out general tasks for the home. In 2007, he had to go to the infirmary in Sainte -Foy to accommodate his aging needs.

The great events of his career

On the roads that he has travelled, Gérard lived events that changed his life and transformed him. He lived through the economic crisis of the 1930's and saw his family go broke. He has known the Church and religious life prior to Vatican II, with certain standards that he felt were outdated. But after the Council, it was not easy for him to accept these revival changes in the Church, indiscriminately or without discussion.

In Quebec, in the 1960s, he witnessed radical changes. He saw the shift from a largely clerical management of schools and hospitals to a secular society. For the brothers, it was the end of the parochial school system he had known and loved and the establishment of large regional schools not very viable for the brothers. He taught under that system for over a decade, but without too much enthusiasm.

During his long life, he witnessed the tremendous development of the brothers of the Sacred Heart in the Canada and the world: Latin America, Africa, Madagascar, Oceania, Philippines. Then, he witnessed their dwindling numbers from 1540 in 1961 to 243 in September 2011. But with his sense of history, he always had hope for the future. He was not the type to give up and in the younger generation. He knew that life is made of changes.

Who was Gérard?

Some would consider him a protester, who missed no opportunities to exercise his critical mind. Others would consider him as an anti-clerical and in subordinate. It must be said that he had the courage of his convictions, he was not afraid to openly what he was thinking without being overly accommodating. It is also true that he had little sympathy for any clerical, religious or civil authority that seeks more to be served than to be of service to mankind. He disliked honorary titles. He also disliked the status quo that no longer corresponded with reality. He denounced in order for things to advance. He was not against authority, but against issues that were passé.

Nationalist

Gerard was a staunch nationalist privately and in school and not afraid to show it. He was proud of his Québec, its history, its language, its flag, its institutions. Avant-gardiste for his time, he aired his convictions as reflected when asked about the teaching of history: "I deeply love this material, which is not simply a reminder of the past, but an explanation of the present, and a valuable source of lessons for the future. " The next generation in the land of Quebec ignores its roots, lacks pride and confidence in its destiny. ».

A man dedicated to his Community with his known weaknesses

Gerard was a community man who was at the service of his superiors and his brothers. He found happiness in his community. Gerard was well disciplined and recognized his weaknesses. When he realized during his years of retirement that alcoholic drinks took up too much space in his life, he announced to his colleagues that he needed a cure and left. Upon his return he never touched a drop of liquor for the rest of his days, or 30 years. That did not prevent him participating in all community celebrations. He was a very resilient man having coped with pneumonia, and serious fractures following falls.

At the end of his autobiographical notes, Gérard will say how proud he is of his 39 years in education. He acknowledges having been successful because he loved his job and he was totally dedicated to it. He was always on the lookout for ways to renew his teaching and create interest for his students. Great reader of magazines and books, he always kept up to date on historical issues and never lost sight of his goal and mission as a religious educator.

For his mission of educator

He wrote: *«I have tried to develop in the heart and the intelligence of the students, pride, without chauvinism, pride of belonging to a people whose history has nothing to envy of that of other nations. I strongly encouraged young people to be well prepared to occupy positions they are entitled to in all areas. »*

As school principal, he attached importance to extracurricular activities such as: singing, hockey, the bugle corps, the 4-H Club, AIR Cadets, patriotic movements, the flag and the national anthem. A Christian education was also important. But he was not always in agreement with requirements imposed for Vespers or the month of the Rosary. He would have preferred *«a more fulfilling, more liberating, religion less made of fears and constraints that have nothing to do with the teaching of the Gospel.»*

Religious life

He readily admits that the community life was not easy for him. He admits that he had his share of disagreements. But he adds: *"these are shadows, clouds that hide the Sun. Les Amitiés sincères that I experienced, the support and encouragement I have received, the confidence shown to me, all this and many other things were a positive contribution to my life. About trust, I acknowledge with gratitude that I always had the support of my superiors, and thank them wholeheartedly. My recognition is also addressed to my community of which I am proud and to which I am thankful for having given me the opportunity to acquire intellectual and spiritual values. »*

Our brother Gérard ends his notes by saying that it is happy to have embraced religious life, where he found great happiness. He said: " Yes, I'm sure, I have seen the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." PS 26.3.

Brother Lionel Goulet, S.C.

Note from the genealogist: *The brother Gérard Levasseur is son of Eugène Levasseur and Delima Toussaint. He was the eighth child of the couple. The family will have 12 children. In the community of the brothers of the sacred heart, brother Gérard Levasseur 's religious name was brother Émery*

Curriculum Vitae

February 8, 1917 born in Saint -Rémi-de-Tingwick

15 August 1936 first profession in Arthabaska

August 8, 1942 perpetual Profession in Victoriaville

1938 Sherbrooke Saint- Jean-Baptiste, teacher

1940 Magog, Saint- Patrice, teacher

1941 Asbestos, Saint- loved, teacher

1942 la Pérade, Sacré-Coeur, teacher

1944 Sherbrooke, Sacré-Coeur, teacher

1946 Causapscal, Saint- Jacques, teacher

1947 Matane, Saint -Antoine, teacher

1949 Matane, Victor-Coté, teacher

1952 Bonaventure, Sacré-Coeur, Director

1957 Rimouski, business school, teacher

1958 Cabano, sacred heart, teacher

1959 Price, school Onésime-Gagnon, Director

1961 Trois - Pistoles, n.-des - Neiges, Director

1967 Trois - Pistoles, versatile, teacher

1976 Italy, Rome, resourcing

1977 Atholville, Cook

1987 Atholville, retired

1994 Rimouski, retired

2007 Quebec, Health Service, retired

January 6, 2012 deaths in Quebec CHUL

January 9, 2012 Eucharist of farewell to Quebec

Ancestry of Gérard Levasseur

Ancestry in France

Noël Levasseur & Geneviève Gaugé

First generation

Pierre Levasseur dit Lespérance & Jeanne Chaverlange
October 25, 1655 Notre-Dame-de-Québec, QC

Second generation

Pierre Levasseur & Anne Ménage
March 18, 1696 Notre-Dame-de-Québec, QC

Third generation

Denis-Joseph Levasseur & Charlotte Couturier
February 4, 1738 Saint-François-du-Lac, Yamaska, QC

Fourth generation

François Levasseur & Marie-Charles Gailloux
January 16, 1775 Bécancour, QC

Fifth generation

François-Xavier Levasseur & Josephte Provencher
September 29, 1807 Bécancour, QC

Sixth generation

Joseph Levasseur & Judith Rivard dite Lavigne
October 2, 1838 Gentilly, Nicolet, QC

Seventh generation

David Levasseur & Victorine Beauchesne
January 8, 1867 St-Paul-de-Chester, Arthabaska, QC

Eighth generation

Eugène Levasseur & Délima Toussaint
October 11, 1904 Saint-Rémi-de-Tingwick, Arthabaska,
QC

Ninth generation

Gérard Levasseur

GENERAL INFORMATIONS



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 of 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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