

Levasseur

Vol 26 no 4 • Winter 2014



2014 Gathering

Trois-Rivières, Québec

Report and photos



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IMPORTANT :

New postal address

**Association des Levasseur
d'Amérique inc
60 Chemin Public,
Bolton-Est QC
J0E 1G0**



President's message

The board of directors of the Levasseur Association of America wishes a merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all members of the Levasseur Association and their families duringx this festive period.



This year your association has accomplished many tasks; the revision of the statutes and regulations of the ALA at the request of the Government of Canada so that they are consistent with the new law for not-for-profit organization. Gilles Carmel and Paul Levasseur have spent hours to modify these regulations and statutes to reflect more accurately the functioning of our association and comply with the new requirements for non profit organizations.

The new board, elected at the annual meeting on September 6, 2014, is composed of a president, Roger Levasseur, a Vice President, Raymond Levasseur and Treasurer Pauline Carmel. At the request of the elected board, Marie Noëlle Beaulieu-Levasseur has agreed to be Secretary.

At its first meeting by teleconference on November 16, the following representatives were invited to join the elected board members. They are: Gilles Carmel to take care of obituaries, Jean-Pierre as Web master, Joceline as genealogist, Huguette for the revision of texts, Jean-Marie as a historian and Roger accepts the translation of texts and the publication of the bulletin.

Many thanks to members who sent us research articles for publication in the bulletin. I want to mention in particular the research work by Jean-Marie about the Levasseurs of the region of Mauricie and of the ancestor, Denis-Joseph. Also our thanks to Huguette for her research work about Levasseurs who are descendants of Marie-Anne Mesnage married to Pierre Levasseur who was the daughter of Anne Leblanc, a King's daughter.

I seek your help to recruit new members to our association. We depend on the renewal and new memberships to fund our activities. In return, members have access to a database and information about their Levasseur ancestors that are of great historical and genealogical value. They can also contribute by sending information about their respective families with old photos. What a good way to ensure that this information will be available for future generations of Levasseurs.

Best wishes during this festive season

Roger Levasseur, president



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Previous board of directors. From left to right, Jean-Marie, Raymond, Marie-Noëlle, Roger, Joceline, Jean-Pierre, André, Gilles Carmel and Joseph. Absent from the photo, Paul Levasseur.

Report on the gathering

By: Hélène Bélanger-Levasseur

Denis-Joseph Levasseur

The gathering of the Levasseur in Trois-Rivières enabled us to learn about the ancestor Denis -Joseph and his descendants of which many of our members are descendants.

Jean-Marie Levasseur painted us a portrait of this builder, contractor and businessman whose wife Charlotte Couturier was a horticulturist, innkeeper and cared for small animals.

In 1741 Denis-Joseph settled south of Notre-Dame Street in the front of the current Delta, Hotel in an area called La Fosse.

The King's daughters

Béatrice Levasseur was chosen last year (2013) to represent one of the King's daughters during a tour in France, in Normandy and Brittany, to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the first 36 King's daughters in New-France. False rumors were made about these girls identifying them as women of leisure. However, it definitely was not the case. Most of them were orphaned and destitute. The King of France Louis XIV took them under his protection and sent them to New - France to find a husband and help populate the new colony. It is estimated that there were 764 King's daughters. They were of varied social origins. Some were educated others illiterate, some were from wealthy families other had common family background and unknown origin, however, they were all valiant workers.

Huguette Levasseur's research project about the King's daughters indicates that one of them bore the name Levasseur. She was Jeanne Levasseur. Our first Levasseur ancestors, Jean, Pierre and Laurent were already married when the King's daughters arrived in Quebec. However, Pierre Levasseur's son, Pierre, married Anne Mesnage, daughter of Pierre Mesnage and Anne Leblanc who was one of the King's daughters. She was the grandmother of 16 Levasseurs. Huguette spoke to us about the first Levasseurs who came to Quebec City and how they contributed to the development of upper and lower town, how they lived and she informed us about the different places where they lived.

The newcomers had to know how to build, cultivate, garden, farm, raise families. They had to work hard to succeed.

Exhibition

Jean-Claude Levasseur exhibited miniature structures of boats, trucks, airplanes that he built over several years. They are fascinating replicas of old vehicle such as, the Radisson ferry from Trois-Rivières, a Coca Cola truck, a sculpture of the Virgin and many other interesting objects.

Sightseeing tour

Our guide Jean-Philippe Marcotte, a knowledgeable historian, spoke with enthusiasm about the origins and the beginnings of Trois Rivières. He described Trois Rivières as a natural meeting place for a trading post. Trois Rivières was known at the time as: Metaberoutain, which means exposure to the Northern winds. It was founded in 1634 and it had a population of 600 inhabitants when Denis-Joseph arrived in 1737. The common land that extended from the pit (la Fosse) to the Crown's roundabout served as grazing for domestic animals. We were shown the locations where Denis-Joseph lived near the pit (la Fosse), and then the Platon, where fortifications were built to provide protection from the Indians who prowled the area. The Ursulines sisters, who were teachers, assisted in the community by providing nursing care and they built the first hospital. We also went to the Récollets monastery which became the St-James Anglican Church, the Pierre Boucher place and le Flambeau a location where archaeological searches were undertaken last summer.

General assembly

Finally, the General Assembly confirmed our Association's compliance with the Canadian government's new requirements for non-profit organizations (law BNL) Gilles Carmel explained these changes and answered questions from the participants. The Board of Directors has now three elected members who chose a secretary and nominated representatives who are assigned specific tasks according to the specific needs of the Association. The exchanges were rewarding and beneficial for the participating members.

Lévis. September 8, 2014

Subject: Levasseur Gathering 2014

Mrs Joceline Levasseur, Quebec city

Following my return home I thought about the memorable gathering of the noble and great Levasseur family in Trois-Rivières on Saturday and Sunday the 6th and 7th of September. My mother was a descendant of the ancestor Laurent Levasseur.

Congratulations to the organizers of this successful meeting.

My mother Phélanise, daughter of Rémi Levasseur married to Amanda Cayouette was born on August 30, 1883 in Saint-Patrice de Tingwick and died on October 13, 1941. One of her seven sons, Conrad, was priest from 1952 to 1993. She had married Eugène Gaouette. Back to this family reunion which was a real success. What beautiful atmosphere. It was intimate and very friendly. Thanks to the dedicated organizers. Let us thank them.

Bernard Gaouette

Son of Phélanise Levasseur

Park Irma-Levasseur



On May 25, 2014, Madam Marie Cinq-Mars, Mayor of Outremont in Montreal, opened a new park called Irma Levasseur. This Park is located near the intergenerational community center, at 999 McEachran Avenue in Outremont. It aims to offer to people of all ages, youth and adults, a place to have fun, relax and train. A playground for children aged two to five, a section for physical fitness training and picnic tables are accessible to people who visit the Park.

The name of this park honors Irma Levasseur, who was the first female French-Canadian physician in Quebec and who, with Justine Lacoste-Beaubien, cofounded the Sainte Justine Hospital in 1907.

Source :

<http://www.messengerlasalle.com/Vie-de-quartier/Environnement/2010-06-17/article-1353485/Un-nouveau-parc-a-Outremont/1>

Communication from Mrs Pauline Gill, author

Mrs Pauline Gill informs us that the first volume of the series on Dr. Irma Levasseur will be distributed in Ontario and the United States to students studying French as a second language. We are very pleased to hear this good news. Students, while learning our beautiful French language will become familiar with the history of a great lady who has devoted much of her life to children

Laurent Levasseur

A biography



In the 17th century, many Normans sailed to New France. Among them was Laurent Levasseur, the ancestor of the greatest number of American Levasseurs. He was the son of Jean Levasseur and Marguerite Maheu, and was born around 1648, most likely in Bois-Guillaume¹ in Normandy.

Arrival

Laurent Levasseur was first mentioned in colony records during the 1666 Census. He stated that he was eighteen years of age and was an “employee”² of Guillemette Hébert, widow of Guillaume Couillard and daughter of an earlier Canadian colonist, Louis Hébert. Laurent probably took the initiative to work the land and go eel fishing. We cannot find any trace of Laurent Levasseur from the 1667 Census. That may indicate that his “employment of 36 months” was finished and he was therefore free to explore his new land.

Laurent could have easily been one of the “employees” who arrived in the country in September 1663. He would have been about fifteen years old. The following year, in 1664, the Sovereign Council complained to the King that the “majority of the recruits of 1663 were young people, clerks, schoolboys and most of them had never worked before”. It is quite possible that Laurent was among this group of young people. Between 1667 and 1669, Laurent

did not leave any trace.

Establishment

“On April 5, 1669 the King signed a document to fine anyone who did not have intention of marriage at an early age.”³ Laurent understood the message. It became time for him to acquire land in his new country and to get married. After thinking about it, he decided to establish himself on the coast of Lauzon located on the edge of the Saint Lawrence River almost in front of Québec. On September 22, 1669 he rented from Henri Brau⁴, sieur de Pominville a 3 by 40 acre tract of land, with “fishing,” for three years.⁵

Marriage

Laurent was now able to think of getting married and he seems to have found his soul mate. Thus, on November 19, 1669, he signed a marriage contract before the notary Romain Becquet with Marie Marchand, daughter of Louis Marchand and Françoise Morineau from Saint-Martin on the Île de Ré. He got married in Québec at Notre-Dame Church on April 30, 1670. The couple had fourteen children. Among them, three sons and a daughter had families, two other daughters became Ursuline lay nuns, five children died at a young age and another daughter, who was handicapped, was placed in the Québec General Hospital after the death of her mother. Laurent ensured a pension for his daughters who became nuns and the one who lived at the hospital.

In 1709, according to the chart of Gédéon de Catalogne, Laurent owned three pieces of land along the river. In his lifetime, Laurent owned five pieces of land on the coast of Lauzon, in addition to the one he rented for three years in 1669. He was seemingly an enterprising man. According to Adrien Levasseur, “the land he owned was fourteen acres wide by forty acres deep, which was much bigger than most”⁶. In addition to cultivating the land, Laurent liked to go fishing and hunting, as can be noted in some notarized documents. According to the Jesuit Charlevoix, “fishing and hunting provide abundantly for those who put in the effort. We fish in the Saint Lawrence River an extraordinary quantity of large eels”.⁷

At the end of a full life, Laurent passed away in Québec on December 26, 1726 and was buried the next day at Notre-Dame de Québec Church. His wife passed away 10 years before him. Laurent’s descendants can be found in all parts of Québec, but the majority are in the Bas Saint-Laurent region. Many families of this ancestor also immigrated to the United States and to other provinces of Canada, particularly New-Brunswick and Ontario.

Lastly, contrary to many of his compatriots, Laurent Levasseur could sign his name, a rare thing for his time.

¹ The civil registries are lacking between 1642 et 1667 in Bois-Guillaume.

² At the beginning of the colony, the private ship-owners transporting furs to France had committed themselves to transporting a number of immigrants to New France. They were reimbursed for their travel expenses by the farmers already established in the country that needed help. The farmers were in turn compensated by 3 years of service from their “employee”.

³ Jacques LACOURSIÈRE, *Histoire populaire du Québec des origines à 1791*, Québec, Septentrion, 1995, p. 127.

⁴ Farming Lease between Henri Brau de Pomaiville et Laurent Levasseur, clerk’s office of Pierre Duquet de Lachenaye, September 22, 1669, in *Par-chemin*.

⁵ According to Adrien Levasseur, this is not the land occupied by the descendants of Laurent Levasseur until 1925 as it was previously confirmed by J. Edmond Roy.

⁶ J.-F. Adrien LEVASSEUR, *Laurent Levasseur. Origine et Histoire et la première génération en Nouvelle-France, Longueuil, QC, 1988, p. 29.*

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 30.



Homage to the mothers of the Quebec nation

The arrival of the first King's Daughters in New-France is forever engraved in our collective memory

Because of their modest origins, the King's Daughters were often represented as being women of leisure. Latest research has shown that these young women, wishing to emigrate to New-France, had been selected according to strict criteria. For the first cohorts, certificates of good conduct reflecting the moral rigor of the candidate. This exercise, highly symbolic of the designation of the arrival of the King's Daughters in New-France, was part of the 350th anniversary celebrations of the New-France.

The emigration of young women was to solve the problem of the demographic imbalance that new-France faced during the 17th century. The King Louis XIV decided to promote the passage of young, unmarried women, called the King's Daughters, from France to the colony to marry them to settlers and to encourage the formation of families. The immigration of girls in is a Royal policy that began in 1663.

Source: [Communiqué CCQ](#)

Béatrice Levasseur, Béatrice Levasseur, who participated at the Trois-Rivières gathering, was selected last year (2013) to represent one of the King's Daughters on a trip to France in Normandy and in Britany to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the first 36 King's Daughters in New-France.



Liette Vasseur, Brock Prof picked for UNESCO role

"It is one of those things we are thinking about today. So we think the weather is nice today, and it is not going to be a problem in twenty years"

By Grant Lafleche

Beyond the new lofty title and the attention it brings, for biologist Liette Vasseur the work is about the future.

How we face our tomorrow, she said, is going to be driven in large by how well we understand our today.

"Take something like climate change. It is something we are facing a little bit, but we aren't really dealing with it," Vasseur said.

"It is one of those things where we are only thinking of today.

So we think because the weather is nice today, it is not going to be a problem in twenty years."

But it will be a problem. And how we can sustain our ecosystem, social structures and institutions in the face of global change is something we need to consider now.

That is part of what Vasseur will look into through her duties as Brock University first UNESCO chair.

Operating at Brock under the auspicious of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the biology professor and member of Brock's environmental sustainability research centre will expand her research into sustainable development and community-based natural resources management in Canada, China and Ecuador.

Vasseur said being the UNESCO chair will help expand the University's network community group in Niagara, organizations across Canada and universities around the world.

She said the concept of sustainable development is not just about defending nature preserves like the Niagara Escarpment which is a UNESCO biosphere reserve.

"It is also about sustaining social structures or economics" she said. "This chair has an interdisciplinary focus."

Vasseur's role will also support the newly created sustainability science and society graduate program, which launches in September. It took two years for Vasseur to be given the UNESCO chair. The university nominated her which was followed by a lengthy approval process by UNESCO's head offices located in Paris France.

Vasseur said the chair position lasts four to five years, after which she could apply for a four year extension. There are 811 UNESCO chairs worldwide.

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Dr. Vasseur is Vice-President, Research at Brock University. Her research focuses on climate change, sustainable development, and community-based ecosystem/conservation management (including ecological restoration and biodiversity assessment). Projects have been or are carried out in Canada or other countries such as currently China (where she is an adjunct professor at the Fujian University of Forestry and Agriculture) and currently in Burkina Faso, in Africa. She has intensively published in various sectors related to these topics (including lead author of the Atlantic chapter of national climate change assessment). Funding is coming from various sources (e.g. NSERC, CIDA, Parks Canada, etc.). She is involved in many scholarly and professional activities related to environmental issues (e.g. CEM of IUCN, Science Advisory Council of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans). In Sudbury, she was also member of organizations such as the Nickel District Conservation Authority. She is one of the Associate Editors of the Botany.

Levasseurs settle in Trois-Rivières

By: Roger Levasseur

The Levasseur Association of America, founded in 1988, organizes a gathering for its members every two years. This activity takes place either in Canada or in the United States.

Mr. André Levasseur of Trois-Rivières was the principal organizer of this gathering held in Trois-Rivières on September 6 & 7, 2014.

Saturday afternoon, the participants listened to a very interesting presentation by Mr. Jean-Marie Levasseur, priest of Trois-Rivières. The conference focused on the arrival of the first Levasseur to Trois-Rivières in 1736, Denis Joseph. Denis-Joseph, is the son of Pierre Levasseur dit l'Espérance who had established himself in Quebec, a few decades earlier. My family members are descendants of Denis-Joseph.

Denis-Joseph was master-carpenter, later he became a building contractor. He and his nine children have left their mark in Trois-Rivières. He was married to Charlotte Couturier.

Denis-Joseph had three homes in Trois-Rivières. The first one was located at the corner of Notre-Dame and Saint-Georges, near the current Delta Hotel. In the early 1700, there was only one parish church in Trois-Rivières. Denis-Joseph's family attended religious services at that church. The tabernacle of this church is the work of the carver, Noel Levasseur.



At the Levasseur gathering on September 6 and 7, Roger Levasseur was happy to meet Joseph Levasseur who he had previously met in Manchester, Newhamshire. The two had been members of the Association's board of directors 20 years ago.

Interestingly, the name of Denis-Joseph and his descendants is closely linked to the development of the island Saint Quentin. This island has carried several names over the years. Initially, she had been officially named: l'île aux cochons. Later, when speaking of l'île aux cochons, it was also called Vasseur island. From 1745 to 1792, Denis-Joseph was owner of one-third of the island. He had purchased for the timber on the island. His widow was owner from 1792 to 1797 and their children from 1797 to 1798.

In the Association's database there are 10227 recorded descendants of Denis-Joseph including more than 4000 who are direct descendants. Several descendants of Denis-Joseph settled in the Mauricie region, several other selected Bécancour and Vistoriaville, Drummondville, the Western provinces and the American States. This database of the Levasseur Association has more than

120000 names recorded.

The Levasseur established in America are generally of the middle class. In the 18e century, there were many masters-Joiners, master carvers, carpenters, sculptors and a lot of farmers.

The most recognized person with the Levasseur name in Québec is Dr. Irma Levasseur. She is the founder of the Sainte-Justine Hospital.

During the Congress people could admire craft creation of Jean-Claude Levasseur. He is also the owner of a violin dating back some 200 years that belonged to Nazaire Levasseur.

At the end of the gathering Mr. Roger Levasseur has been assumed the Presidency of the Association. He resides in Orleans a suburb of Ottawa.



Micheline Cormier Levasseur may now choose between two Roger Levasseur if she so wishes....of course. There is, her 50 year life companion and Roger Levasseur from Ottawa, President of the Levasseur Association of America.



The gathering was held at the Trois-Rivières Hippodrome (horse race track) and the caterer was Chez Theo. He had prepared a cake with the Coat of Arms of the Association for the evening banquet. The Levasseur's motto is : "As best as I can"

Souvenirs photos of the 2014 gatering

[click on link for more photos](#)

Photos by : Johanne Blanchette



André Larochelle (left) receives a door prize from André and Raymond Levasseur



Miniature models made by Jean-Claude Levasseur and exhibited at the gathering



Jacques Milot, Jaqueline Milot and her sister Huguette Levasseur

Souvenirs photos of the 2014 gatering

[click on link for more photos](#)



André Jalbert, Joseph
Levasseur, Rachel L'Heureux,
Ernest Levasseur.



The Carmels, Gilles and Pau-
line, our new treasurer



Center, Bernard Gouette, a
longtime organizer of
gatherings

Souvenirs photos of the 2014 gatering

[click on link for more photos](#)



First row: Evelyn, Claudette,
Suzanne, Colette
Second row: Robert Dufresne,
Jean-Marie, Rolande, Lorraine
Nicole, Huguette and Joceline
Levasseur
Third row: Jacques Boisvert
and Raymond St-Arnaud



Huguette Levasseur making
her presentation about the
King's Daughters



Raymond Levasseur, Raymond
St-Arnaud and André
Levasseur.

Souvenirs photos of the 2014 gatering

[click on link for more photos](#)



Paule Truchon and Jean-Pierre Levasseur from Québec city.



Jean-Marie Levasseur and his sister, Thérèse



Gerard Carleton (from Ohio) and François Dupuis, Joceline Levasseur's husband



The Sainte-Justine hospital is University Hospital dedicated to the care of children. Located in Montreal, it provides services to the children of Quebec. It plays a very important role in healthcare, education and research. A new pavilion is currently under construction. This new pavilion will provide new research facilities and additional health care services.

Madam Nicole Boudreault, who provides nursing care in hospital neonatology, is currently taking steps to name the new pavilion: "Pavilion IRMA LEVASSEUR)".

Here is Mrs. Boudreault's letter:

Mont St-Hilaire, 2014-08-28

To: Ms. Louise Boisvert

Office of the Directorate-General Communication and public affairs Sainte-Justine UHC in Montreal

Subject: Application for toponymic designation « in memoriam »

From: Nicole Boudreault, nursing in neonatology.

Good day Ms. Boisvert,

I have been practicing as a nurse at the Sainte-Justine UHC for the past 30 years. Currently, I am reading the historical novel "Doctor Irma" by the author Pauline Gill. She writes about the life of Doctor Irma LeVasseur and her life project. I was surprised to discover that she is the actual founder and instigator that led to the building of the Sainte-Justine Hospital!

This first French Canadian woman to practice medicine in Quebec has dedicated her life to the foundation of this hospital for the care of children with utmost passion and determination. Conscious of the challenge, she never abandoned her fight for this worthy cause. One can only observe with regret that, during her lifetime, she received little recognition, was forgotten and never justifiably recognized. Yet her vision of care for children has survived and her objectives are similar to those that the hospital still has to this day. They are:

- 1. «Health care for children that are not available in other hospitals, without distinction of race and religious beliefs»;*
- 2. «Assist women who cannot obtain care for their children »;*
- 3. «Training of nurses and maternal aids to work for hospitalized children of families in need".*

Since the foundation of the hospital, the dedication shown by the founder has continued to grow and is reflected by professionals who have embraced this dedication and by professionals who have kept it alive to this day. In addition, the hospital became a UHC with international recognition for research in children health care and medical training. Today we are witnessing the expansion of the facilities because the existing facilities have become too cramped. This is proof that this fabulous project was built on a solid foundation thanks to the vision of Doctor Irma Levasseur. It goes without saying that reading this book encourages us to recognize this woman who has always lived in anonymity.

With the support of my colleagues, I therefore propose that the added pavilion to the Sainte-Justine UHC be named: « Pavilion IRMA LEVASSEUR.

Thank you for considering this proposal for the naming of the new pavilion to the Sainte Justine UHC. This proposal is supported by my colleagues.

Nicole Boudreault

*C.C. : Mme Pauline Gill, aux éditions Québec Amérique
Aux descendants des familles LeVasseur, via Mme Gill*

In a letter addressed to Ms. Boisvert, members of the Board of Directors of the ALA, on behalf of its members, adopted the following proposition unanimously at a meeting held November 16, 2014.

«We ask that the new pavilion of the Sainte-Justine UHC be named "PAVILION IRMA LEVASSEUR" In recognition of Doctor Irma Levasseur's involvement in the foundation of the Sainte-Justine, her mission of caring for sick children as well as her involvement in the founding of Sainte-Justine, Montreal children's Hospital.»

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.

Board of directors 2014-2015

President: [Roger Levasseur](#) (Ottawa, ON) (613) 841-7690

Vice-President: [Raymond Levasseur](#) (Rimouski, QC) (418) 724-6629

Secretary: [Marie-Noëlle Levasseur](#) (Edmunston, N.B.) (506) 353-1000

Treasurer: [Pauline Carmel](#) (Bolton-est, QC)