

Levasseur

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Levasseur sculptors designed many tabernacles that can be seen mainly in churches located along the St. Lawrence River. Based on Claude Payer and Daniel Drouin volume titled: "*Les tabernacles du Québec des XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles*", we offer an itinerary of visits of these churches.

The President Message

Dear members of the Levasseur Association of America,

The Association is organizing a gathering of its members in the Quebec City region. The purpose of this meeting is to allow the Levasseur from different parts of the Canada and the United States to socialize. Your participation is important to ensure that the Association continues to progress. In addition to a presentation of religious masterpieces sculptured by our ancestors Levasseur you will have the opportunity to visit Wendake site and the Huron-Wendat Museum. This museum allows us to penetrate into the heart of the Wendat culture and provides an opportunity to learn about these native people and their contribution to our society. See details for your registration on the Levasseur Web Site: www.levasseur.org.

Last May, the Government of the Canada unveiled a plaque in honor of the first French Canadian woman doctor in Canada, Irma Levasseur. What a tribute to the Levasseur family. Like several of the ancestors Levasseur, this pioneer dedicated her life to the well-being of children at a time when they were neglected and did not have access to medical care in hospitals. The text on the plaque honoring this great lady is published in this issue.

Allow me to draw your attention to a problem that the ALA will face in a few years. The average age of your directors and those who ensure the functioning of the Association is over 75 years, and the membership is declining. What future beholds the Association if there are no new members to take over the directorship of the Association? Will the present directors have to consider putting on hold or shutting down this family Association that is the envy of many other family Associations.

We will continue to pursue the work of our founder, Vincent Levasseur, but within a few years, the Association will require new members to serve on the Board of Directors. I encourage you to read the article in the bulletin about, Albert's Shop and use it as a model to write an article about a member of your family. Such a document could become a valuable source of information for one of your descendants who seeks to learn about the way of life of his or her forefathers.

I encourage you to come to the September 2 gathering in the Quebec City region to fraternize, to commemorate the achievements of our ancestors and contribute to the continued success of the Levasseur Association of America.

Roger Levasseur



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Photo page 1

Tabernacles in the Ursulines' Chapel

On the road of tabernacles by Levasseur sculptors

by: [Huguette Levasseur](#)

During the summer, several Quebec parishes greet visitors to inform them about the architects, sculptors, painters and decorators who contributed to the design and building of their churches. Some offer guided tours of the facilities. For tourists, it's a great way to learn more about the religious heritage of these churches. Levasseur sculptors have designed and built, in the 18th century, many tabernacles which can be admired in churches located along the St. Lawrence River.

We offer you an itinerary of visits to discover the tabernacles built by Levasseur sculptors. To provide this itinerary, information from the volume entitled; *Les tabernacles du Québec des XVII^e et XVIII^e siècles*¹, (the tabernacles of the Québec of 17th and 18th century), was used. This volume was published by the Quebec Conservation Centre and the national Museum of fine arts of Quebec in early 2016. It is the result of the work accomplished during the past twenty years, by two specialists, Claude Payer and Daniel Drouin. These authors provide a prominent place to the tabernacles built by the Levasseur sculptors. They left their mark as sculptors during the period of New-France and the beginnings of the English conquest.



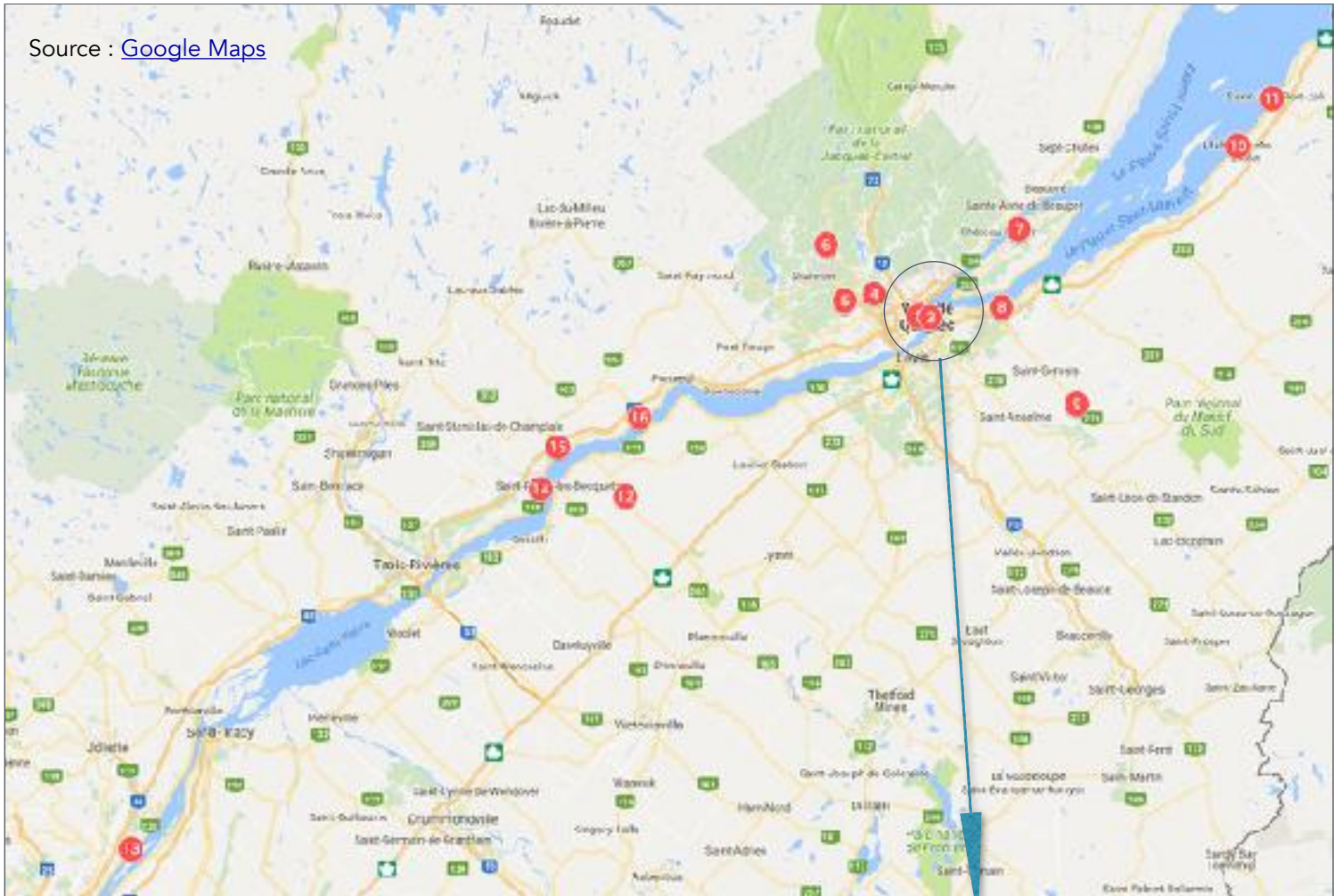
Tabernacle : The tabernacle is a piece of liturgical furniture placed on the altar in a Catholic Church. It is an architectural ensemble that often reconstitutes the façade of the church, with its dome, colonnades and bleachers. The tabernacle includes a small cabinet placed at the center to accommodate the ciborium containing the consecrated hosts. It is made of wood, plated with gold leaves.

We invite you to stop in one of the churches located along the St. Lawrence River to admire the works designed and built by members of the Levasseur family.

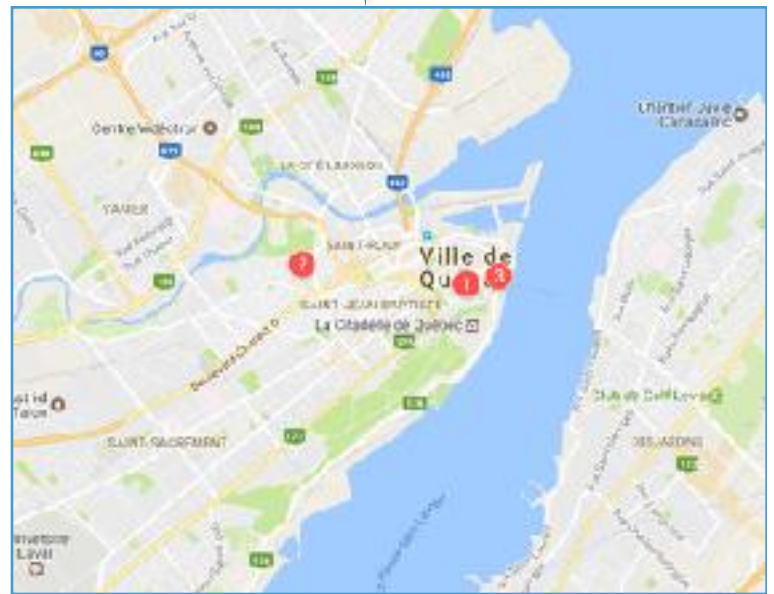
1. Payer, Claude et Daniel Drouin, [Les tabernacles du Québec des XVII^e et XVIII^e siècles](#), Québec, Les Publications du Québec, 2016, 271 p.

Location of churches where there are tabernacles sculptured by Levasseur sculptors

Source : [Google Maps](#)



1. Québec. Chapelle des Ursulines.
2. Québec. Chapelle extérieure de l'Hôpital Général.
3. Québec. Église Notre-Dame-des-Victoires - chapelle.
4. Wendake. Église Notre-Dame-de-Lorette..
5. Québec, secteur Val-Bélair. Église Saint-Gérard-Majella.
6. Saint-Gabriel-de-Valcartier. Église Saint-Gabriel.
7. Île d'Orléans. Église Sainte-Famille.
8. Beaumont. Église Saint-Étienne.
9. Saint-Lazare-de-Bellechasse. Église Saint-Lazare.
10. L'Islet. Église Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours.
11. Saint-Jean-Port-Joli. Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste.
12. Fortierville. Église Sainte-Philomène.
13. Saint-Sulpice. Église.
14. Batiscan. Église Saint-François-Xavier.
15. Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade. Église Sainte-Anne.
16. Grondines. Église Saint-Charles-Borromée.
17. Kaskaskia Il. USA Church of the Immaculate Conception. Not on the map



Google subscribers have access to an interactive map with several pictures at the following this address: <https://drive.google.com/a/levasseur.org/open?id=1xmVyl85lrFQDtuyV4x9pXpFlsY&usp=sharing>

North shore of the Saint Laurent



Tabernacle of the Batiscan church



Tabernacle of the Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade church



Tabernacle of the Deschambaults-Grondines

Saint-Sulpice. Saint-Sulpice Church.

This church is classified as an historical monument. The tabernacle, used for worship, was the work of François-Noël and Jean-Baptiste-Antoine Levasseur built prior to 1754.

Batiscan. Saint-François-Xavier Church.

The tabernacle was designed and built by François-Noël and Jean-Baptiste-Antoine Levasseur, circa 1742. This tabernacle no longer serves for worship and is now placed in the nave along the wall of the church.

Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade. Sainte-Anne Church.

The tabernacle is the work of Pierre-Noël Levasseur, from 1746 to 1750. This tabernacle has been restored by the Quebec Conservation Center. It is no longer used for worship. It has been placed in the nave of the church along the wall.

Deschambault-Grondines. Saint-Charles-Borromée Church.

This tabernacle is the work of François-Noël and Jean-Baptiste-Antoine Levasseur in 1746. It is still used for worship.

Quebec City



Tabernacles of the Ursulines' Chapel



Tabernacles of the Augustines' Chapel in the Hôpital Général



Tabernacle of Notre-Dame-de-Lorette Church in Wendake

The Ursulines' Chapel.

Pierre-Noël Levasseur built the tabernacle from 1732 to 1736. The authors, Claude Payer and Daniel Drouin, recognize him as being the builder of the chapel. The gilding was made in the Ursulines' workshops. Pierre-Noël built the altarpiece, the interior design of the exterior Chapel, the pulpit and the balustrade of this Chapel. The Quebec Conservation Centre did the restoration. The tabernacle is still being used for worship. The Chapel is recognized since 1972 as a national historical site by the Government of the Canada.

The General Hospital Augustines' Chapel.

Bishop of St-Vallier gave the tabernacle to this institution. This tabernacle, which is still used for worship, was built by Noël Levasseur from 1721 to 1723.

The Notre-Dame-de-la-Victoire Church.

The Sainte-Geneviève tabernacle on the side altar is the work of an anonymous sculptor and is attributed to Noël Levasseur. It dates the end of the 17th century and would have been reworked around 1720. This tabernacle is still used for worship. The church Notre-Dame-des-Victoires has been recognized in 1988 as a national historical site by the Government of the Canada.

Wendake. Notre-Dame-de-Lorette Church.

This church was linked to the history of the Huronne-Wendate nation. About 1722, Noël Levasseur built the tabernacle that is still used for worship. The church is classified in 1967 and recognized as a national historical site in 1981.

Val-Bélair sector, Saint-Gérard-Majella Church.

The tabernacle was built by the sculptor Pierre-Noël Levasseur and his associates, between 1730 and 1740. It is still being used for worship.

Saint-Gabriel-de-Valcartier. Saint-Gabriel Church

The tabernacle built in 1749 is the work of François-Noël Levasseur, Jean-Baptiste-Antoine Levasseur and Jean Baillargé? It is still being used for worship.

Beaupré Coast



Tabernacle of the Holy Family Church

Île d'Orléans. Sainte-Famille Church.

The tabernacle built in 1749 is the work of François-Noël Levasseur, Jean-Baptiste-Antoine Levasseur and Jean Baillargé? It is still being used for worship.

The Saint-Lawrence shore



Tabernacle of the Beaumont Church.



Tabernacle of l'Islet Church.



Tabernacle of the Saint-Jean-Pierre-Joli Church.

Beaumont. Saint-Étienne Church.

The tabernacle, still being used for worship, is the work of Noël Levasseur, between 1717 and 1719.

Saint-Lazare-de-Bellechasse. Saint-Lazare Church.

Located in the sacristy of the church, this tabernacle is the work of Pierre-Noël Levasseur and his associates, from 1757 to 1759.

l'Islet. Notre-Dame-de-Bonsecours Church.

The tabernacle which is still used for worship was built by Noël Levasseur, from 1728 to 1730. It was subsequently transformed by Jean and François Baillargé, about 1785.

Saint-Jean-Port-Joli. Saint-Jean-Baptiste Church.

The tabernacle, that is still used for worship, is the work of Pierre-Noël Levasseur in, about 1740.

Quebec Center



Fortierville. Sainte-Philomène Church.

The tabernacle, located in the sacristy, is the work of François-Noël Levasseur, from 1773 to 1776. It was first acquired by the neighboring parish Saint-Jean-Baptiste de Deschailons.

United States

The sculptor Stanislas Levasseur, Pierre-Noël's son, migrated with his family to the United States. He built the tabernacle for the [Church of the Immaculate Conception in Kaskaskia](#), Illinois, between the years 1771 and 1784.

Levasseur Sculptors in New-France:

Descendants of the two brothers, Jean and Pierre Levasseur

The ancestors, Jean and Pierre Levasseur, were brothers and masters-joiners. Jean arrived in Quebec City in 1651. Pierre was present at his nephew, Pierre Drolet baptism in Quebec, on August 13, 1654. Their sons were master-carpenters. Levasseur sculptors are part of the third and fourth generations. Often, they worked together. Presumably they had learned their trade by working with their fathers who were carpenters/joiners. It was not always easy to identify the authorship of each of their works.

1 st generation	2 nd génération	3 rd generation	4 th generation
Jean Levasseur , About 1622-1686 Master Carpenter/ joiners	Noël Levasseur 1654-1731 Master Carpenter/ joiners	Noël Levasseur About 1680-1740 Sculptor	François-Noël Levasseur 1703-1794 Sculptor Jean-Baptiste Levasseur 1717-1775 Sculptor
Pierre Levasseur About 1627-1694 Master Carpenter/ joiners	Pierre Levasseur 1661-1731 Master Carpenter/ joiners	Pierre-Noël Levasseur 1690-1770 Sculptor	Pierre-Noël Levasseur , 1719- Sculptor Charles Levasseur , 1723- Sculptor René Michel Levasseur , 1724-1800, Carpenter Stanislas Levasseur , 1732- Sculptor

Noël Levasseur, about 1680 – 1740

The sculptor Noël Levasseur is the grandson of the ancestor Jean Levasseur. His parents are Noël Levasseur and Marguerite Guay, Noël was born in Quebec around 1680. He married Marie-Madeleine Turpin on April 3, 1701 at the Notre-Dame church in Montreal. In 1703, he settled in Quebec where he worked as a sculptor. Several parishes are established along the St. Lawrence River. Noël received orders to build religious furniture from priests and religious communities for churches and chapels. The Levasseur-Guay couple had thirteen children. Their sons François-Noël and Jean-Baptiste-Antoine worked with their father and also become sculptors. The tabernacle of the Quebec General Hospital's chapel and the Saint-Étienne de Lauzon church are among the works by Noël. Noël died at the age of 60 in Quebec City, on December 13, 1740.

His sons, both sculptors:

François Noël Levasseur, 1703-1794

François Noël was baptized at the church Notre-Dame de Quebec on December 26, 1703. He married Marie-Geneviève Côté, widow of Gilles Gabriel, in Quebec, on August 26, 1748. The couple had no children. François-Noël died at the Quebec General Hospital on October 29, 1794. He was buried the next day in Quebec City..

Jean-Baptiste-Antoine Levasseur, 1717- 1775

Jean-Baptiste-Antoine was baptized on June 20, 1717, at the Notre-Dame church in Quebec. He married in this same church, Marie-Régis Cartier, on April 10, 1747. They lived and he worked with his brother François-Noël, on St. Louis Street in Quebec City. They had seven children. Jean-Baptist died on January 8, 1775, at the age of 57. He was buried the next day in Quebec City.

François Noël and Jean-Baptiste-Antoine accomplished many projects together. They sculptured tabernacles for many churches and the chapels. Specifically, they built the tabernacles of the Saint-François-Xavier de Batiscan and the Saint-Charles-Borromée de Deschambault-Grondines churches. They also carved statues, candleholders. Noël's two sons also worked on the decoration of boats that were being built in Quebec City at that time.

Pierre-Noël Levasseur, 1690-1770

The sculptor Pierre-Noël Levasseur is the grandson of the ancestor Pierre Levasseur and Noël Levasseur's cousin. He is Pierre and Madeleine Chapeau's son. He was baptized on November 28, 1690 in Quebec City. His mother died when he was only four and a half years old. His father married Anne Mesnage. Pierre-Noël married Marie-Agnès Lajoue on January 7, 1719, at the Notre-dame of Quebec church. Together they had 16 children. Three of these sons became sculptors: Pierre-Noël II, Charles and Stanislas.

Pierre-Noël Levasseur is considered as the great sculptor of his time. He initially worked in the Montreal area. Later, after his return to Quebec, he designed and built Ursulines' Chapel in Quebec. The pulpit, the altarpiece and the balustrade were also built by him. Recently, the authorship of the tabernacle was attributed to him. He also produced the tabernacle of the Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade church, as well as that of St-Jean-Port-Joli. He carved the magnificent statues of St. Peter and St. Paul for the Charlesbourg church. Pierre-Noël became the Royal surveyor in 1737. He died in Quebec City August 12. 1770.

Pierre-Noël's sons worked with him in his workshop. Only Stanislas worked on a tabernacle in Kaskaskia, Illinois, in the United States.

His sons:

Pierre-Noël Levasseur, 1719 -

Pierre-Noël was baptized on October 25, 1719 in Québec. He studied naval sculpture in Rochefort, France where he continued his career.

Charles Levasseur, 1723-

Charles was baptized on March 3, 1723 at Neuville, near Quebec. He married Françoise Neuville on January 7, 1745 at the Notre-Dame church. The couple had a daughter who died at the age of 2. Charles worked with his father. We don't know the date or place of his death.

René Michel Levasseur, 1724-1800

René Michel was baptized on October 12, 1724 in Boucherville. He went to Montreal and lived with François Filliau Dubois, a carpenter/joiner related to his family. Dubois took Pierre-Noël's son as an apprentice to learn the trade of carpentry and joinery for a period of four years. René-Michel married Marie Tellier, at the Saint-Ours church on January 29, 1753. The couple had 11 children, of whom many died at a young age. René Michel died at Yamaska, October 16, 1800, at the age of 76.

Stanislas Levasseur, 1732-

Stanislas was born on June 2, 1732 and baptized the same day in Quebec City. He married Françoise De L'Oeil on October 25, 1756, in Quebec City. Fourteen children were born from their union, including 9 in Quebec, 1 in Windsor, and 4-Kaskaspia in Illinois, in the United States. Birthplaces of his children show that the family migrated towards the Mississippi River. On August 7, 1802, Stanislas married Elizabeth Vigno in a parish in Arkansas. He would have died in Illinois. In the Church of the Immaculate Conception of Kaskaskia, there is a tabernacle designed and built by the sculptor Stanislas Levasseur.

Text to consult:

- Jean Trudel, « LEVASSEUR, NOËL », dans *Dictionnaire biographique du Canada*, vol. 2, Université Laval/University of Toronto, 2003–, consulté le 4 janv. 2017, http://www.biographi.ca/fr/bio/levasseur_noel_2F.html.
- Michel Cauchon et André Juneau, « LEVASSEUR, PIERRE-NOËL », dans *Dictionnaire biographique du Canada*, vol. 3, Université Laval/University of Toronto, 2003–, consulté le 4 janv. 2017, http://www.biographi.ca/fr/bio/levasseur_pierre_noel_3F.html.
- Raymonde Gauthier, « LEVASSEUR, FRANÇOIS-NOËL », dans *Dictionnaire biographique du Canada*, vol. 4, Université Laval/University of Toronto, 2003–, consulté le 4 janv. 2017, http://www.biographi.ca/fr/bio/levasseur_francois_noel_4F.html
- Raymonde Gauthier, « LEVASSEUR, Delor, JEAN-BAPTISTE-ANTOINE », dans *Dictionnaire biographique du Canada*, vol. 4, Université Laval/University of Toronto, 2003–, consulté le 4 janv. 2017, http://www.biographi.ca/fr/bio/levasseur_jean_baptiste_antoine_4F.html.
- Raymonde Gauthier, «La dynastie des Levasseur», dans *L'encyclopédie de l'Agora*, consulté le 5 janv. 2016, http://agora.qc.ca/documents/la_dynastie_des_levasseur



ALBERT'S SHOP

by: [Raymond Levasseur](#)



[Saint-Léandre](#) is a small community in the [Matanie](#) locality, which, in the Census of 2016, had a population of 400. In 1951, the population was 766.

I was born there, on 2 August 1940, the eldest of a family of 8 children, of whom 2 died at child birth. This is where my father, Albert, ran during a period of thirty years, with the support of my mother Émélie (the couple appears on this photo the day of his wedding, on October 3, 1939), the first blacksmith and carpentry shop that has been part of the Saint-Léandre landscape for three quarters of a century.

This boutique - "*The Shop*", as it has always been designated by all - my maternal grandfather, Herménégilde Coulombe, built it in 1910, next to his house that he had built three years earlier, which is now number [2947 of the street, Principal](#).



Photo at the top of previous page, viewed view from the east, shows the shop as it was built in 1910, west of the residence. Herménégilde later added an annex on the south side, as shown in photo on the left, which includes his eldest sons, Gerard left and Antoine. They, however, were not able to ensure its succession.

A wood lathe was subsequently added. The second floor, accessible by a wide straight staircase of a dozen steps, was used to store various materials, such as pre-cut pieces for the making of frames, chairs or other furniture for eventual orders. A space was available for the drying of various objects that had been recently painted or varnished.

But the shop is not only a carpentry workshop. A section near the entrance is occupied by a forge, where Herménégilde operates as a blacksmith and wheelwright, surrounded by the bellow with crank, the coal boiler, the anvil, the water bucket to soak the hot iron, the workbench with vice, the pliers, soldering irons, sledgehammer and other hammers.

In the early 1940s, my grandfather sold his property - land and buildings that included: the residence, shop, barn-stable and shed - to his son-in-law, my father. A large sign of 2 by 4 feet, manufactured by the latter and hung above the north entrance to the shop bearing the name:

*ALBERT LEVASSEUR
MENUISIER CHARRON*



Albert continued the work of his father-in-law. In addition he performed the work of farrier. But he had difficulty with some horses, more impetuous and edgy, which caused a few minor accidents, fortunately not serious – he used no trave, because he believed that practice painful for the horses.

So much so that, my father stopped being a farrier, other than for his own horses, such as the one with which he stands on this photo. He is shown here in his everyday outfit (overalls and cap). Various horses have been present in that stall until the beginning of 1960^s. The space, previously occupied in the center of the shop for shoeing horses, has remained vacant, thus making it easier to move around in the building.



This photo shows the inside of the shop, including the wood block, installed in 1925, the joiner, the circular saw and the band-saw. Herménégilde poses in front of the latter, while his companion push a piece of wood on the joiner/planer. This is my paternal uncle, Fortunat, who built, within these walls, for his wedding, his furniture (table and 4 chairs) as well as 3 rocking chairs.

The interior building is filled with tools. Readily accessible and at hand, around the work benches, there are various tools such as: measuring tapes, mallets, hammers, rabbet planes, planes, files and rough files, rat-tail files, other planes, graters, saw-files and smooth-files, wrenches and crescent wrenches of all kinds, wood chisels and gouges and carving knives of various shapes and sizes.

On sections of the wall are suspended, in a structured order, levels, augers, handsaws, brace and bits, (before the electric drills), pliers, wood and metal drills, screwdriver, bevels and squares. On other shelves there were; paint brushes, paint cans, different industrial products clearly identified, nails, screws, bolts of all dimensions stored in containers at all times easy to spot and readily accessible.

Albert has continued to devote his time handling one or the other of these various tools. In addition, he worked all the machine tools that were powered by a gasoline engine and were connected to it by long and wide belts.

My brothers, sisters and I spend our childhood with the repeated chug-chug of the engine that rocked us during our afternoon naps and kid games. The neighborhood never complained of noise disturbances nor was the milk production of the herds grazing nearby affected. The machine's noise level was either considered to be low, or they were considered to be integral part of rural life and a community's activities. It is true, that regulations governing decibel level and the time of day when noise levels were subject to controls, had not been implemented. Nor were there mechanisms to enforce such regulations.

The electrification of the property, in the early 1950^s, did not end to the running of the engine. However, it extended the hours my father worked. The shop frequently remained open during the evenings.

His work included: Firing the forge and hammering on the anvil to repair the bandages of bogeys, shaping horseshoes, making chain links or anchors for panels, building sleds or new skates for sleds, building wagon wheels, or cutting the stringers; assembling chairs or windows, making cabinets and putting finishing touches on porch posts. Later, when horse-drawn bogeys had become gradual objects of collection for the museum, he cut and adjusted wooden tippers and slatted sides for trucks. Those are some of the accomplishments that Albert achieved with the equipment in his shop but mainly because of his inherent skill,.

In 1959, roadwork necessitated that our residence be moved further back. This provided an opportunity to have it renovated and led to the displacement of the shop. It was then being used as a warehouse until it was demolished in the 1980's. From that time, my father worked in construction, first on the north shore and, subsequently, in the parish and surroundings.

When he started slowing down and his ability to climb on construction sites and work on the scaffolds was reduced, Albert continued to satisfy the demands of people who relied on his expertise, either to fix a pump, design a staircase, design plans to build a shed or a pigsty.

My father died August 20, 1992, 25 year ago, at the age of 73. He left his mark on numerous residences and buildings in Saint-Léandre and nearby. But, even more, Albert's shop, (La Shoppe à Albert) will be remembered by many faithful and grateful customers for years to come.

Albert Levasseur

- Born 7 May 1919 - St-Léandre, Matane, QC
- Baptized 8 May 1919 - St-Léandre, Matane, QC
- Died 20 August 1992 - Matane, QC , age at death: 73 years old
- Buried 24 August 1992 - St-Léandre, Matane, QC

Parents

- Thomas Levasseur 1895-1972
- Élisabeth Élise Dubé 1890-1943

Spouses and children

Married 3 October 1939, St-Léandre, Matane, QC, to Émélie Coulombe 1913-1999 with

- Raymond Levasseur 1940-
- Roland Levasseur 1942-2011
- Gilbert Levasseur 1943-
- Léandre Levasseur 1944-1944
- Gilberte Levasseur 1945-2006
- Fernande Levasseur 1947-
- Jean-Guy Levasseur 1951-1951
- Cyrille Levasseur 1955-

Siblings

- Albert Levasseur 1919-1992
- Adéodat Levasseur 1920-1939
- Isabelle Levasseur 1921-2008
- Roland Levasseur 1922-1940
- Yvonne Levasseur 1923-1986
- Fortunat Levasseur 1925-1990
- Jean-Baptiste Levasseur 1926-1994
- Rose Anne Levasseur 1928-2015
- Maurice Levasseur 1929-2004
- Léonard Levasseur 1930-1990

Dre. Irma Levasseur acknowledged as: a National historical person

by: *Huguette Levasseur*



First female French-Canadian doctor in Quebec, Dr. Irma Levasseur was a pioneer in the health care of children. She was the instigator for the foundation of the Sainte-Justine Hospital in Montreal, the Hôpital de l'Enfant Jésus and of the Cardinal-Villeneuve Centre in Quebec City. For many years, the work of this female doctor had not been fairly recognized. In her historical trilogy "Dr. Irma", the author, Mrs Pauline Gill, made us discover this great lady who died in poverty and oblivion.

On March 14, 2017 the Hôpital de l'Enfant Jésus requested a gesture of acknowledgement in her honour. The Canadian Commission of historical monuments and Parks Canada unveiled a commemorative plaque to pay tribute to Dr. Irma Levasseur and recognize her work in the field of pediatrics in Canada. She is now officially recognized as "national historic person. DreIrma is a descendant of our ancestor, Laurent Levasseur.

Mrs Pauline Gill was present at this event. She has succeeded in having Dre. Irma recognized for her dedication to child care by her extensive research and writings of three novels about her as well as making many presentations.

Two members of our association, Joceline and Madeleine Levasseur, attended the unveiling of the plaque. It will be placed at the entrance of the Irma Levasseur auditorium in the Hospital.

At a time when francophone universities remained closed to women, Irma LeVasseur moved to the United States to study medicine and became, in 1903, the first female physician licensed to practise in Quebec. Alarmed by Montréal's high infant mortality rates, she travelled to Europe to further her knowledge of paediatrics by working with eminent specialists.

LeVasseur, a pioneer in Canada of this new medical field, initiated the establishment of renowned children's institutions: Sainte-Justine Hospital in Montréal, as well as the Hôpital de l'Enfant-Jésus and the Centre Cardinal-Villeneuve in her native Québec City.

http://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page_nhs_eng.aspx?id=12032

Dre Irma LeVasseur (1877-1964)

Note: The text on this page is taken from a briefing paper published by Parks Canada. It provides a biography of Dr. Irma LeVasseur. This text can be read a brochure published by: the Historical sites and monuments Commission of Canada. It was read at the unveiling of the plaque dedicated to Irma LeVasseur on March 14, 2017 at Enfant Jésus Hospital in Quebec. This text is available at the following address: <https://www.canada.ca/en/parks-canada.html>: <https://www.canada.ca/en/parks-canada/news/>

At a time when the doors of Francophone universities were still closed to women, Irma LeVasseur was one of the female pioneers who managed to receive a degree in medicine and practice in a profession that was occupied almost exclusively by men. Considered one of the pioneers of paediatrics in Canada, she was one of the few women to practice this new medical specialty at the turn of the 20th century, thanks to her knowledge of the latest international connections, notably advances in this field drawn from significant and co-founder of two hospitals recognized and was the rehabilitation of disabled in the United States. She was the instigator for children that are now internationally responsible for founding a centre for children in Québec City.

Irma LeVasseur was born in her mother was an opera talented journalist. She hardship, however; her her mother left the family had a mild disability that regular school. Affected decided to become a to treat people with of 17, after achieving great

City, she moved to the At the time, women were not Canada's Francophone

Canada with her diploma and regarded U.S. paediatrician couple, needed to petition the Legislative

Quebec. She then settled in Montréal where she worked at the *Crèche de la Miséricorde*. Dismayed with the high mortality rate among children in urban areas and by their myriad health problems, she travelled to Europe where she stayed from 1905 to 1907 to further her training in paediatric, a new discipline in the early 1900's.



Québec City to a family of artists; singer and her father, a multi-was not sheltered from younger brother died in 1881, in 1887, and her older brother prevented him from attending by all of this misfortune, she doctor at a young age in order illness or disabilities. At the age success in her studies in Québec United States to study medicine. admitted to faculties of medicine in universities. Upon returning to two years of residency under a highly she faced yet another challenge. She

Assembly for the right to practice medicine in



Photo : http://www.pc.gc.ca/aps/dfhd/page_nhs_fra.aspx?id=12032

Dr. LeVasseur was 30 years old when she returned to Canada in 1907, trained as a paediatrician with leading-edge knowledge in the field in both North America and Europe. Upon returning to Montréal, she started planning for a Francophone hospital for sick children. She described her plans to a group of socially-engaged women, including Justine Lacoste-Beaubien who took charge of the project. In November 1907, the Refuge des petits malades opened its doors. It later became Hôpital Sainte-Justine, today an institution of world-wide renown. The following year, Irma LeVasseur left Canada once again for New York City, and then travelled on to Serbia in 1915, where she volunteered during the war. She returned to Quebec in 1919 and settled in her hometown, still concerned with children's health. In 1923, she opened a health clinic for children in her home, which was the origin of the Hôpital de l'Enfant-Jésus, another world-renowned institution. She also fostered a dream of creating an institution for the rehabilitation of children with disabilities in Québec City, but that dream would not become a reality before 1935.

Irma LeVasseur practiced her profession for more than 50 years, yet she died quietly, forgotten by all, even though she had worked her entire life for the well-being of sick children and children with disabilities and fought valiantly for women's right to practice medicine.

Dr. Irma Levasseur et Pauline Gill

The author, Pauline Gill, is interested in our history and, mainly, to eliminate the anonymity of our pioneer women. She has published three historical novels in which she admirably describes the life of Dr. Irma Levasseur



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IRMA, TOME 2
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<https://www.quebec-amerique.com/auteurs/pauline-gill.html>

See also: <http://irma.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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