



Jeanne Lagacé (1858-1923), wife of Michel Levasseur, accompanied by her daughter Laura (1891-1955)

A pioneering family from Eastern Quebec:

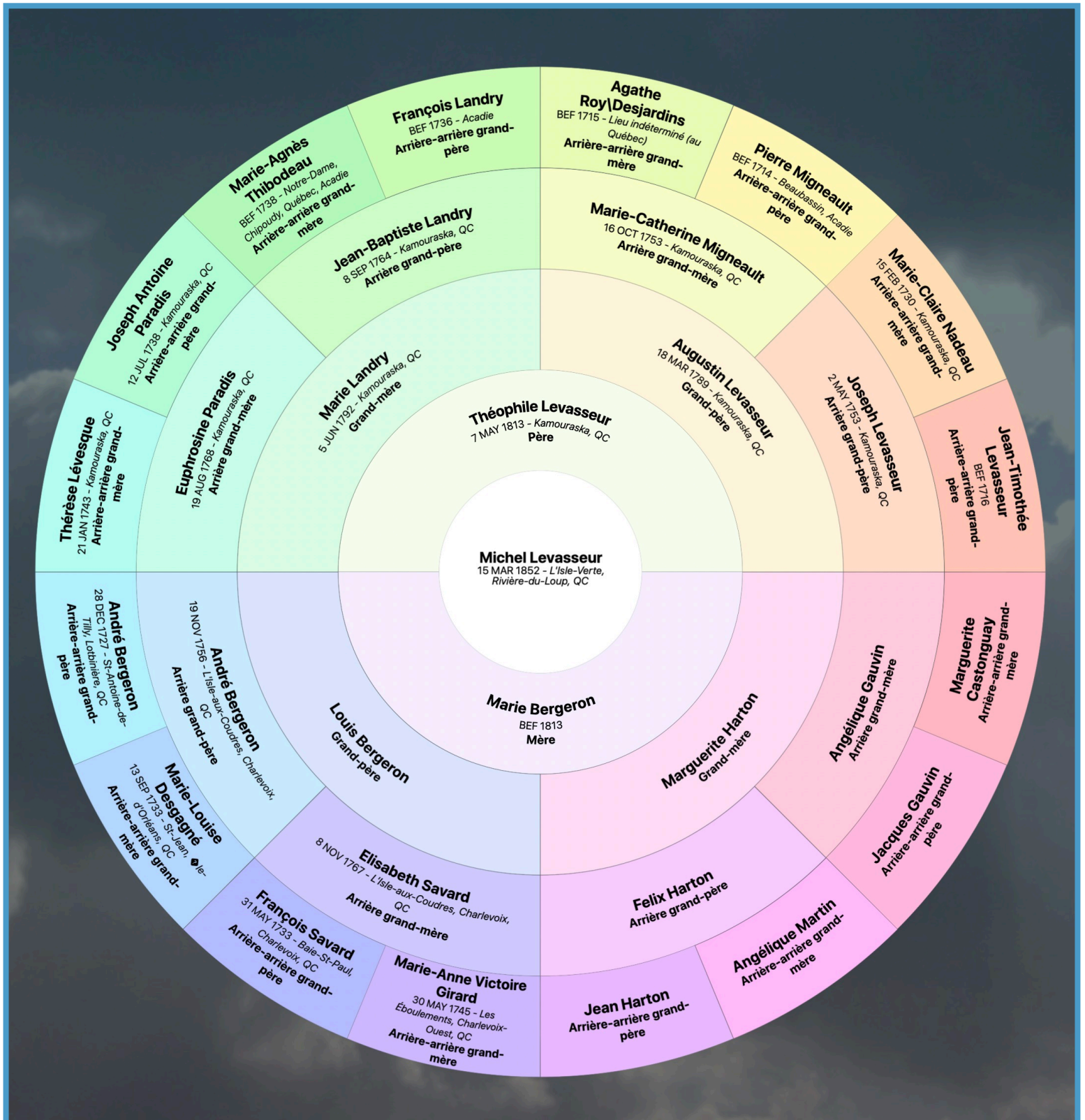
Michel Levasseur (1852-1911) and Jeanne Lagacé (1858-1923)

Nearly 300 descendants over 6 generations

research: Jean-Pierre Levasseur and Juliette Levasseur

text by: Jean-Pierre Levasseur, Pierrette Beauchamp, Patricia Levasseur

*Michel Levasseur was born on **May 7, 1813**. He is of the lineage of **Pierre Levasseur**, pioneer of the Lordship of Kamouraska, and **Elisabeth Michaud**. Ten children were born from the union of Michel and Jeanne Lagacé. Two of their children left several descendants. In these texts we present some historical facts about Michel, some of the couple's children and some of their descendants.*



Genealogical wheel of Michel Levasseur (Jeanne Lagacé)

Over four generations

First Generation

Michel Levasseur. Michel Levasseur, born on March 15, 1852, L'Isle-Verte, Rivière-du-Loup, Qc.; accidental death on September 1, 1911 in Rivière-du-Loup, St-Patrice, Qc.; was buried on September 4, 1911 in Rivière-du-Loup, Qc.

Married **Marie-Jeanne Lagacé** on July 22, 1884, L'Isle-Verte, Marie-Jeanne (daughter of Joseph Lagacé and Marie-Stéphanie Morin) was born on November 2, 1858, Trois-Rivières. Died in April 1923 in Montreal; was buried on April 12, 1923, Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery, Montreal, Qc.

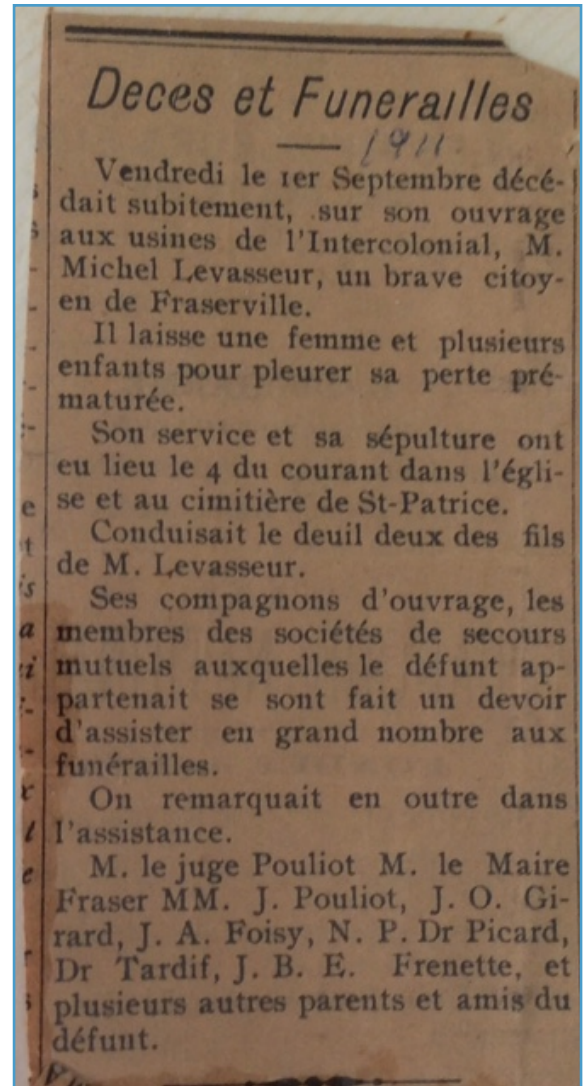
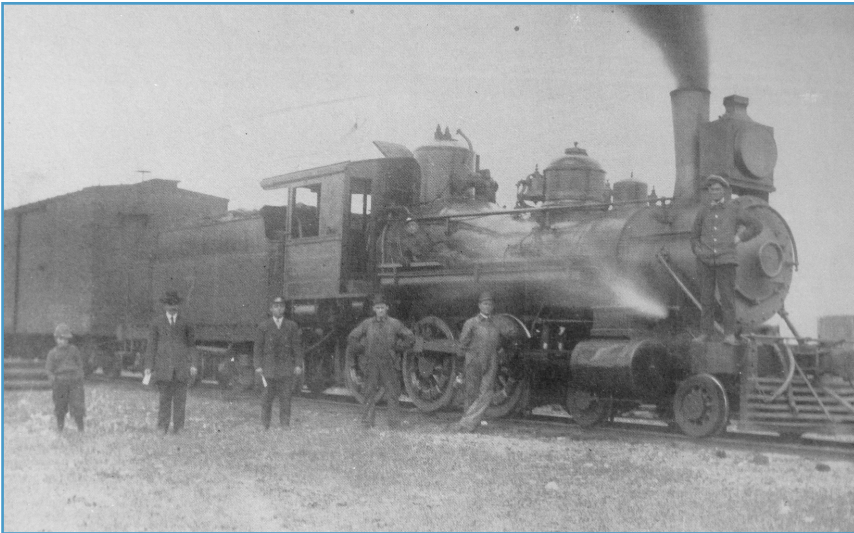
Their Children:

1. **Marie-Anna Levasseur**, born on June 1, 1885 in Rivière-du-Loup, Qc.; she died on November 27, 1949, at New York, USA; was buried on November 30, 1949, in Montreal's Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery, Qc.
2. **Charles Levasseur**, was born on September 26, 1886 in Rivière-du-Loup, Qc.
3. **Marie-Louise Levasseur**, was born on January 27, 1888 in Rivière-du-Loup, Qc.; she died in July 1958 and was buried on July 3, 1958, in Montreal's, Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery, Qc.
4. **Françoise Levasseur**, was born on January 17, 1889 in Rivière-du-Loup, Qc.; and died on November 13, 1953, in Montreal; she was buried November 17, 1953, in Montreal's, Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery, Qc.
5. **Patrice Levasseur**, was born on April 20, 1890 in Rivière-du-Loup, Qc.; and died on December 17, 1971, in Edmundston, NB and was buried December 20, 1971, Edmundston, NB.
6. **Laura Levasseur**, was born on July 16, 1891 in Riviere-du-Loup, Qc.; She died in May 1955 and was buried on May 9, 1955.
7. **Élise Levasseur**, was born on September 20, 1892 in Rivière-du-Loup, Qc. and died on June 28, 1939 in Montreal; she was buried July 1, 1939, in Montreal, Qc.
8. **Adélarde Levasseur**, was born on November 11, 1894 in Rivière-du-Loup, Qc.; he died on September 24, 1975, in Montreal; was buried on September 26, 1975 in Montreal, Qc.
9. **Marie-Angéline Levasseur**, was born on May 29, 1898 in Rivière-du-Loup, Qc.; She died on June 19, 1899 in Rivière-du-Loup and was buried on June 20, 1899 in Rivière-du-Loup.
10. **Angéline Levasseur**, was born on August 23, 1899 in Rivière-du-Loup, Qc. She died on April 22, 1965 at Montreal and was buried on April 26, 1965, in Montreal, Qc.

Father: Michel Levasseur (1852-1911)



Michel Levasseur was born in the village of **L'Isle-Verte**, halfway between the municipalities of Trois-Pistoles and Rivière-du-Loup. At that time the seigneurial regime was coming to an end. [Isle-Verte](#) developed in the 19th century in such a way that it would be considered one of the most important industrial communities in Quebec. The history of L'Isle-Verte merges with that of the island of the same name. There is L'Isle-Verte, the riverside municipality, and l'Île Verte that stretches out on the St. Lawrence River, facing the village. Two names of locations that have the same pronunciation but are spelled differently. Originally, l'Île Verte (green island) gave its name to the equally green spaces of the riverside village. On **January 23, 1852**, the year of Michel's birth, the territory was divided into two separate entities. Two councils were formed, one of which administered the village and the other the parish.



Michel Levasseur was director of the **Temiscouata Railway Tracks** in Rivière-du-Loup, Qc.

Here is a photo taken from one of the Rivière-du-Loup calendars published every year at this time. We find Michel Levasseur with other railway personnel. The "**Temis**" opened in 1888, connecting Rivière-du-Loup to **Edmundston, New Brunswick**.

Daughter : Anna Levasseur (1885-1949)



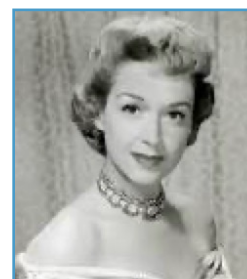
Born **Marie-Anna Levasseur** on June 1, 1885 in Rivière-du-Loup, she was the first child of the Levasseur/Lagacé couple. Educated and bilingual, Anna worked as a secretary for the Duke and Duchess of Richelieu (The last Duke of Richelieu was in New York when Anna was their secretary). Anna became a U.S. citizen in 1936. Before that time she was in France and worked as a secretary for the cruise line, French Lines. She was also secretary for the director of the French hospital in New York. During this period, she even organized a beneficial concert at the Metropolitan Opera in New York to raise money for the foundation of this hospital. The singers were **Raoul Jobin**⁽¹⁾ and **Risë Stevens**⁽²⁾. She married **Aylwin Harrison on October 17, 1945** in Island Park and lived in the United States. She died in New York on **November 27, 1949** at the age of 65, and was buried among her family plot at Notre-Dame-des-Neiges cemetery in Montréal.



(1) Raoul Jobin, whose real name is Joseph Roméo Jobin, was a Quebec tenor born on April 8, 1906 in Quebec City and died on January 13, 1974 in the same city). He was one of the greatest French-speaking tenors of the 20th century.



(2) Risë Stevens was an American mezzo-soprano. She began her singing career in 1938 at the Metropolitan Opera in New York that lasted during the 1940 and 1950's. She was renowned for her singing of Bizet's Carmen.



Marie-Anna Levasseur and her husband Aylwin Harrison

Son : Charles Levasseur (1886-????)



Born on September 26, 1886 and baptized the next day, Charles voluntarily enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces in 1917. No wonder, since in the family, Charles was known as an an adventurer. He did not leave any offspring or get married. In 1943, Charles worked in Sarnia, Ontario for **Polymer Corporation**. This company was the first rubber factory in Canada in September 1943. The first mass of the future parish of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Sarnia's only French-speaking parish, was celebrated in early 1943 in the dining room of Polymer Corporation. Charles was 57 at the time. It is likely that he worked there as a cook because that was the profession he had written on his 1917 conscription sheet. On November 18, 1943, Charles Levasseur left for the United States. Last known residence: Sarnia, ON. (Source: Detroit Border Crossings and Passenger and Crew Lists, 1905-1957). According to the dictionary of Henri Jean Charles Levasseur (page 881), Charles Levasseur went to Lewiston Maine and never married.

It is interesting to note that personal information about an individual can be accessed from his military file. This information cannot not be found elsewhere. The Library and Archives Canada website ([follow this link](#)) makes available thousands of military archival files on Canadian soldiers of the First World War, including the file of Charles Levasseur. Listed below is some of the information from his military record file:

DOCUMENT : Attestation Paper - Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force (January 15, 1917, Fort Frances)

- Question 1: Signs Levasser, not Levasseur.
- Question 1b: Declares to reside in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Question 2: Declares to having been born in New Orleans, Louisiana (he was born in Rivière-du-Loup)
- Question 3: Next of kin, Mary Jane Lagace (Marie-Jeanne Lagacé, his mother), who lives at 432 Clack Street in Montreal).
- Question 4a: A kinship with the next of kin (his mother) indicates "Cousin", (probably an error of understanding).
- Question 5: Declares having been born on September 26, 1886.
- Question 10: He states that he served three years in the U.S. Army, without further details
- He is 5 feet 5 inches, 136 pounds, brown eyes, black hair. Catholic religion.

DOCUMENT : 141 Overseas Battalion, C.E.F. February 1, 1917)

- Question 4: Once again declares that he was born in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Question 10, his mother's name is indicated as Rachel (?) Levasseur, who lives at 432 Clarke Avenue in Montreal. His mother's first name is Marie-Anna.

DOCUMENT : Last Pay certificate (April 23, 1917)

- Final payment certificate, issued in Halifax, Nova Scotia, for \$35.30

Son : Patrice Levasseur (1890-1971)

Patrice (Patrick) was born in Rivière-du-Loup on **April 20, 1890**. He was 17 when he arrived in Edmundston, New Brunswick. There he worked as an apprentice baker with a man named Mr. Thibault. The bakery was located on the corner of Church Street (rue de l'Église) and Michaud Street. On his way to work every day he would pick up a woman's bread and cook it at the bakery. That is where he met Annie Ouellet, who worked there as a housewife.. It was with this lady that Patrice met **Annie Ouellet**, who worked there as a housewife. Annie, born on December 21, 1889, was the daughter of **Magloire Ouellet** and **Henriette Philibert**, a couple who were among the pioneers of the city of Edmundston. As work became scarce in Edmundston, Patrice went to work as a baker at **Eagle Lake Company**. A little later, his wife Annie was hired to work in a hotel in the same village. This small village was located not far from the lumber camps of the time, so there was no shortage of work. Patrice and Annie returned to Edmundston and married in the city's first church on June 6, 1909. They both found work in Grand Sault, N.B., Patrice as a baker and Annie as a housewife at the Perry Hotel. It was in this city that the couple's first two children, Philippe and Alberte, were born. They returned to Edmundston because she missed her family. They opened a bakery for a few years and later Patrice went to work for Mr. John Rice, a bakery that later became the property of Mr. Roy and Mr. Dechesches.

Note: According to the association's database, this couple has more than 270 descendants)



Wedding photo of Patrice Levasseur and Annie Ouellet on June 7, 1909



The 60th wedding anniversary of Patrice (Patrick) Levasseur and his wife, Annie. They are surrounded by their offspring.

Son : Adélard Levasseur (1894-1975)

Adélard Levasseur was born on **November 11, 1894** in Rivière-du-Loup, Que., and was baptized the next day in the parish of Saint-Patrice. He was married on September 3, 1917, in Montreal, in the parish of Saint-Enfant-Jesus, with **Josephine Laflamme**. He died on September 24, 1975 at the age of 80. He is a descendant of Laurent Levasseur.

Having found work in Montreal, he met **Josephine Laflamme** in a cinema; love at first sight. They married on September 3, 1917 and went to work in the United States with a wealthy American family. Back home, Adélard was hired by **General Bakeries** as a baker.

Perfectly bilingual, he quickly rose to the rank of foreman. In the 1960's, he was sent to Halifax to demonstrate his bread-making skills.

In 1974, a chance meeting with **Georges Dufaux** of **National Film Board** changed the course of Josephine and Adélard's life. For a year they agreed to be followed by the filmmaker's cameras in the search for a shelter for the elderly. The result is an upsetting film: « **Au bout de mon âge** » (At the End of My Age), a film that punctuated the distress experienced by aging people with a loss of autonomy. Adélard died in 1975 before knowing the impact of this film on society and without knowing that his image would be immortalized forever. Adélard left no posterity.



Adélard Levasseur, Elise his sister on the left and Josephine Laflamme, his wife



« **At The End of My Age** » NFB Film, 1975, 85 min

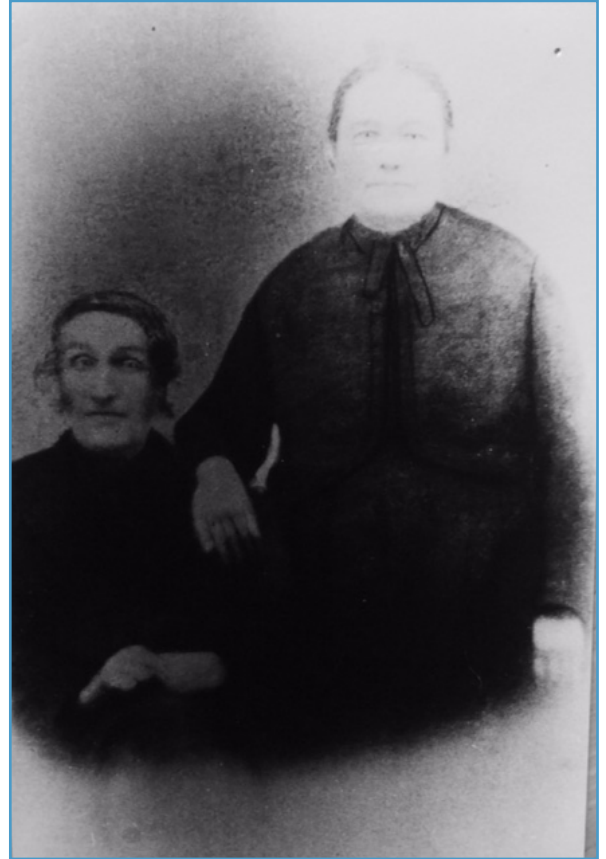
« A film full of emotions that illustrates by tender and meaningful images, combined with spontaneous words, the long psychological journey of two beings affected by age. (Filmed simultaneously with the film The Winter Gardens, Les Jardins d'hiver 106C 0276 014.)».

Source : <http://onf-nfb.gc.ca/en/our-collection/?idfilm=225>

A few photos



Here is a picture of the daughters of **Michel Levasseur** and **Jeanne Lagacé**, pictured in front of their house on Beaubien Street in Fraserville (Rivière-du-Loup). This house was located a short distance from The Church of St. Patrice



A very old photo: The parents of Michel Levasseur. **Theophile Levasseur** (1813-1882) and **Marie Bergeron**. The wedding was celebrated on January 10, 1837 in Kamouraska.



Photo on the left: Anna Levasseur (1885-1949) and a friend on her right.

We would like to thank Juliette Levasseur for all this documentation. Juliette is the great-granddaughter of Michel Levasseur and Jeanne Lagacé. The complete genealogy of this family and a photo album are distributed on the website of the Association of Levasseur, at this address:

www.levasseur.org/tng

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.

Join our team of volunteers, contact us !!

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