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The Levasseur in Manitoba (*)

by: Roger Levasseur

In the first edition of the Levasseur Journal, I reviewed the descendants of Pierre Levasseur. In this edition I was going to review the accomplishments of Pierre Levasseur dit L'Esperance II's children. To him most Levasseur owe their family ties for he had 20 children. From his first wife Madeleine Chappeau 3 were born and from his second Anne Mesnage 17. I chose in this edition of the Journal to talk about his 13th child, Denis Joseph and his line of descendants who ultimately immigrated to Western Canada.



Roméo Levasseur (1882-1950)

<u>Denis Joseph</u>, the third ancestor of the Levasseurs residing in Western Canada was born in Quebec on February 12th, 1712. The Levasseurs in the Trois-Rivieres area owe their origins to him. His brother Francois Ignace was a priest in Champlain a few miles from Trois-Rivieres in 1736. That year he invited Denis Joseph, his brother to settle there.

Like his father and. his two older brothers, Denis Joseph was a carpenter. He came to Trois-Rivieres in the hope that there would be more work for him than in Quebec where his brothers were settled like their father and grandfather had done. He spent 18 months preparing a home before setting off to St-Francois du Lac to marry Jeanne Charlotte Couturier on February 4th, 1738. Together they had nine children. Their second son Joseph is the 4th ancestor of Western Canada Levasseurs. Since the carpentry trade was becoming less and less promising Denis encouraged his sons to seek their livelyhood in agriculture. Joseph settled in Becancour on the South Shore of the St. Laurent facing Trois-Rivieres. His brother Francois established his farm in St. Angele-de-Laval and Jean-Baptiste settled in Points-au-Sable which became St. Gregoire.

Denis Joseph died in Trois-Rivieres on October 15, 1792.

<u>Joseph</u> his son, who was born in Trois-Rivieres on February 7, 1741 married Madeleine Deharnay, dit Laneuville on February 5, 1765 in Becancour. They had 13 children and Etienne-Auguste, the ninth child, is our 5th ancestor in Canada of Levasseur who eventually populated Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

Etienne-Auguste was born on October 30, 1777. He continued farming. He was married twice. A first time with Marie Antoinette Genest dit Labarre on January 1, 1803 and his second wife was Melanie Vigneault who he married on February 2, 1816 in the St.Gregoire Parish. From his marriage with Melanie, Etienne had one son, Prosper and five daughters. Prosper is the sixth ancestor of western descendants. Etienne died on November 13, 1851.

<u>Prosper</u> was born in 1816. He married Marguerite Ducharme in he parish of La Nativité in Bécancour on the 30th of September 1850. Neither he nor his wife could write as stated on their wedding certificate. Prosper died in St. Angele de Laval on the 22 of February 1889 at the age of 71. Prosper and Marguerite had only one son. His name was Joseph. He is the one who in 1876 headed for Western Canada. (He had a brother name Ligouri who died at birth.)

<u>Joseph</u> was baptised on May 10, 1857. He married Marie Clara Cormier in St. Angela on the 16th of September 1878. They had seven children, Antonio, Donat, Romeo, Ligouri, Willy, Mariana and Bertha. He went out west in 1896 and settled in LaSalle, Manitoba. His story is an interesting one. He was a well educated man. He studied at the Trois-Rivieres seminary where he was the 312th student. Joseph was a member of the «Institut Canadian" and, according to his grand-son, Lorenzo Levassseur, he sided with a group who objected to the strong hold of the church on stately matters. This brought about his exile to Western Canada instead of being ex-communicated. He succeeded in settling his five sons on large track of land in Manitoba. These lands, however, are no longer in the hands of the Levasseur families.

Roger Levasseur

(*) The hypertext links in this document lead to the database of the Levasseur Association of America (membership required).

LEVASSEUR ASSOCIATION



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.

We would appreciate if you could send us family related documents that would add to our data base of archives and also enable us to continue the publication of the Levasseur Newsletter three times per year. The participation of the Levasseurs and members of their families is essential to allow us to pursue our mission. Send us your photos and texts for the next publication of the Newsletter. You can download them very easily with this new tool and by providing a brief description of the photo or text that is being sent. Following receipt of your documents, a copy of all information to be published in the Newsletter will be sent to you for approval prior to final publication.

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Other Levasseur Association Web sites:

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