

Gilles Couturier dit Labonté.

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Plan of Fort Richelieu in 1695

The forts of the Richelieu Valley

The forts of the Richelieu Valley were built to counter the Iroquois threat.

On August 13, 1642, a flotilla of 40 men arrived at the mouth of the Iroquois River. Under the direction of Mr. Charles de Montmagny, they undertook the erection of Fort Richelieu on St. Croix Island, which was intended to close the wide path through which the Mohawks entered the colony.

Fort Richelieu is part of a series of five forts built along the Richelieu River to protect the route of entry from the United States. Fort Chambly in Chambly and Fort Saint-Jean in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu are part of this line of forts that lead to name this area "Valley of the Forts".

Reference: [Fort Richelieu \(Wikipedia\)](#).

Map: [Library and Archives Canada](#)

EDITORIAL

Our President, Roger, is continuing his recovery: he recently suffered health problems and had to undergo surgery. As the spokesman of the Association members, I wish him a full recovery.

You will read with interest in this issue, the document prepared by Huguette on the presence of the soldiers of the Carignan-Salières regiment in the genealogy of the Levasseur, especially Gilles Couturier dit Labonté, soldier and ancestor of many Levasseur of Trois-Rivières area.

Last October, Huguette also signs a record of the participation of our association at Salon du patrimoine. (Fair heritage). ALA was among the 22 family associations present at the show; the ALA was ensured excellent visibility thanks to the work of Huguette, who was joined by members and other volunteers during all the weekend.

Three weeks earlier, Bécancour welcomed the general assembly of our association. Less than a dozen members were added to directors and responsible representatives of various files for this annual meeting, for which a report is presented below under the signature of Huguette..

Given the impossibility of relying on a group of volunteers that could ensure the organization in one or other of the regions covered by the ALA, the assembly had to postpone its decision to a possible gathering of the Levasseur which would normally be held in 2016. Yet, the last two - to be limited to those - in Rimouski on September 1st, 2012 and Trois-Rivières on September 6th, 2014, allowed some 150 Levasseur, Carmel or related to socialize and become familiar with the history of their ancestors.

It is hoped that there are people somehow willing to help organize meetings to strengthen links between the members of the family Levasseur, in the words of one of the objectives of the Association.

For now, may you, in your family, enjoy the festivities surrounding the Christmas period and the New Year, and share with your family the magic of the holidays. May the year 2016 bring happiness and health to each and every one of you, and may you achieve your most valuable desires.

Best wishes from your board.

The vice president,
[Raymond Levasseur](#)



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Gilles Couturier dit Labonté, soldier of the Carignan-Salières regiment and great grandfather of 9 Levasseur grandchildren.

Text: [Huguette Levasseur](#)

The year 2015 marks the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the soldiers of the Regiment de Carignan-Salières to New France. Michel Langlois, in the volume: *Le regiment de Carignan-Salières*, (referring to the first French troops to arrive in New-France during the period 1665-1668) mentions that the regiment was composed of 1,100 soldiers and sixty officers. About 400 of them settled in the colony, 243 were married to the King's daughters and 215 had descendants.

In addition, in 1665, the marquis de Tracy will come to New-France, from the West Indies, with four companies of soldiers, with about 135 soldiers aboard the ship the Brézé. More than 40 soldiers

and a few officers remain in New-France, married and had descendants.

Can one find the Levasseur name amongst the names of soldiers of the regiment of Carignan-Salières and with the Tracy companies in genealogical trees of our Levasseur ancestors? Indeed. Joceline Levasseur, who is a descendant of Pierre Levasseur, has in her genealogical peacock wheel, eight soldiers of the Carignan-Salières regiment: François Biville dit Picard, Antoine Bordeleau dit Laforest, Pierre Champoux dit Jolicoeur, Gilles Couturier dit Labonté, Pierre Lesiège dit Lafontaine, Pierre Mouet dit Moras, Pierre Richer dit Laflèche, Paul Vignault dit Laverdure and a soldier of the Tracy Company: André Mignier

dit Lagacé. We will dwell on Gilles Couturier dit Labonté, soldier in of the Saurel Company of the Régiment de Carignan-Salières. Gilles married in 1676, Anne-Elisabeth Tarragon, a King's daughter. Gilles and Anne-Elisabeth are the grandparents of Charlotte Couturier who married to Denis-Joseph Levasseur, in Saint-François-du-Lac on February 4, 1738. Denis-Joseph, grandson of the ancestor Pierre Levasseur. He had settled in Trois-Rivières.

Illustration: Officer and soldiers of Carignan-Salt 1665-1668 regiment. Parks Canada. Reconstruction by Francis Back.

Carignan-Salières regiment: the historical context,



Illustration: Officer with the colors of the Carignan-Salières ([Wikipedia](#))

There were approximately 3,000 people in The French colony in New France in 1665. This colony was at risk. The population of the English colonies of New England grew much more rapidly than that of the French colony. Their lives were under the threat of the Iroquois tribes which had already killed hundreds of French residents, primarily in the Montreal area, but also in Trois-Rivières, Quebec City and along the St. Lawrence. To survive the settlement must receive help from France, the motherland. In 1661, Governor Boucher of Trois-Rivières discusses with the King of France, Louis XIV, the grievances of the inhabitants and rulers of the New-France and requests urgent assistance.

King Louis XIV wants to protect the inhabitants of the new colony and increase its population. He therefore sends the Carignan-Salières regiment in 1665 to subdue the Iroquois. This regiment is made up of 20 companies of 50 men in each one. About 1,100 soldiers and about 60 officers arrived in Quebec City in summer 1665. They were transported on five ships: the Saint-Siméon, the Aigle d'Or, La Paix, Le Saint-Sébastien, La Justice. The first ship arrived on June 19. The crossing lasted 61 days. The last one arrived on September 14 after a crossing of 113 days.

The King also gave order to the marquis de Tracy, on a mission to the West Indies, to come with four companies to New-France to fight the Iroquois and sign a peace treaty. Tracy was appointed commander of all troops on the territory of New France.

The first companies are sent to the Richelieu River. In 1665, they will build a fort, fort St. Louis in Chambly. The same year, other forts were built on the Richelieu River, Fort Richelieu (Sorel), Sainte-Thérèse (Carignan) in order to consolidate the defensive system of the colony. In 1666, fort Sainte-Anne (La Mothe) was built on an island on Lake Champlain and fort Assumption at Saint-Marc-sur-Richelieu. In 1667, the fort Saint Jean will be built in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu. On the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, the soldiers erected the fort of Rivière-du-Loup (Louiseville) in the autumn of 1665.

The Carignan-Salières regiment and Tracy companies will conduct two major expeditions in Iroquois territory. A first expedition is organised by Master de Tracy and the Governor Courcelles in the first months of the year 1666. There are 500 to 600 soldiers and volunteers in this expedition. It was a failure, because it had been ill-prepared and that it did not take into account the difficult Canadian winter conditions. This expedition, though unsuccessful, succeeded by having three Iroquois tribes sign a peace treaty. However the Agnie tribe continued the war.

A second expedition was organized against the Mohawks by Governor Courcelles and commanders Tracy and Sallière. Companies of the Carignan-Salières and Tracy regiments, with 400 inhabitants of the country and 100 American Indians got underway on Sept. 14, 1666. There was no confrontation, because the Agniers fled from their villages. Their crops and dwellings destroyed. The French signed a peace treaty with the Agniers in 1667. After this Treaty, Mr. Tracy

returned to France with several soldiers.

The mission of the Carignan-Salières Regiment in New-France-Earth lasted three years. To increase the population of its colony, the King of France encouraged officers and soldiers to settle in the country. As early as 1667, several officers and soldiers will marry in the new colony. A number of them married the King's daughters. Seigneuries were granted to officers. Farm land was given to soldiers who chose to settle in the new colony. In

1668, King recalled the regiment, but left four companies on the Richelieu River, of which the Saurel company, in order to provide protection.

Today, several municipalities in the province of Quebec bear the names of officers and soldiers of the Carignan-Salières regiment and the Tracy companies: Sorel, Berthierville, Chambly, Varennes, Verchères, Boisbriand, Contrecoeur, La Durantaye, Lanoraie, etc.



The first Fort Chambly built in 1665

This model represents the original Fort Chambly. The original wooden log structure was built in 1665 and was typical of the early forts in Canada.

(Photo: René Chartrand Source: www.cmhg.gc.ca)

Gilles Couturier dit Labonté, a Saurel company soldier.

Gilles Couturier was born on Rennes, in Brittany. He is son of Marguerite Pottier. He is a soldier the best companies of the Pierre de Saurel is the captain. soldiers a nickname. Thus Gilles nickname of Labonté. The Saurel port of La Rochelle on May 13, arrived in Quebec on August 19, can imagine how Pierre Couturier information about the Saurel



Jean Talon, Intendant of Justice, Police and Finance for Canada, Acadia, Newfoundland, and other countries of northern France

January 7, 1640 in the city of Julien LeCousturier and of the Saurel company, one of Carignan-Salières regiment. The latter gives each of his Couturier receives the company departed from the 1665 on the ship, La Paix and after a 98 day crossing. One lived, based on known company.

A week after their arrival in confirmed by Monseigneur de the Saurel company soldiers left mouth of the Richelieu River on rebuild the Richelieu fort, located company spent its first winter. At in the autumn of 1666, the Saurel two expeditions of Carignan-

Quebec City and after being Laval and receiving a scapular, Quebec City to go to the small boats. Their mission is to today at Sorel, where the the beginning of the year, and company participated in the Salières regiments with the

Tracy companies in Iroquois territory. After the Carignan-Salières regiment was directed to return to France in 1668, the Saurel company remained in the country to ensure the protection of the forts built on the Richelieu from 1668 to 1670.

The intendant, Talon, to increase the population in New-France offered seigneuries to officers of the Carignan-Salières regiment. The captain Pierre de Saurel requested that that he be given a seigneury at the mouth of the Richelieu River. He will receive the titles for his domain in 1672. As early as 1667, farm land is given to soldiers who chose to settle in New-France. Twenty-one soldiers from the company of Saurel married, of which, sixteen with the King's daughters. Together these couples had 102 children. Seven soldiers remained single and eventually died in the country.

Gilles Couturier dit Labonté: husband and father

Gilles Couturier dit Labonté decides to remain in the country. He married Anne-Elisabeth Tarragon, a King's daughter in Sorel around 1676,. Anne-Elisabeth was born on February 14, 1651, at St-Pierre de Trancrainville, of the Diocese of Chartres. She is the daughter of Loup Tarragon and late Élisabeth Merlin. Anne-Elisabeth, was an orphan and arrived in New France around 1673.

Gilles Couturier dit Labonté and Anne-Élisabeth Tarragon had three children.

Pierre Couturier was born on October 23, 1677, in Sorel. The captain Pierre de Saurel who became Lord and his wife Catherine Legardeur were the Godfather and godmother. Pierre married Gertrude Maugras on May 3, 1705 in an unspecified location in Quebec. The couple had 11 children. Marie-Charlotte, the third of the family, married Denis-Joseph Levasseur, February 4, 1738, in Saint-François-du-Lac. Pierre Couturier was buried on February 22, 1745 at Saint-François-du-Lac.

I. **Jean-Baptiste Couturier** was born on August 28, 1679, at Sorel. He married Marie-Jeanne Renoux Lachapelle May 17, 1705, in Saint-François-du-Lac. The couple had 12 children. Jean-Baptiste was buried on May 3, 1754, in Saint-François-du-Lac.

II. **Gilles Couturier** son was born on July 17, 1681 in Sorel.

What is known about Gilles Couturier dit Labonté, soldier? On July 11, 1677, Gilles dit Couturier Labonté bought land in Sorel, two acres of frontage on the waterfront from Julien Allard dit Labarre, soldier of the Carignan Regiment. On October 13, 1678, he sold land that measured two acres in width by forty acres in depth to Jean Garnier dit Nadeau.

The 1681 census indicates that Gilles Couturier lives in Sorel. He was 39 years old. His wife, Élisabeth Tarragon is 30 years old. The couple have three children: Pierre, aged 5 years, Jean, 4 years old and Gilles, 2 months old. Gilles is a shoemaker, owns a rifle, 5 heads of cattle with 10 acres of land.

Anne-Elisabeth Tarragon, Gilles Couturier dit Labonté's wife, died in 1682 or 1683. The exact date is unknown. Their children are very young.

In 1683, Gilles Couturier dit Labonté joins with Pierre Hugnand and Jean-Baptiste Patissier for a trip to the Ottawa Treaty. Following this trip, and for several years, he worked for the owner of the St Lawrence transport boats which were used for transport of freight on the river. In 1691, he settled permanently in Saint-François-du-Lac. Pierre Couturier and associates bought a transport boat belonging to Jean Crevier, Lord of Saint-François-du-Lac in 1693. In 1701, he is identified as captain of the militia of the seigneurie of Saint-François.

After the death of his first wife having, Gilles Couturier entered into a marriage contract with Jeanne Moral on October 5, 1692, who was Jacques Maugras widow, before the notary Chambalon. He then worked as master of boatman. Their marriage took place in Saint-François-du-Lac on December 9, 1692. The couple had no children. Gilles died March 23, 1726, in Saint-François-du-Lac, at the age of 86.

Conclusion

Today, several Levasseur are ancestors of the soldiers of the Carignan-Salières regiment. Gilles Couturier dit Labonté, is one of them, and he is at the origin of descendant who emanate from Denis-Joseph Levasseur and Charlotte Couturier's marriage. Denis-Joseph form Trois-Rivières, is a grandson of Pierre who had married Jeanne de Chaverlange. Charlotte Couturier is a granddaughter to the soldier Gilles Couturier dit Labonté married to Anne-Elisabeth Tarragon, a King's daughter.

Denis-Joseph Levasseur and Charlotte Couturier had nine children who have as great-grandfather, Gilles Couturier dit Labonté, a soldier of the regiment of Carignan. As great-grandmothers they have, Anne Leblanc and Anne-Elisabeth Tarragon, two King's daughters of the King. Denis-Joseph children settled in Trois-Rivières and in the Bécancour areas.

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Soldier of the Carignan-Salières

This French soldier wears the uniform of the Carignan-Salières regiment, stationed in New France between 1665 and 1668. This brown chestnut uniform has a gray brown lining that produces a decorative effect when the sleeves are returned. Chamois and black ribbons decorate the hat and the right shoulder, following the fashion of the time. The soldiers of the Carignan-Salières regiment all wear swords and most of them are armed with muskets, with the exception of two hundred men with lighter weapons called guns. Reconstruction by Francis Back.

Source: www.cmhg-phmc.gc.ca

In Joceline Levasseur's Family Tree:

A: There are eight soldiers of the Carignan-Salières regiment:

François Biville dit Picard, soldier in the Grandfontaine Company, married Marguerite Paquet, an immigrant, on November 26, 1670, in Quebec City. The couple had 3 children and settled in Quebec City. François was a master carpenter.

Antoine Bordeleau dit Laforest, soldier in the Petit Company, married Perrette Halier, a King's daughter, on October 15, 1669, in Quebec City. The couple had 2 children and settled in Neuville. Antoine was a farmer.

Pierre Champoux dit Jolicoeur, soldier in the Froment Company, married Geneviève Guillet, a Canadian born, in Bécancourt around 1860, in the Trois Rivières region. The couple had 7 children and settled in Cap-de-la-Madeleine. Pierre was a farmer.

Gilles Couturier dit Labonté. See article above, page 3.

Pierre Lesiège dit Lafontaine, soldier in the Saurel Company, married at Lavaltrie, Marguerite Laplace, a King's daughter. They had six children.

Pierre Mouet de Moras, Ensign or flag carrier in the Laubia Company, married Marie Toupin on April 8, 1668, in Trois-Rivières. Marie Toupin was born in Quebec City. The couple settled in Trois-Rivières and had 8 children. Pierre is lord (seigneur) of the seigneurie of the Island of Moras, located at the mouth of the Nicolet River.

Pierre Richer dit Laflèche, soldier in the Grandfontaine Company, married Dorothee Brassard on October 5, 1671. She was Canadian born. The couple had 12 children and settled in Batiscan. Pierre was a farmer.

Paul Vignault dit Laverdure, soldier in the Maximy Company, married Françoise Bourgeois, a King's daughter on November 3, 1669, at Sainte-Famille, Île d'Orléans. The couple had 12 children and settled in Saint-Laurent, île d'Orléans. Paul was a farmer.

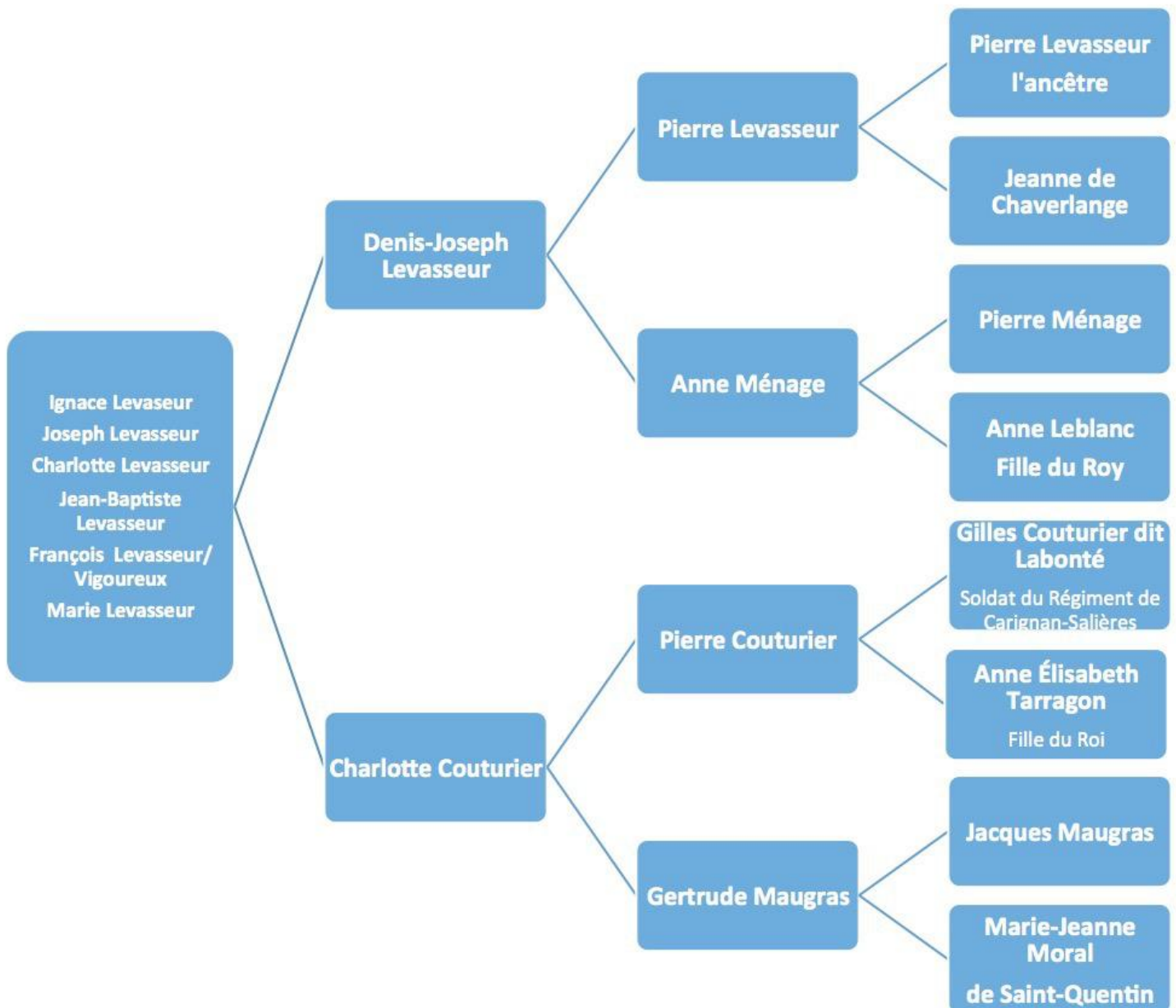
B: There is one soldier from a Tracy company:

André Mignier dit Lagacé, soldier in the Berthier Company in the regiment de l'Allier, married Jacqueline Michel, a King's daughter, on October 23, 1668, in Quebec City. The couple had 6 children and settled in Rivière-Ouelle. André was a farmer.

Gilles Couturier dit Labonté, soldier of the Carignan-Salières régiment and great grandfather of 9 Levasseur grandchildren.

Chart showing the ancestry of the children of Denis-Joseph Levasseur married to Charlotte Couturier. Ignace, Joseph, Charlotte, Jean-Baptiste, François dit vigoureux and Marie Levasseur, who have amongst their ascendants; Gilles Couturier, soldier of the Carignan-Salières Regiment and the King's two daughters: Anne Leblanc and Anne - Elisabeth Tarragon.

4 ^e génération	3 ^e génération	2 ^e génération	1 ^{ère} génération
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Huguette Levasseur, responsible for the activity, Joceline Levasseur, Pauline Carmel and Jean-Marie Levasseur

"Salon du patrimoine familial" (Family Heritage Fair) held in Trois-Rivières

The Federation of Quebec families held a "Salon du patrimoine familial" in Trois-Rivières, on September 16-17-18, 2015. This fair was held to promote the history and genealogy of families.

The Levasseur Association of America has participated in this fair and held an information booth. Visitors could consult Jean-Marie Levasseur's book entitled "Denis Joseph Levasseur (1712-1792) Trois-Rivières in the 18th century", as well as posters illustrating the City of Trois-Rivières in the 18th century.

They could also admire the genealogy tree of Joceline Levasseur. It is a list of all her ancestors of which 35 Filles du Roy and 9 Soldiers of the Carignan-Salières regiment. Moreover, it was possible to

consult dictionaries and the genealogical database of the Levasseur family.

Trois-Rivières is an important city for our association. Denis Joseph Levasseur, grandson of the ancestor Pierre Levasseur, arrived in 1736 in this city. He settled there and started a family. His children have settled in the region and in Central Quebec; their descendants have spread throughout Quebec, Canada and the United States.

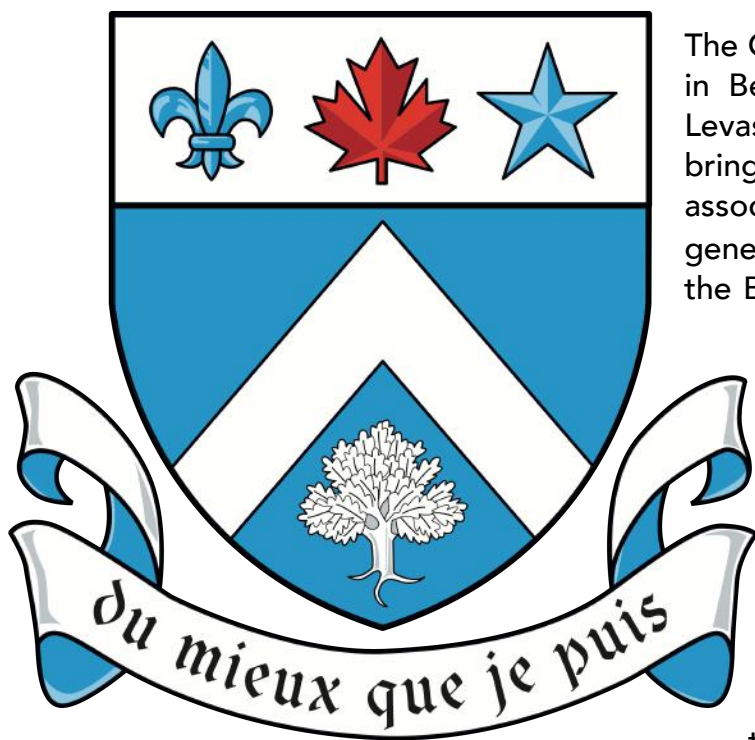
I thank the visitors who stopped by our booth, especially the descendants of Levasseur who provided us with information on their families. I thank Jean-Marie Levasseur for his very comprehensive research on Denis Joseph Levasseur. He printed documents and posters depicting maps of Trois-Rivières in the 18th

century. Our booth well reflected the life of the first ancestor who settled in this city.

Our participation in the Fair was made possible through the generosity of our volunteers. I want to thank the people who have ensured through their presence the animation of the Levasseur booth: Joceline, André and Irène, Pierre and Hélène, Gilles, Pauline, Raymond and Jean-Marie. A warm thank you for your time, and your warm welcome. Their presence helped to ensure visibility and awareness of the Levasseur Association to many visitors.

[Huguette Levasseur](#),
responsible for the Levasseur
booth

The 2015 General Assembly held in Bécancour, 26 September 2015



The General Meeting of the Levasseur Association was held in Bécancour, 26 September 2015. The President Roger Levasseur thanked most sincerely all the members who bring their collaboration to the smooth running of the association. He highlights the work of the webmaster, the genealogist, The treasurer, artisans of the publication of the Bulletin and anyone who assisted living association. He encouraged members to recruit new members.

The Treasurer, Pauline Carmel presented the financial statements of the association. It emphasizes the donation by « Transport Guy Levasseur » to the association. The Treasurer took steps to ensure that the association is in good standing with the Canada Revenue Agency and Revenu Quebec, producing reports.

have been made during the past year. Often these inputs are made following the obituaries that are accessible on the Web. Joceline meets many email requests for genealogical information. She wishes for the coming year, conduct research on Levasseur of Maine. US censuses will be very useful to her.

Joceline Levasseur, the genealogist informs us that the database has 132,600 entries. 3,000 new entries

Roger Levasseur, editor of the Bulletin of the Association, thanked Jean-Pierre Levasseur for the mammoth task he performs for the holding of the website and the publication of the Bulletin. Jean-Marie Levasseur has provided in-depth articles about the history of Denis-Joseph Levasseur; Pauline Carmel presented the history of his family; Huguette Levasseur was interested in the King's Wards present in the genealogy of Joceline Levasseur. Roger provides the English translation of the Bulletin. It is suggested that chronic this time is added to the publication. This talk today Levasseur making the news in the media. Patrick Levasseur agree to take care of this column. Members are also invited to write their family history and send it to the webmaster.

Participants in the General Assembly have sought ways to increase the number of members. It is suggested that each major city or region has a representative who will facilitate the meeting of Levasseur. Jean-Marie Levasseur attempt a first down in the Victoriaville area. For its part, Pauline Carmel wants to organize a meeting of Carmel descendant of Levasseur.

The Levasseur Association of America will attend the Heritage Fair in Trois-Rivières, fair organized by the Federation of Quebec families. This show will be held on 16-17-18 October 2015.

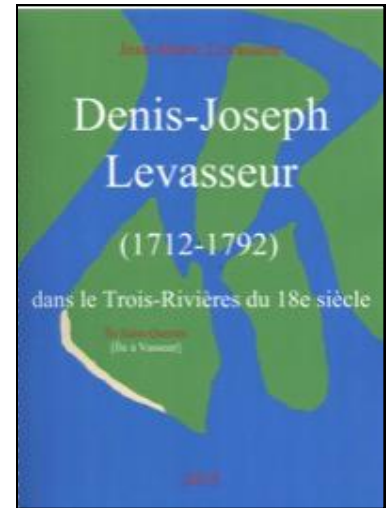
[Huguette Levasseur](#) (380)

Denis Joseph Levasseur (1712-1792)

Trois-Rivières in the 18th century



Jean-Marie Levasseur wrote a volume entitled: *Denis Joseph Levasseur (1712-1792) Trois-Rivières in the 18th century*. The author talks about life in Trois-Rivières in the 18th century. It presents Denis Joseph, his family, his work, his three places of residence. The author discusses the historical context in which Denis Joseph's family lived. The latter saw in 1752 the burning of the Ursuline convent, the hospital and 45 houses of the village of Trois-Rivières. His family lived during the period of the Seven Years War (1754-1760), and the US invasion (1775-1776). The author has devoted many hours to compile information and transcribing ancient documents. His work is very impressive.



Trois-Rivières is an important city for the descendants of Denis Joseph Levasseur, grandson of the ancestor Pierre Levasseur. Denis Joseph arrived at Trois-Rivières in 1736. He settled there and started a family with his wife Charlotte Couturier. Nine children were born, of which six went to adulthood. These in turn have founded families and settled in the regions of Trois-Rivières and Centre-du-Québec.

The author offers three different editions of the volume Denis Joseph Levasseur (1712-1792) Trois-Rivières in the 18th century:

1.	The complete edition volume with plasticized spiral cover. It is the story of Denis Joseph and his family, as well as the transcript of notarial acts on this first Levasseur settled in Trois-Rivières. 344 pages.	50,00 \$	plus shipping charges
2.	The abridged edition with plasticized spiral cover. 77 pages.	20,00 \$	plus shipping charges
3.	The abridged edition, stapled, presents the story of Denis-Joseph and his family. 77 pages	10,00 \$	plus shipping charges

You can order either of these editions by emailing our webmaster: webmaster@levasseur.org.

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 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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