



John Vasseur: a Grand Falls Carpenter

by: Peggy More Vasseur

I began taking an interest in my family history after the death of my uncle in 2003, and this passion is still very much alive and well, although it often simmers on the back burner. I do not have many primary sources. John Napoleon Vasseur, my husband's grandfather, died before Bill was born, but he remembers his grandmother a wee bit.

Everyone loved Kate. She referred to her husband as "my John." I sense that their marriage and family bonds were strong and healthy. On their marriage certificate, her name is typed as Catherine but she signed it "Kate." I married into a wonderful family and we gather together for a visit each summer in Grand Falls where my mother-in-law, Hilda (Godreau) Vasseur, still lives a relatively healthy life at almost 93 years of age. We will gather on Canada weekend this summer. Jack (John) was a carpenter by profession and a musician by hobby. In his diary, he talks about his own shop and tools, and also working for the town of Grand Falls.

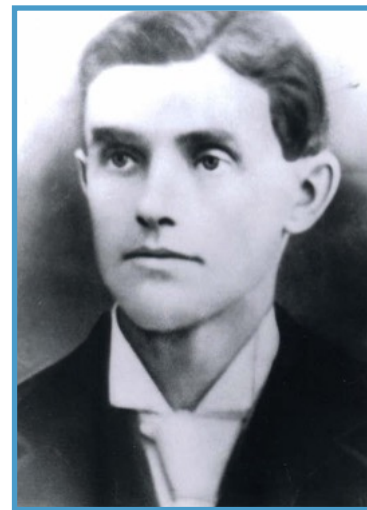
He built houses and buildings, worked on the bridge and at the church, and built furniture. We have a small plant stand in our living room that he built. He mentions forming their orchestra and also joining and leaving the CMBA, which appears to have something to do with music.

Kate (Catherine Mallen), his wife, is the daughter of Lawrence and Marie (Roberge) Mallen. My in-laws cared for her in her old age, until she had to go to a nursing home in St. Basile, New Brunswick. They gave her excellent care at their home, according to Aunt Pearl. She braided rugs when she lived with them.

A traveling salesman used to bring scraps and rags to the garage where Thomas worked, and he brought them home for her to use in her rugs. I remember them from under the rockers in Bill's home in Grand Falls. Each summer I try to rummage through the archives at the Grand Falls library and museum to learn about my daughters' Vasseur/Levasseur roots. Last year I came upon John's diary. It amuses me that he refers to births of other peoples' children but not to his own. Perhaps he was too overwhelmed with his wife's fourteen pregnancies.

William's diary is similar in style to John's but more detailed, and it is his own handwriting. His means of earning a living seemed to vary, from game warden to liquor store manager to guide. He loved music, plays, dances and hunting. He seemed quite interested in world news. James and Severine Levasseur had three children, according to our copy of the family history, Mathilde, John and William. William never married, and is buried beside his parents in the Assumption Church cemetery in Grand Falls. I only learned about Mathilde a few days ago. I found information about her in the Paroisse Assomption, Grand Falls, website, and also Automated Genealogy. She married a gentleman by the name of Joseph Crozier.

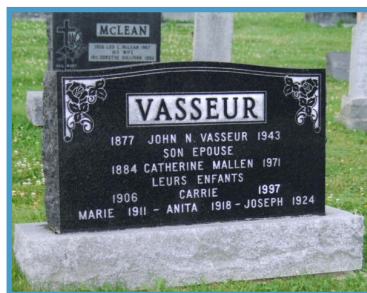
My in-laws, Thomas and Hilda Vasseur, cared for Uncle Billy (William) in his last years, so Bill's sisters remember him well. Their fondest recollections are of his evening serenades. At bedtime he pulled out his fiddle, tuned it up, and played his repertoire of songs. He always concluded with "Pop Goes the Weasel," which signaled lights out. The Vasseur brothers ran a dance hall in Grand Falls. As you see in John's diary, they had a slot machine in their hall. My father-in-law Thomas and his brother/partner, Wilmot, later kept it at their garage. Thomas always kept coins there for his children to use to play the machine after school. Eventually, someone decided it was a negative influence on the children and they discarded this piece of history. I find the Mallen family difficult to trace. Bill and I drove around Comeau Ridge looking for an old cemetery but the only one I could find is about a century old. The 1911 website states that Lawrence is Irish. According to automated genealogy and his diary, John boarded with the Lawrence Mallen family before he married their daughter.



John Vasseur 1877-1943



Catherine Mallen
1883-1970



John Napoleon Vasseur is a descendant of Laurent Levasseur and Marie Marchand. [See our website](#) for full details of his genealogy



Individual Report for John Napoléon Vasseur (I6846)

Name:	John Napoléon Vasseur		Gender:	Male
Born:	03 Sep 1877	Place:	Grand-Sault,,Victoria,NB ¹	
Christened:		Place:		
Died:	30 Jun 1943	Place:	Grand-Sault,,Victoria,NB ¹	
Buried:	03 Jul 1943	Place:	Grand-Sault,,Victoria,NB ¹	
Baptized (LDS):		Place:		
Confirmed (LDS):		Place:		
Initiatory (LDS):		Place:		
Endowed (LDS):		Place:		
Father:	James LeVasseur (27 Mar 1849 - 31 Mar 1917)			
Mother:	Séverine Bellefleur (01 May 1849 - 13 Feb 1906)			
Sealed P (LDS):		Place:		
Spouse:	Catherine Mary Mallen (31 Aug 1883 - 11 Feb 1970)			
Married:	29 Oct 1901	Place:	Grand-Sault,,Victoria,NB ¹	
Sealed S (LDS):		Place:		
Children:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Sadie Stella Vasseur (10 Oct 1902 - 18 Sep 1987) 2 Pearl Elmiere Vasseur (24 Oct 1903 - 22 Jun 1981) 3 Jesse David Vasseur (23 Jun 1905 - 12 Apr 1987) 4 Carrie Bertha Vasseur (18 Oct 1906 - 01 Jan 1987) 5 Rachel Minnie Vasseur (03 Oct 1908 - 14 Mar 1996) 6 Wilmot Ralph Vasseur (28 Jan 1910 - 15 Feb 1988) 7 Marie Vasseur (Jul 1911 - Jul 1911) 8 Thomas Vasseur (11 Jul 1913 - 08 Jun 1985) 9 Stephen Harold Vasseur (18 Dec 1914 - Abt 2003) 10 Francis Roméo Vasseur (01 Mar 1917 - 30 Jul 1988) 11 Anita Hazel Vasseur (23 Jun 1918 - 30 Oct 1918) 12 Constance Catherine Vasseur (29 Jan 1920 -) 13 Isabelle Vasseur (29 Nov 1921 -) 14 Joseph Vasseur (23 Jan 1924 - 23 Jan 1924) 			

L'ASSOCIATION DES LEVASSEUR



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 of 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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