



Levasseur and Carmel families

Web Capsule and Social Media



Archives of the Quebec City Prison

Transcript of the archives of the Quebec City prison
(Period 1813-1907 and 1914)
Some Levasseur found in these registers ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ) is a Quebec state corporation established in 2006 following the merger of the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec and the Archives nationales du Québec.

The BAnQ have compiled various mentions of Levasseur, who made short stays in the Quebec City prison during the periods of 1813-1907 and 1914 (available registers cover these years). Extracting and compiling these data into a database is a long and meticulous process, and we must acknowledge the dedication of the two tireless volunteers involved.



In early 2003, following a suggestion from BAnQ Québec staff, two volunteers, Mrs. Claudette Laberge and her husband Mr. Raymond Blanchette, began recording entries from the second register of the Quebec City Prison with unwavering enthusiasm.

Visiting once or more each week, they computerized 86,673 admissions, covering entries from May 5, 1823, to the end of 1907, as well as the entirety of 1914. Their work is still ongoing. Without their meticulous and constant efforts, this project would not have come to fruition. Their involvement was fundamental to creating a dynamic and convergence of interests that allows us to offer the public a unique resource today.



We invite you to become a member of our association and contribute through articles, to enrich our archive center on the Levasseur and Carmel families.

You are our family. The fate of our association rests in your hands. It's people like you who allow us to keep our volunteer operation afloat. Your support allows us to keep providing quality services to our members.



(1) For more details, please visit: https://www2.banq.qc.ca/archives/genealogie_histoire_familiale/ressources/bd/recherche.html?id=PRISON_2020 and https://levasseur.org/infos/documents/prison_qc.pdf

(2) This information comes from the following documents: *Registres d'érou de la prison de Québec, Vol. 1 à 11, 1813-1914, BAnQ Québec, Fonds Ministère de la Justice, (E17,S1).*

Historical Facts About Quebec's Prisons

The history of Quebec's prisons dates back to the early days of the colony. In the 17th century, they were first located in Fort Saint-Louis and the building occupied by the *Sénéchaussée de Québec* in the Upper Town. Around 1690, the brewery built in Lower Town by Intendant Talon housed the residence of the intendant, the seat of Quebec's courts, and the prisons. After being destroyed by fire in 1713, these buildings were rebuilt starting in 1716 and included the jailer's apartments and cellar, an interrogation room, the civil prison, and several vaulted dungeons. Remnants of these dungeons can still be found today beneath the Fraser House located on Saint-Nicolas Street. Starting in 1745, the recently completed Royal Redoubt served as a military prison and held prisoners of war.

Life in the dungeons of Quebec's prisons was extremely harsh. Whether in the 17th century or in the centuries that followed, testimonies frequently reported their unsanitary conditions, especially in winter, when the cold and humidity made stays particularly arduous. Prisoners fell ill, suffered from frostbite, and even died due to the poor detention conditions. For instance, in 1686, Governor Denonville informed the Minister of the Navy:

« that in winter the prisoners are frozen and that there have been some whose feet had to be cut off for this » *Ref: Culture et Communications Québec*



The Quebec City Prison. The balconnet was used for public executions. Numerous protests and humanitarian considerations led the authorities to carry out executions in the backyard.

Watercolour by James Pattison Cockburn, Saint Stanislas Street Prison, 1830, Library and Archives Canada, C-042292.

"Persons Incarcerated in the Prisons of Quebec, 1813-1907 and 1914 (Surname 'Levasseur') (1)

	Nom / Name	Âge / age :	Métier / occupation :	Taille (pi/po) / height (ft/in)	Date d'incarcération / date of imprisonment	Délit / offence	Date de libération / date of discharge	Raison de la libération / grounds for discharge	Remarques / remarks
1	Jacques Lavessuer (Levasseur)			5' 10"	1816-01-17	Charged on the oath of Henry Walls with having, at the city of Quebec on the 16th day of January 1816, made an assault in and upon Henry Walls with an intent to rob	1816-01-23	Bailed by warrant from John Fletcher, esquire, to appear at the next criminal term	Black hair and eyes and long visage
2	Peter Levasseur			5' 6"	1817-03-19	Charged with desertion from his Majesty's 104th Regiment of foot.	1817-05-03	By order of Q. T. Burke, Major of Bridgace	Dark hair and eyes
3	Louis Levasseur				1821-04-24	Charged upon oath with having this day at the city of Quebec violently assaulted and beaten Ignace Macneil of Quebec, tavern keeper.	1821-04-26	By Alexis Caron, esquire, admitted to bail	
4	Louise Levasseur				1830-05-13	Suspicion of larceny	1830-05-18	Order of R. Christie J. P.	
5	Louise Levasseur				1831-06-14	Misdemeanour	1831-07-19	By order of the Court of General Quarter Sessions	
6	Louise Levasseur			5' 5'-1/2"	1836-11-28	Keeping a disorderly house	1837-02-02	Time expired	
7	P.C. Levasseur	17		5' 5"	1839-01-07	Loose, idle & disorderly	1839-03-06	Discharged	
8	Louise Levasseur	36			1840-05-30	Larceny, sentenced to 8 days at hard labour by Court Q. S. of peace	1840-07-25	Time completed	Cannot read
9	Zephrerin (Zephirin) Levasseur	13			1855-10-26	Sacrilege. Remanded to 29	1855-10-30	Fully committed	
10	Zéphirin Levasseur	14			1855-10-30	Larceny	1855-11-05	Habeas Corpus	
11	Thomas Lavasseur (Levasseur)	33	Joiner		1885-09-02	Loose, Idle & disorderly	1885-11-02	Time Expired	
12	Thomas Lavasseur (Levasseur)	33	Joiner		1885-12-26	Against Bylaws	1885-12-29	Paid fine \$11.60	
13	Joseph Lavasseur (Levasseur)	26	Labourer		1886-08-26	Larceny	1886-10-26	Time Expired	
14	Louis Lavasseur (Levasseur)	16	Labourer		1892-12-14	Larceny. Three months	1893-03-14	Time Expired	
15	Achille Levasseur Jr.	19	Labourer		1899-05-02	Against by laws	1899-07-02	Time expired	
16	Louis Levasseur	28	Labourer		1904-08-22	Loose idle and disorderly	1904-09-22	Time Expired	
17	Louis Levasseur	29	Labourer		1906-07-09	Loose idle and disorderly	1906-07-24	Time Expired	
18	Isidore Levasseur	40	Labourer		1907-05-08	Drunkenness	1907-06-08	Time Expired	
19	Isidore Levasseur				1907-06-19	Drunkenness	1907-07-04	Time Expired	
20	Louis Levasseur	29	Labourer		1907-09-07	Drunkenness	1907-10-07	Time Expired	

(1) Information about the prisoners is not always recorded consistently, and omissions are frequent. The spelling of the time and the language used in the register have been respected. Family names in particular, especially those of Francophones, were often mishandled by English-speaking clerks. A more detailed descriptive document is available at the following link: https://www.levasseur.org/infos/documents/prison_qc.pdf