



# Levasseur and Carmel families

## Web and social media capsule



### Pierre Levasseur, 18<sup>th</sup>-century entrepreneur, master carpenter and wood sawyer

by: [Alex Levasseur](#)

Pierre Levasseur was the grandson of Pierre Levasseur dit L'Espérance. He was born in 1703 in Quebec City and died in 1779 in Boucherville (Chambly). Little was known of his life until now. However, a book published in 2009 opens a window on a few years of his life: he was an entrepreneur and ran a sawmill on the Des Hurons River near Chambly from 1739 to 1746. And it was for Her Lordship the Lady of Monnoir.

In fact, it was Louise de Ramezay's father, "Sire Claude de Ramezay, then Governor of Montreal, who received the concession of the Seigneurie de Monnoir on March 25, 1708. The Seigneurie is located east of the Seigneurie de Chambly, one league from the Richelieu River. He even served as acting governor of New France from 1714 to 1716, and built the Château de Ramezay, one of Montreal's most famous historic monuments".<sup>(1)</sup>

The lord of Ramezay had a sawmill built on the Rivière Des Hurons (the Hurons' River), a tributary of the Richelieu River, which empties just opposite Chambly. Upon his death, his wife Marie-Charlotte Denys inherited the seigneurie and sawmill. She died a few years later, and their unmarried daughter Louise de Ramezay took over management of the sawmill.

*"From 1739 onwards, and for more than 30 years, Louise de Ramezay constantly ensured that the Huron River sawmill remained in operation, as the company was required to pay 112# in annuities to the seigneurs of Chambly and 600# to the young woman's sisters and her brother JEAN-BAPTISTE-NICOLAS-ROCH, who like her, were heirs to the paternal estate.*

*Louise de Ramezay didn't always personally manage the sawmill; at times, she kept a close eye on production, teaming up with the*



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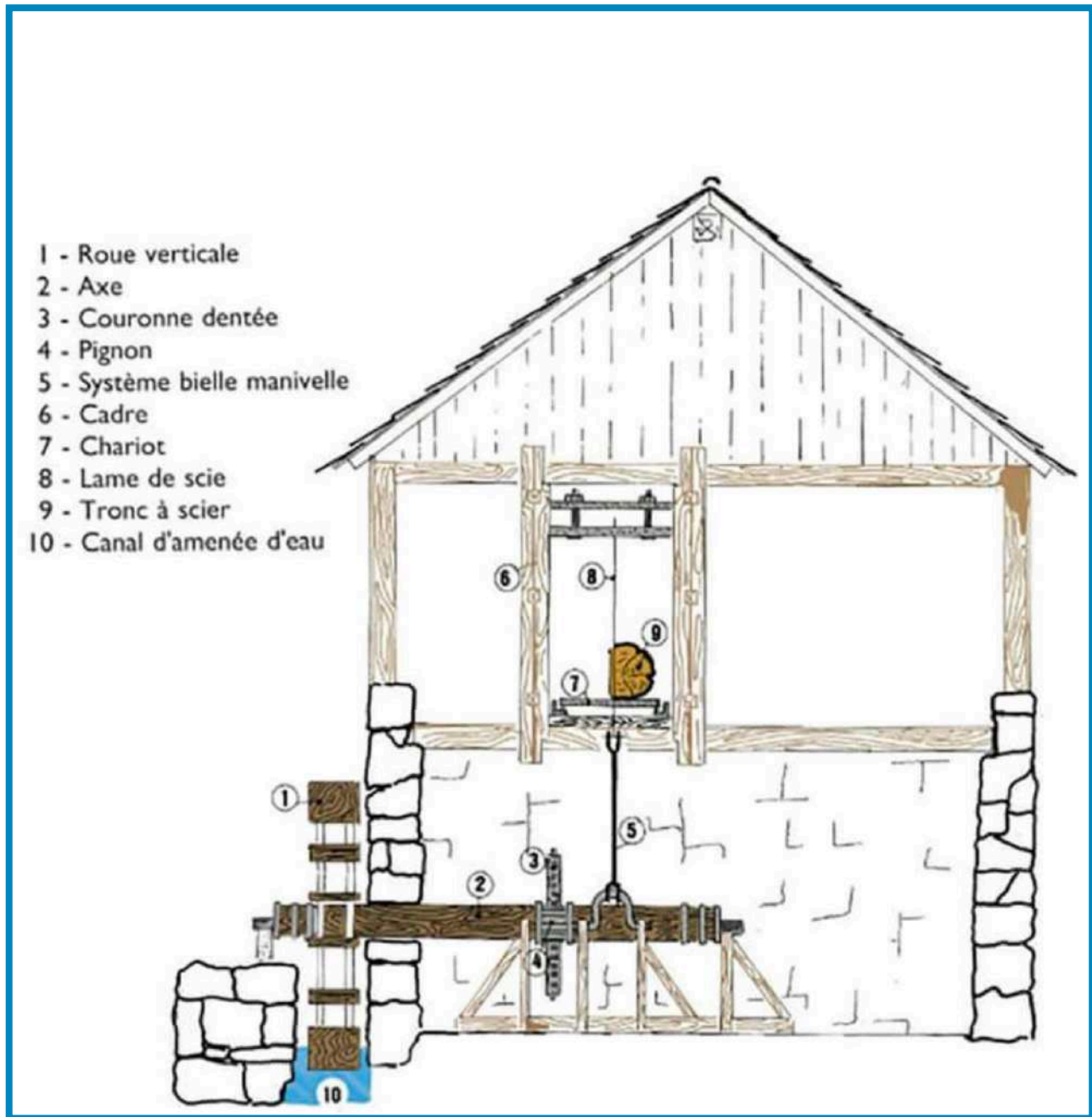
*The Levasseur and Carmel Families Association thanks Mr. Alex Levasseur for the research and production of this article.*

*Joceline Levasseur helped edit the historical and genealogical content.  
English translation, Pierre LeVasseur. Editing and distribution, Jean-Pierre Levasseur*

foreman and traveling to Quebec City to sell the wood; at other times, she was primarily concerned with getting her share of the revenue." (2)

In 1739, she hired Pierre "Carmeil" Levasseur, grandson of Pierre Levasseur dit l'Espérance. He looked after the repairs to the sawmill and supervised the employees as they went into the forest to do the logging. They signed an employment agreement before Antoine Loiseau notary on September 2, 1739:

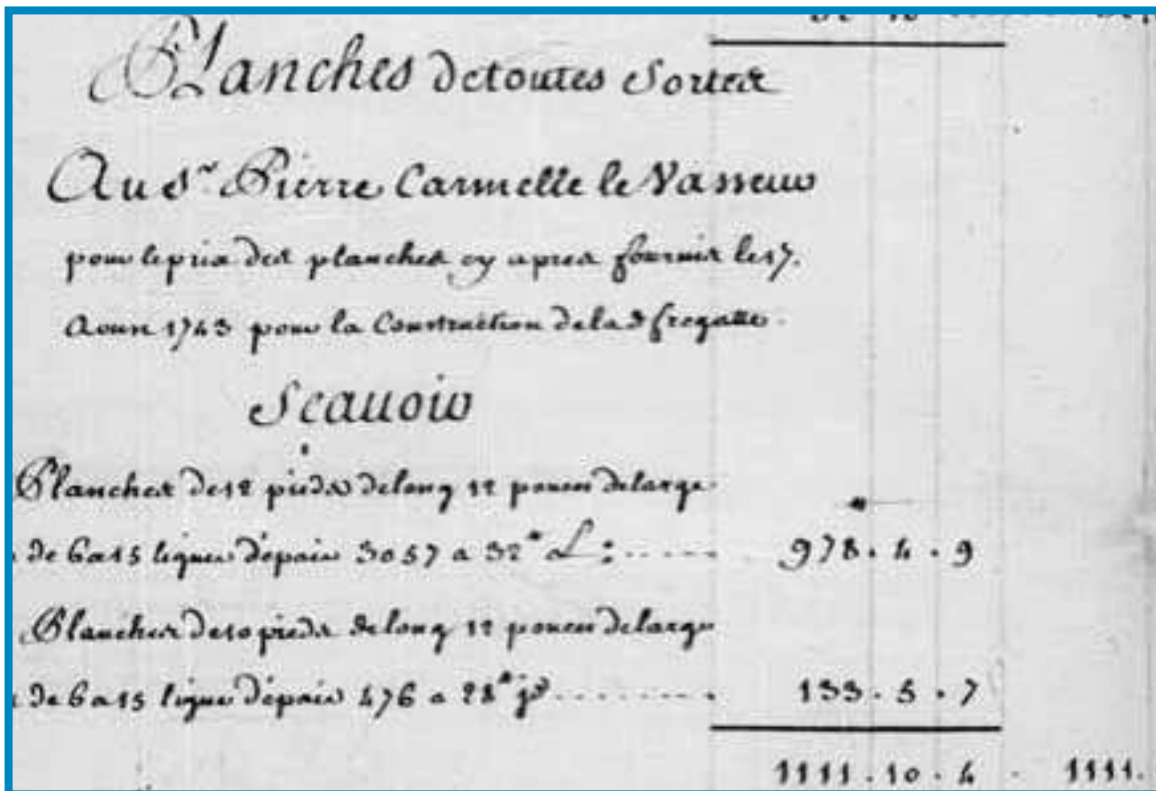
*"(...) were present Lady Louise de Ramezay and Carmeil Le Vasseur, who willingly and voluntarily made in good faith the following contract and partnership: namely, the said Levasseur undertakes to make all necessary repairs [to] a sawmill located in the seigneurie of Chambly belonging to the said Lady of Ramezay (. ... as well as all the work that will need to be done for the operation of the said woodmill, and commits himself to work and supervise all the men who will be needed to supply the wood for the said mill (...) and to do as much as he can for the benefit of the said Lady without being absent from the hired men; (...) ) the said Lady undertakes to pay all expenses incurred for the operation of the mill and also to feed the said Levasseur; and to give him, bind and pay him at the end of the first year one thousand pounds in money for his duties to begin on the tenth of next September (... ), and at the end of the year the said Carmeil LeVasseur will be a partner for two more consecutive years for half of the profit or loss, and will pay his share and portions of all expenses and incidental fees that will be incurred during the said two years at the said mill; and an inventory will be kept of all that he will have received into his hands for the work of the said mill; and will produce all his accounts every year in good form, and will pay half of the loss of value of (. ...) horses if they are crippled or die on the job. He will also return or pay for half of the parts and supplies that will be found in the said mill from the beginning of his [association] (...); moreover, he will pay three hundred pounds for each year of his [partnership] to the said Lady of Ramezay and will be obliged to pay each year [a set amount to sieur Hertel] for the rent of the mill and one hundred log crusts and thirteen wood boards each year from the said company to Lavallée and will provide a sixteen year old boy during the said three years and the said Lady obliges herself to give the said young man five alders each year for two years, and the surplus pieces which will be found on location in addition to those which the said Levasseur will have received when entering the partnership; the said Lady will pay him her half in money at the end of one year; as the said parties have also agreed, when the said Carmeil Levasseur deems it appropriate for the said Lady [to] go down to Quebec for the sale of wood, he will pay her half of the expenses she will incur; the said Levasseur will not be able to leave or abandon for three years, both for the year of wages and the two years of partnership, on pain of all costs, damages and interest, all of which has been expressly said to be wanted and agreed upon by the said parties (. ..) »(3)*



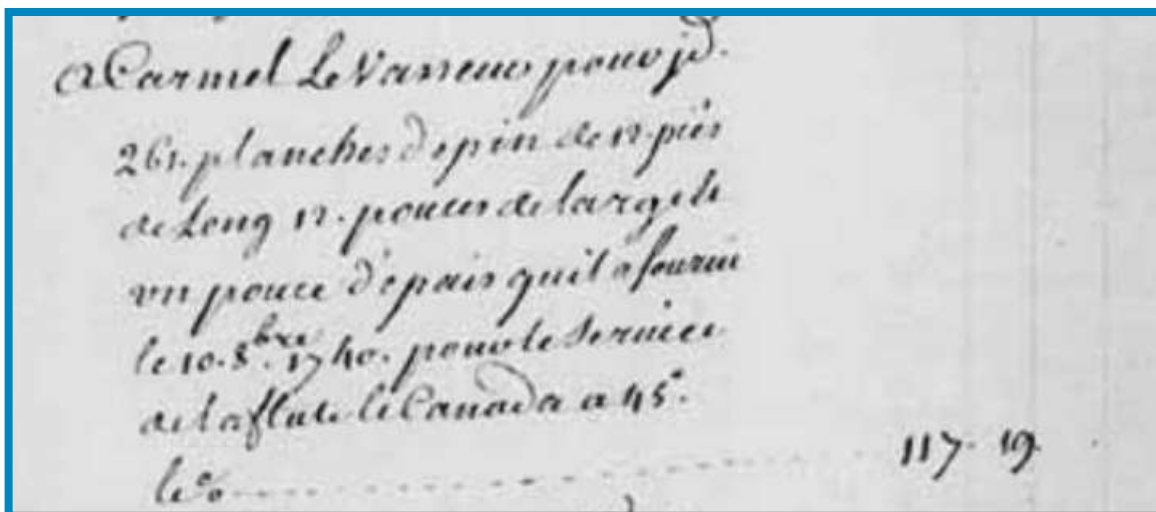
Example of a water-powered sawmill in France at that time<sup>(4)</sup>

Timber sales to the King's shipyards.

In 1739, Louise de Ramezay negotiated the sale of lumber from her sawmill, for total sales of 556 pounds. But from 1740 onwards, it was Pierre Carmel Levasseur who negotiated the sale of lumber, and sales soared to 6442 pounds. This was largely due to his association with another "contractor of timber for the construction of His Majesty's ships", Pierre Lupien dit Baron, who incidentally married his daughter Jeanne in 1744.



Library and Archives of Canada - Building the frigate Le Castor (The Beaver)



Library and Archives of Canada - Building the flute Le Canada 1740 (5)

The Ramezay - Levasseur partnership "lasted for seven years, which would be the most prosperous but also the most peaceful seven years of Louise's growing sawmill business. Indeed, by the end of 1746, the entrepreneur's finances were very healthy." (6)

Before taking charge of the Ramezay sawmill, he was a master carpenter, like his father. In 1723, he participated in the interior decoration of the new Boucherville church, along with his half-brother Pierre-Noël.

It's important here to correct an error: in 2003, the Dictionary of Canadian Biography recognized Pierre-Noël Levasseur as the sculptor of the Boucherville church altarpiece; but a few years later, another historian stated that Pierre Levasseur dit Carmel was the author. Who's right? Jean-Marie Levasseur has done some research on this topic and concludes as follows:

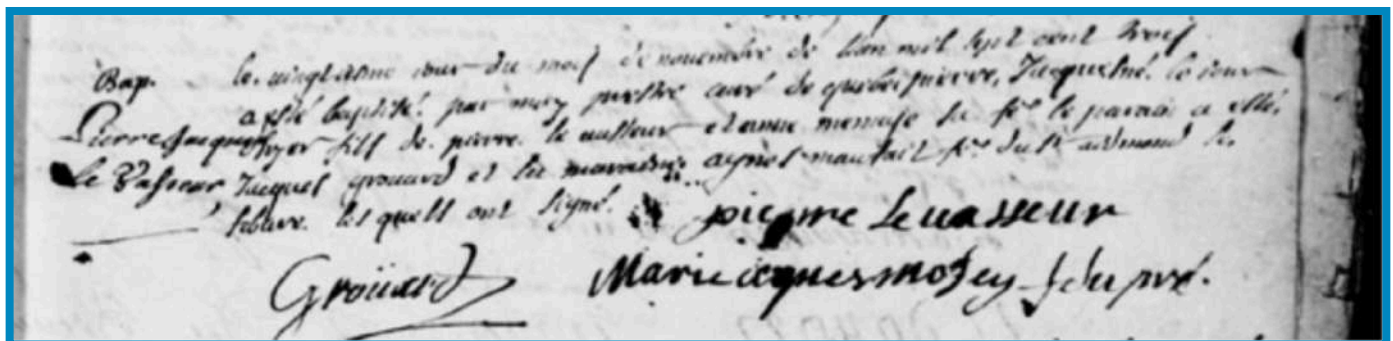
*"It is therefore clear that Pierre-Noël Levasseur, under the name of "Pierre Levasseur", was the sculptor of the altarpiece in Boucherville's Sainte-Famille church. (...) Pierre Levasseur Carmel first made a name for himself as a master carpenter, capable of creating fine woodwork, such as the church balustrade (1727), and he was later recognized as a negotiator and militia officer. He was subsequently given the title of "bourgeois" (7)*

First or last name?

As mentioned, Pierre Levasseur is the grandson of Pierre Levasseur dit l'Espérance. His father was also named Pierre and his mother was Anne Ménage. At the time, Pierre (II) and his children were living on Mont-Carmel Street in Quebec City.

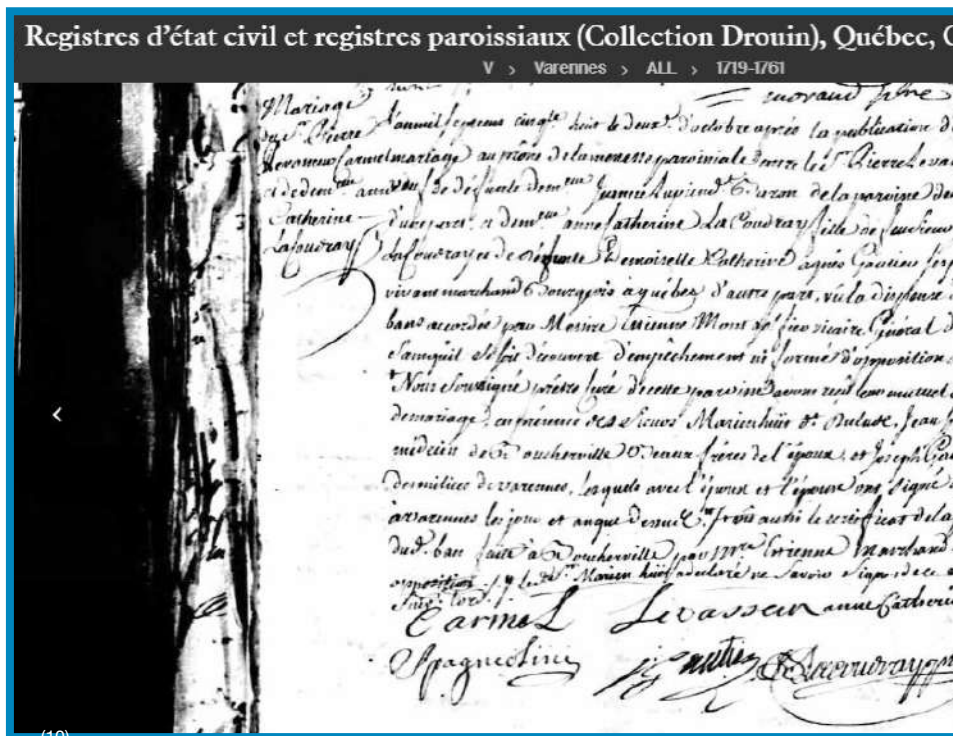
*"During the Levasseur gathering of 2004 in Quebec City, several members of the Association were able to see Mont-Carmel street, where Pierre II Levasseur's family lived in the 17th and 18th centuries, but no one saw the house or the land because the house has disappeared and the land is now under the south wing of the Château Frontenac [= the Mont-Carmel wing, added in 1908]" (8)*

At birth, Pierre is baptized simply: Pierre Jacques Levasseur (9)



Pierre Jacques and Jeanne Lupien\Baron had 5 children : Antoine Levasseur 1745-1828, Charlotte (Carmel) Levasseur 1746-1781, Pierre (Carmel) Levasseur 1747-1788, Marie-Angélique (Carmel) Levasseur 1748-1748, Alexis (Carmel) Levasseur 1749-1804. Pierre Jacques married 4 times, but it was on the 4th marriage certificate to Anne Catherine Lacoudaye, that he signed: Carmel Levasseur.

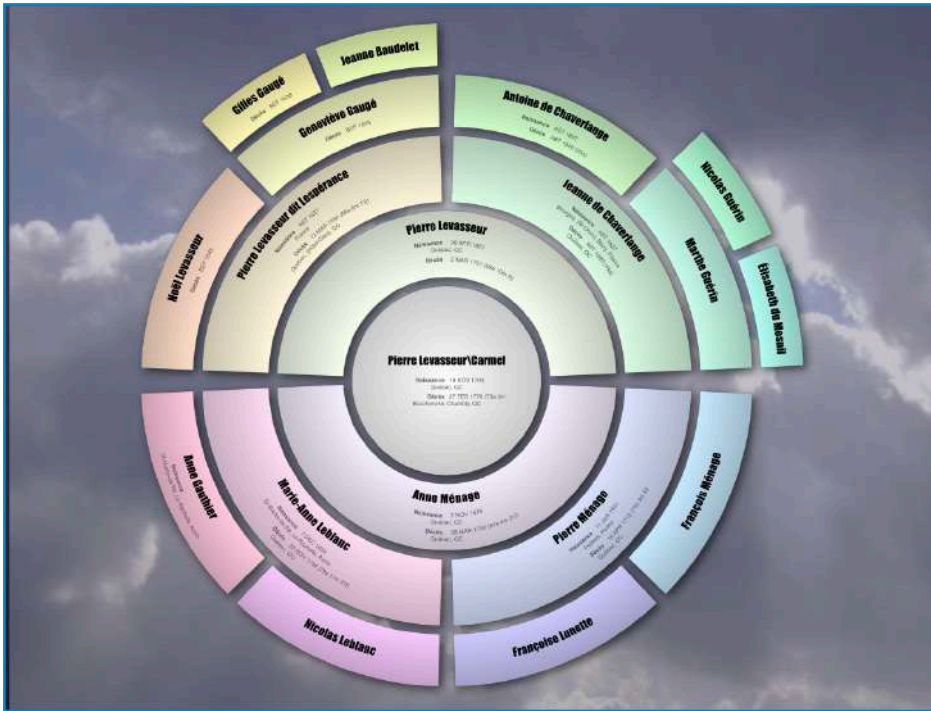
Could there be a link between this surname and the street where he spent his youth? A mystery!



But he was regularly called Carmel. As author Réal Fortin notes on page 76 of his book: "We find this name in several forms: Carmel, Carmelle, Carmeil; Pierre-Carmeil Levasseur, Carmeil dit Levasseur, Levasseur dit Carmeil." (11)

He died in Boucherville on February 27, 1779, at the age of 75. (12)

1. [http://www.biographi.ca/fr/bio/ramezay\\_claude\\_de\\_2F.html](http://www.biographi.ca/fr/bio/ramezay_claude_de_2F.html)
2. [http://www.biographi.ca/fr/bio/ramezay\\_louise\\_de\\_4F.html](http://www.biographi.ca/fr/bio/ramezay_louise_de_4F.html)
3. ANQ, notary Antoine Loiseau, September 2, 1739
4. <https://eau-blanche.fr/environnement-patrimoine/usage-des-moulins>
5. <https://nouvelle-france.org/fra/Pages/item.aspx?IdNumber=24899&ImagePageNumber=1>
6. Patrons in the 18th century, by Camille Dejardin, Published by Nouveau Monde Editions
7. Which Levasseur made the altarpiece of the church of Boucherville? By: Jean-Marie Levasseur - <https://levasseur.org/infos/f/20190101.pdf>
8. LE DOMAINE DE PIERRE (II) LEVASSEUR (1661-1731) by Jean-Marie Levasseur. <https://levasseur.org/publications/jeanmarielevasseur/domainepierrelevasseur.pdf>
9. Source: Ancestry
10. Source: Ancestry
11. Louise de Ramezay and her saw mill, by Réal Fortin, Cahiers du Septentrion, 2009
12. Consult the Association's database for more details. <https://levasseur.org/tng>



Click on the image or copy this link into your browser to view Pierre Levasseur Carmel's full-size genealogical fan.

[https://levasseur.org/capsules/annexes/20240501\\_plc.pdf](https://levasseur.org/capsules/annexes/20240501_plc.pdf)

## Timeline of Pierre Levasseur and Anne Ménage, parents of Pierre (Carmel) Levasseur

Pierre Levasseur was born on April 30, 1661, in Québec City, QC. He was the third child of Pierre Levasseur dit Lespérance (born around 1627) and Jeanne de Chaverlange. He had two brothers (Antoine Levasseur, born September 3, 1669, François Levasseur, born May 4, 1672) and four sisters (Françoise Madeleine Levasseur, born July 23, 1656, Marguerite Levasseur, born December 22, 1658, Jeanne Levasseur, born March 20, 1664, and Félicité Levasseur, born March 20, 1667).

He was 19 when, in 1680, his mother Jeanne de Chaverlange died. He was 32 when, on March 12, 1694, his father Pierre Levasseur dit Lespérance died.

On November 28, 1686, he married Madeleine Chapeau in Québec City, (Notre-Dame-de-Québec), QC. On March 18, 1696, he married Anne Ménage in Québec City, QC. He was 25 when he married Madeleine Chapeau, who was 24 at the time. He was 34 when he married Anne Ménage, who was 19 at the time. He had three children with Madeleine Chapeau: Pierre Levasseur, born August 21, 1687; Marie-Madeleine Levasseur, born August 31, 1689; and Pierre-Noël Levasseur, born November 28, 1690. He had 16 children with Anne Ménage: Marie-Anne Levasseur, Marie-Jeanne Levasseur, François Levasseur\Chaverlange, Anne Levasseur, **Pierre (Carmel) Levasseur**, Barthelémy Levasseur, Marie-Anne Levasseur, François Louis Borgia Levasseur, François Ignace Levasseur, Augustin Alexis Levasseur, Étienne Levasseur, Denis-Joseph Levasseur, Marie-Anne Levasseur, Marie-Madeleine Levasseur, Jean-Baptiste Levasseur, and François Didace Levasseur. On March 2, 1731, he died in Quebec City, QC, at the age of 69. He was buried in Québec City, QC on March 3, 1731. His wife Madeleine Chapeau died on June 1, 1695, 36 years before him. His wife Anne Ménage died on March 28, 1738, 7 years after him.