

# Levasseur and Carmel Families Web and Social Media Capsules



## **Coroners' inquests involving some Levasseurs**

Coroners' inquests from judicial districts of Québec, Beauce, Charlevoix, Montmagny and Thetford Mines 1824-1986. We found a few Levasseurs and Borgias in the registers.

> Sources: <u>https://www.banq.qc.ca</u> and <u>Reportage Radio-Canada</u> <sup>(1)</sup>



We invite you to become a member of our association and to contribute articles for our archives on the Levasseur and Carmel families.

« .. Today, only 7 or 8% of all deaths in the province end up in morgues and require an investigation. »

The National Library and Archives of Quebec (BAnQ) is a Quebec Crown corporation created by the merger of the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec and the Archives nationales du Québec in 2006. The Bibliothèque nationale du Québec had previously merged with the Grande Bibliothèque in 2002.

Hundreds of thousands of documents are available for online research. This month, we have compiled various mentions of Levasseurs, (and a few Borgias) that have been the subject of coroners' reports over the years. It should be noted that all coroners' files created before June 29, 1967 are accessible in their entirety, with the exception of cases not open to the public. Transcribing all these documents would take tens of pages. Here is a brief summary of the transcripts of these reports. We invite you to consult the BaNQ website for further details.

### The coroner's function in Quebec (text taken from the BaNQ website)

« In Quebec, on October 4, 1764, William Conyngham and John Burke were appointed by the governor as coroners and clerks of the peace, the former in Quebec City and the latter in Montreal. Representing the King as a public officer, the coroner was responsible for investigating the circumstances surrounding the violent or sudden death of a person from unknown or suspicious



Participated in this article: Jean-Pierre Levasseur (research and editing), Huguette Levasseur (review of texts), Joceline Levasseur (review of genealogical content), Pierre Levasseur (translation). These references come mainly from the websites of Radio-Canada and the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec.

causes. If the death was not the result of natural causes, or if the circumstances of the death suggested a suspicious death, the coroner would hold an inquest and produced a report specifying the cause of death and identifying the persons he believed to be criminally responsible for it. A jury, usually made up of twelve honest men with no criminal record, who were objective about the investigation and came from the locality where the death occurred or where the corpse was found, then had to reach a verdict on whether the death was caused by infanticide, suicide, murder, manslaughter, negligence or self-defence. This jury was then governed by a president who, like a judge, legally guided the jury and received its verdict. Coroner's juries, abolished in 1967, were governed by the same rules as those of the Superior Court. »

#### Morgues have always been managed by the coroner's office.

« Many years ago, the identification of a loved one was done almost systematically in Quebec City and Montreal morgues. That was the procedure. Today, only 7 or 8% of all deaths in the province end up in morgues and require an investigation. Identification at the scene of the accident or in hospital is now preferred. » (Source Radio-Canada) <sup>(3)</sup>



**Gabrièle Dostie-Levasseur** in one of the body storage rooms at the Montreal morgue. Despite being only 25 years old, she has been a morgue attendant at the Montreal morgue for a year and a half, and has a wealth of experience in the mortuary environment. After completing a degree in nursing, she went on to earn a bachelor's degree in criminology, followed by a technical diploma in thanatology.

Photo: Olivia Laperrière-Roy - Text: Radio-Canada

#### Forensic medicine, 48 results for the search on the surnames Levasseur and Borgia <sup>(4)</sup>

- Pierre Levasseur 1762-1824 (P). Native of Beauport, QC. Profession or trade: Carter. Age: 63. Date of death or discovery of body: 1824-08-25. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): The inquest report is incomplete and does not indicate the cause of death. The only eyewitness account refers vaguely to a lung ailment and cough that had afflicted the deceased for several years.
- <u>Éléonore Levasseur</u> 1877-1929 (P). Originally from Arthabaska, St-Christophe parish, QC. Age: 57. Date of death or discovery of body: 12-03-1929. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Chronic myocardial aortitis <sup>(5)</sup>
- 3. <u>Anselme Levasseur</u> 1863-1932 (P). Native of Shawinigan, QC. Age: 70 years. Date of death or discovery of body: 29-08-1932. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Meningo-encephalitis.
- 4. <u>Damase Levasseur</u> (L). Age: 79. Native of Saint-Ulric, Matane County. Age: 79. Date of death or discovery of body: 05-12-1932. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Death due to asystole.
- <u>Rose-Anna Levasseur</u> 1901-1935 (L). Originally from Saint-Eleuthère-de-Kamouraska, QC. Age: 33. Wife of Joseph Bouchard. Date of death or discovery of body: 22-04-1935. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Pulmonary tuberculosis.
- <u>Jean Levasseur</u> 1865-1935 (L). Native of Jonquière, Chicoutimi county. Age: 69. Date of death or discovery of body: 06-05-1935. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Myocarditis. <sup>(6)</sup>
- 7. <u>Philippe Levasseur</u> 1897-1937 (L). Place of residence: Quebec City, Qc. Age: 40 years 9 months. Date of death or discovery of body: 08-12-1937. Date of inquest: 08-12-1937. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Brain tumor.
- Ophélia Levasseur 1895-1939 (P) Profession or trade: Sister Marthe of the Congrégation des Soeurs Hospitalières de St-Joseph de l'Hôtel-Dieu-d'Arthabaska. Age: 43 years. Date of death or discovery of body: 23-02-1939. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Superacute toxemia following extensive burns she accidentally inflicted on herself in a bath.
- 9. <u>J.-Pierre Levasseur</u> 1894-1941 (P). Place of residence: Near Windigo, Laviolette, Qc. Date of death or discovery of body: 08-12-1941. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Accidental death by drowning
- 10. <u>Louis-Philippe Levasseur</u> ????-1942. Place of residence: Originally from Mont-Joli. Age: 34 years. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Pulmonary tuberculosis.
- 11. <u>Charles-A. Levasseur</u> 1915-1942 (L). Place of residence: Originally from Mont-Joli, QC. Age: 27. Parents: Son of Georges. Date of death or discovery of body: 07-10-1942. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Suicide by hanging.
- 12. <u>Rosaire Levasseur</u> Native of Saint-Léonard-d'Aston, Nicolet county. Age: 38 years. Date of death or discovery of body: 14-04-1943. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Pulmonary tuberculosis.
- 13. <u>Jean Levasseur</u> 1919-1946 (L). Place of residence: Originally from Mont-Joli. Age: 26 years. Date of death or discovery of body: 28-07-1946. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Pulmonary tuberculosis.
- 14. <u>J.-Arthur Levasseur</u> 1869-1946 (L). Place of residence: Originally from Rouyn, Abitibi <sup>(7)</sup>. Age: 77. Date of death or discovery of body: 06-10-1946. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Death due to broncho-pneumonia (B. P.), chronic myocarditis, arteriosclerosis.
- 15. <u>Marguerite Levasseur</u> Place of residence: Originally from Quebec City. Age: 45 Parents: Wife of François Grenier. Date of death or discovery of body: 18-07-1947 Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Death due to bronchial asthma and general paralysis.

- 16. <u>Louis Levasseur</u> 1883-1948 (P). Place of residence: Quebec City, Qc. Age: 64 years, 8 months. Date of death or discovery of body: 09-07-1948. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Death due to heart failure, acute pulmonary edema, hypertension.
- <u>Rosanna Levasseur</u> 1873-1951 (L). Place of residence: Originally from Quebec City. Age: 77. Date of death or discovery of body: 09-02-1951 Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Death due to acute endocarditis, gangrenous cellulitis <sup>(8)</sup>.
- 18. <u>Emilien Levasseur</u> 1876-1954 (P). Place of residence: Originally from Nicolet. Age: 77. Date of death or discovery of body: 16-01-1954. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Death due to gastroenteritis, Broncho-pneumonia.
- <u>Pantaléon Levasseur</u> 1884-1954 (P). Place of residence: Originally from Saint-Eleuthère-de-Kamouraska. Age:
  60. Date of death or discovery of body: 21-09-1955. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Purulent otitis media, Broncho-pneumonia (B.P.) Diabetes mellitus.
- <u>Émile Levasseur</u> 1887-1957 (L). Place of residence: Originally from Saint-Charles-de-Bellechasse. Age: 70. Date of death or discovery of body: 02-05-1957. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Purulent otitis media, nitrogenic nephritis, arteriosclerosis, epilepsy.
- Luc Levasseur 1919-1961 (L). Occupation: Concrete mixer truck driver at Carrière Verreault in Giffard. Place of residence: Québec, Qc. Native of St-Eleuthère, QC. Age: 41 years. Date of death or discovery of body: 04-04-1961 Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Myocardial infarction as a result of chronic myocarditis and arteriosclerosis.
- 22. <u>Yvette Levasseur</u> 1922-1961 (L). Place of residence: Originally from Saint-Louis-du-Ha! Ha!, QC. Age: 37. Date of death or discovery of body: 17-04-1961 Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Death due to subacute endocarditis, complete mitral disease, acute nephritis.
- 23. <u>Oliva Levasseur</u> Place of residence: Originally from Victoriaville, Arthabaska county. Age: 80 years. Date of death or discovery of body: 26-12-1961 Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Death due to broncho-pneumonia (B.P.), purulent acute cystitis.
- <u>Gérard Levasseur</u> 1912-1964 (L). Place of residence: Originally from Rock Forest, Sherbrooke County. Age:
  53. Date of death or discovery of body: 13-04-1964 Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Myocardial infarction, bronchopneumonia.<sup>(9)</sup>
- 25. <u>Donat Levasseur</u> 1888-1965 (P). Place of residence: Originally from l'Ermitage Saint-Joseph, Victoriaville, Arthabaska county. Age: 73. Date of death or discovery of body: 05-05-1965. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Death due to bronchopneumonia (B. P.), pharyngeal tumor.
- 26. <u>Marguerite Levasseur</u> 1902-1965 (L). Place of residence: Originally from Rivière-du-Loup, QC. Age: 63. Date of death or discovery of body: 23-08-1965. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Acute alcohol intoxication.
- <u>Gérard Levasseur</u> 1918-1966 (L). Profession or trade: Veteran pensioner. Place of residence: Quebec City, QC. Native of Matane, Qc. Age: 47. Date of death or discovery of body: 16-01-1966 Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Death due to bilateral terminal bronchopneumonia (B. P.).
- <u>Réjean Levasseur</u> 1924-1965 (L). Place of residence: Quebec City, originally from St-Éleuthère, QC. Age: 41. Date of death or discovery of body: 07-12-1965. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Death due to bronchopneumonia (B. P.).<sup>(10)</sup>
- 29. <u>Thomas Levasseur</u> 1891-1965 (L). Place of residence: Originally from Saint-Louis-du-Ha! Ha!, Témiscouata County Age: 74. Date of death or discovery of body: 14-11-1965 Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Myocardial infarction, bronchopneumonia.

- <u>Maurice Levasseur</u> 1903-1966 (L). Place of residence: Quebec City, QC. Native of Saint-Ulric, Matane, QC. Age: 62. Date of death or discovery of body: 02-04-1966. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Myocardial infarction.
- <u>Gérard-Alphonse Levasseur</u> 1909-1967 (L). Place of residence:Native of Mont-Joli. Age: 55. Date of death or discovery of body: 06-10-1967 Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Death due to bronchopneumonia (B. P.), generalized intestinal carcinoma, acute pancreatitis.
- 32. <u>Jules Levasseur</u> 1908-1968 (L). Place of residence: Quebec City, QC. Age: 59. Date of death or discovery of body: 13-08-1968 Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Cardiorespiratory failure, infarction complicated by acute lung edema with rapid death.
- 33. <u>Théodore Levasseur</u> Place of residence: Quebec City, QC. Date of death or discovery of body: 26-08-1969. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): myocardial infarction, coronary thrombosis.
- 34. <u>Yvon Levasseur</u> 1936-1978 (L). Place of residence: Sainte-Famille (Parish: Cap-Santé, Quebec) Age: 42. Date of death or discovery of body: 11-07-1978 Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Noludar medication intoxication.
- 35. <u>Marielle Levasseur</u> 1962-1978 (P). Place of residence: Asbestos, QC. Age: 16 years. Date of death or discovery of body: 04-08-1978 Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Accidental death by drowning in Lac d'Argent when the bus in which she was with a group of passengers ran out of brakes while returning from an outing at Théâtre de la Marjolaine. <sup>(11)</sup>
- 36. <u>Normand Levasseur</u> 1949-1980 (P). Place of residence: Drummondville, QC. Age: 31. Parents: Son of Louis and Hélène Proulx. Date of death or discovery of body: 14-03-1980. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Coronary atherosclerosis, infarct scar in posteroseptal area.
- 37. <u>Denise Levasseur</u> 1947-1981 (L). Place of residence: Quebec City, QC. Originally from Mont-Joli, QC. Age: 33. Parents: Wife of André Belzile. Date of death or discovery of body: 13-03-1981 Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Prolonged exposure to cold. She was found in the snow on boulevard Champlain.
- 38. <u>Germaine Levasseur</u> 1929-1982 (L). Place of residence: Sainte-Foy, QC. Originally from St-François, NB. Age:
  52. Parents: Wife of Hilaire Sirois. Date of death or discovery of body: 20-03-1982. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Drowning. Found floating in the waters of the St. Lawrence River.
- 39. Joseph Levasseur 1895-1943 (L). Place of residence: Saint-Patrice (Parish: Rivière-du-Loup, Quebec). Variants of the name: Saint-Patrice-de-la-Rivière-du-Loup, Fraserville. Age: 46. Date of death or discovery of body: 06-07-1943 Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Death from burns and hemorrhage caused by a railroad accident.
- 40. <u>Yvon Levasseur</u> 1905-1968 (L). Place of residence: Sainte-Anne-des-Monts (Parish). Variant name: Sainte-Annedes-Monts, Gaspé County Age: 65. Date of death or discovery of body: 02-06-1968 Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): File incomplete.
- 41. Jean-Marie Levasseur 1939-1972 (L). Profession or trade: sawmill employee. Place of residence: Sainte-Luciede-Beauregard (Paroisse) Age: 32. Parents : Husband of Doris Lavoie. Date of death or discovery of body: 27-04-1972. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): By calcination during a fire at the sawmill where he worked.
- 42. <u>Yvon Levasseur</u> 1927-1948 (L). Profession or trade: lumberjack. Date of death or discovery of body: 09-10-1948 Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Suppurative frontal sinusitis with sudden effusion to the anterior part of the brain causing almost instantaneous death.
- 43. <u>Marcel Borgia</u> 1918-1954 (P). Profession or trade: employee for W. Rourke co. Construction contractor. Place of residence: Charlesbourg-Est (Quebec: Municipality) Age: 36. Date of death or discovery of body: 07-10-1954 Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict) : Saint-Sacrement Hospital of Québec City. By

open fracture of the left thigh resulting in acute adrenal insufficiency. Death occurred when he was caught between a truck stuck in the mud and another truck.

- 44. <u>Damasse (Damase) Borgia</u> 1888-1967 (P). Place of residence: (Originally from Saint-Basile, Portneuf county). Age: 78. Date of death or discovery of body: 14-06-1967. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Death due to bronchopneumonia (B. P.), pancreatic neoplasia with metastasis to left lung, lymph nodes and diaphragm, atheromatosis.
- 45. <u>Paul-Henri (Mme) Borgia</u> Paul-Henri Borgia's wife is Marie-Jeanne Boivin. She was born on November 11, 1922, and baptized the next day in St-Zéphirin parish, Stadacona, Québec, QC. Place of residence: Limoilou (Quartier : Quebec City, Quebec. Age: 48. Date of death or discovery of body: 11-02-1971. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Coronary insufficiency.
- 46. <u>Lucien Borgia</u> 1912-1974 (P). Place of residence: Chute-Panet (Hamlet: Saint-Raymond). Age: 62. Date of death or discovery of body : 24-07-1974. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Death due to asphyxia by food regurgitation and cerebral edema.
- 47. <u>Lucien Borgia</u> 1935-1976 (P). Place of residence: Thetford Mines (City: L'Amiante, Quebec) Variant name: Kingsville Age: 73. Date of death or discovery of body: 05-12-1976. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Accidental death due to multiple trauma. Death occurred when the lady driver of the car in which he was a passenger, lost control and hit a telephone pole.
- 48. **<u>Réjean Borgia</u>** 1960-1977(P). Place of residence: Saint-Bernardin-de-Sienne (Parish: Rivière-à-Pierre, Quebec) Age: 17. Date of death or discovery of body: 18-09-1977. Probable cause or circumstances of death (coroner's verdict): Accidental death due to crushing, hemorrhage, multiple fractures. Death occurred when the tractor he was driving suddenly overturned in the ditch. The tractor crushed him.



« On Sunday, August 4, 1978, 47 members of the Fraternity of the sick and the handicapped of the town of Asbestos were on their way home after attending a play at the Marjolaine theatre. A few minutes later, the bus's brakes failed on a steep hill. One of the victims who drowned when the bus fell in a lake was Marielle Levasseur (P) (#35 on our list), age 16.» <sup>11</sup>

#### References and further information:

- (1) <u>https://ici.radio-canada.ca/recit-numerique/4778/morgue-quebec-montreal-mort-enquete-deces-coroner-medecine-legale</u>
- (2) <u>https://www2.banq.qc.ca/archives/genealogie\_histoire\_familiale/ressources/bd/recherche.html?id=CORONERS\_QUEBEC</u>
- (3) Radio-Canada report: "*La mort au quotidien*" <u>https://ici.radio-canada.ca/recit-numerique/4778/morgue-quebec-montreal-mort-enquete-deces-coroner-medecine-legale</u>
- (4) Where indicated, the term (P) refers to a descendant of Pierre Levasseur. The term (L) refers to a descendant of Laurent Levasseur. When the name is underlined, it leads to this person's record in our database (<u>https://www.levasseur.org/tng</u>). Membership is required to access this data.
- (5) To consult the complete coroner's file, please visit the BaNQ website.
- (6) According to our database, she died at the age of 52.
- (7) It is unlikely that he was originally from the Jonquière region. See family sheet on our website. According to our database,
- (8) Arthur Levasseur is originally from Rimouski, Qc. He may have worked in the Abitibi region.
- (9) Marie Vitaline alias Rose-Anna, born in Notre-Dame-du-Lac, QC. Sister Marie de Ste-Euphrasie. Order of the Good Shepherd. (10) Maurice Régent Levasseur
- (11) The Eastman tragedy: https://www.ledevoir.com/politique/quebec/33288/l-estrie-se-rappelle-la-tragedie-d-eastman