



Some Levasseur, military over the centuries

Part 1: Before the Conquest (1608-1759)

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Included in this Newsletter and in future issues is information of persons who's surname is Levasseur, who came from North America and were members of the military forces during the different eras of our history. Several descendants of the ancestors Jean, Pierre and Laurent Levasseur have adopted, over the centuries other surnames such as Borgia, Carmel, Carmell, Vasseur, Vassar, Vassor, Vasser. Among the descendants of the ancestor Pierre Levasseur-dit- l'Espérance are the Borgias and a branch of the Carmel.

Our objective

The information we have collected, through the various records available on the Internet is, in our view, of particular value when it relates to a given family and its history. Our challenge was to relate an anonymous name recorded in official registries and linking them by hyperlinks to the Levasseur family database and other external references. It should be noted that the consultation of the files of deceased members provides access to information about their time in the military

Members of the Levasseur Association of America can access their genealogy directly through a database on their website: www.levasseur.org. This bank has more than 140,000 registrations. To access this huge source of information, the researcher must be a member of the Levasseur Association of America and also have an email address (for access control). Several Levasseur soldiers described in the various sections of this site were connected to their ancestors. An experienced team of genealogists from the Levasseur Association is currently working to find the missing links of people for whom we have found too little information in the archives of the various Governments

U.S. Military Levasseur (Vassar, Vasseur and Carmel)

Our search has also extended to our American Levasseur neighbors. Did you know that according to the USA 2000 census, there were 4,300 people in the United States whose surname was Levasseur? Most of the American Levasseur are descendants of French-Canadian Levasseur who migrated to the northeastern United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. We are surprised to find that more than 153 people with the surname Levasseur enlisted in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II.

We must also not forget the surnames Vasseur, Vassar, Carmel and others who are descendants of Levasseur and who are in large numbers in these military databases in the United States. The next step in our work, after completing the Levasseur surnames, will be to count and associate these people to their genealogy.

Help us complete this information

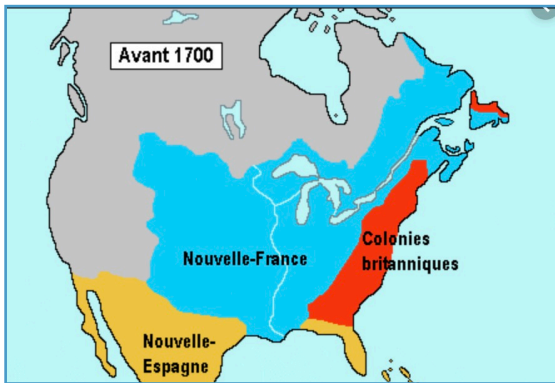
Your help is essential for us to complete this work. If you have information (date of birth, name of parents, place of residence, marriage, etc.) of a person you can identify as having been in the militaries, we ask you to send us this information by completing this form. We thank you for assistance.

Prior to the conquest - Period from 1608 à 1759

7 persons have been located

1) Charles LEVASSEUR (1665-1704) (J)

Charles Levasseur was born on April 7, 1665 in Quebec City, to Jean Levasseur dit Lavigne, the first Levasseur to settle in New France, and Marguerite Richard. Charles was attracted early to a military career and he received his appointments from Paris where his value was recognized. He was sometimes called "Charles Levasseur, Sieur de Bagaret," or, more often, "Charles Le Vasseur de Boussouelle" or "Ruessavel"⁽¹⁾; in all cases, he was always recognized as a "Canadian officer." He had a taste for exploring the new world and seemed fascinated by The Mississippi. After being a companion of Chevalier de La Salle, in his discovery of the Mississippi, he was appointed to accompany Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville, to the establishment of the first permanent French colony in Louisiana. ⁽²⁾



Fort Maurepas (or « The Old Biloxi now Ocean Springs»)

The expedition left La Rochelle in September 1698 and arrived in Biloxi Bay in February 1699. The Moyne long sought a place to build a fort. The place was swampy and infested with mosquitoes, it was difficult to find drinking water and you had to be wary of hurricanes. Finally, he identified an elevation on the northeast side of Biloxi Bay (now "Ocean Springs," Mississippi State). The present town of "Biloxi" (today, in the state of Mississippi) is located on the west side of Biloxi Bay. Biloxi was

the name of a group of Native Americans from the region, belonging to the Sioux family.

Construction of Fort Maurepas began in April and was completed on 1 May 1699. Three days later, Pierre Le Moyne returned to France after organizing the colony:

- Commander: his cousin, Sauvolle de la Villanry, lieutenant and ship's ensign;
- Second: his younger brother, Jean Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville, lieutenant to the King of the Maritime Guard;
- Major of the fort: Charles Levasseur, a Canadian, experienced military.

He left a garrison of about 70 men, whom he considered his best soldiers. Among them were several Canadians, including Jean-François Levasseur (1654-), Charles's brother.

Daily life was very difficult: mosquitoes were invasive, food was rationed, drinking water was scarce and even the fort's well provided water that could cause disease. On July 2, 1699, following a surprise visit to Fort Maurepas, M. de Montigny, a missionary in the Mississippi Valley, confirmed the plight of occupiers of the fort and noted that he had found, among other things, "The two gentlemen Levasseur of whom there is one who is a major of the fort." "The fort's major was Charles Le Vasseur... The second Le Vasseur... his name was Jean-François. He commanded the ship La Précieuse (Precious), the largest one.».

Fort Louis de la Mobile (Old Mobile) (5) (or Fort Louis de la Louisiane)

In 1700, there was talk of establishing a new fort, a little further east, in Mobile Bay. Charles Levasseur set out to lead an expedition to find the best location. He continued his search in 1701 and finally chose the place where he would build the Fort Louis de la Mobile: it would be on a promontory of twenty feet, on the right bank of the Mobile River, near the mouth that overlooks Mobile Bay. The site was located about 120 kilometers east of Fort Maurepas (Biloxi). In early 1702, Charles Levasseur himself drew the plans for the fort that would overlook the Mobile River and the plans for the city that would surround the fort. The fort was square with four bastions, the cannons being concentrated at the four corners of the fort. Charles Levasseur also led the construction work. The fort impressed everyone, including the Native Americans who were shown it. During the year 1702, Fort Maurepas of Biloxi Bay was destroyed to prevent it from being occupied by enemies and the command of the Colony of French Louisiana was transferred to Fort Louis de la Mobile (Today: in the state of Alabama).

Unfortunately, two years later, during an epidemic, Charles Levasseur died of yellow fever, in the fort that he built on September 4, 1704: he was only 39 years old. He had been an experienced military man, a talented military architect and a daring explorer. His death was considered a great loss to the Louisiana colony.

Jean-Marie Levasseur (033)

Sources for this text on Jacques Levasseur:

(1) «"Ruessavel" is obtained by reading "Levasseur" from right to left: Charles could have given himself this nickname in his youth, to have fun or to make fun of the titles of nobility. The nickname would then have been distorted into Russouelle, Roussouelle, etc..

(2) See documents collected by Pierre Margry, in Discoveries and Establishments of the French in Western and Southern North America (1614-1754), Volume 4, Discovery by Sea of the Mouths of the Mississippi and Lemoyne Institutions of Iberville on the Gulf of Mexico (1694-1703), Paris, Maisonneuve and Cie, 1891. On the appointment of Charles Levasseur, see the letter from the Minister of the Navy (Jérôme Pontchartrain) to the Sieur d'Iberville on June 25, 1698: "Mr. Levasseur who once served with the late Mr. de la Salle, and in various jobs in Canada, having asked me to serve, I thought it would he would be very helpful and appropriate for this campaign. You must have him embark with you to command some of the Canadians you will be leading, and I ask you to employ him for tasks appropriate for him.

(3) Father François de Montigny's autograph letter to Bishop Saint-Vallier, dated from his mission of the Taensas, August 25, 1699, in Noel Baillargeon, The Missions of the Seminary of Quebec in the Mississippi Valley, 1698-1699, Quebec, Museum of Civilization, 2002 (online), p. 81.

(4) Ibid., p. 91, note 25 by Noel Baillargeon, with a reference to Marcel Giraud, History of French Louisiana, Paris, 1953, 1, p. 21, n. 4 and references to the Rolle of officers, majors, marine officers, etc. left in garrison by M. d'Iberville at Fort Maurepas. AC, C13A, Vol. I, f. 209 and f. 219.

(5) Jay Higginbotham, Old Mobile. Fort Louis, Louisiana, 1702-1711, Mobile, Museum of the city of Mobile, 1977 (Reissue: Tuscaloosa and London, The University of Alabama Press, 1991, 587pp.). Pages 40-52 on the beginnings of the establishment can be found online. See also Gilles-Antoine Langlois, Cities for French Louisiana. Theory and practice of colonial urban planning in the 18th century, Paris, L'Harmattan, 2003 (partly, on line)

2) Jacques LEVASSEUR DE NERÉ, Jacques, military engineer, knight of St. Louis, captain and ship's ensign.

"Born in Paris in 1662 or 1664, died in 1723 or later. We don't know anything about Levasseur's family other than that he had a brother in the Navy Department. In 1680 Levasseur entered the Royal Academy of Rennes and four years later was admitted to the Royal Engineers and assigned to the king's work at Bayonne. After serving at Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, he was promoted to assistant-engineer and moved to La Rochelle for one year and another to Nancy. Between 1691 and 1693 he took part in several seats under Vauban [Le Prestre]. On March 1, 1693, he was appointed engineer of the king in New France to succeed Robert de Villeneuve. Previously, he had married Marie-Françoise Chavenault; feeling somewhat embarrassed because of his large family, may have been one of the factors that led to his appointment in New France. During his stay in Canada, his wife had ten more children (the first child born in New France was baptized on October 23, 1694 and had Buadeo de Frontenac as god-father). His ever-increasing family responsibilities led Levasseur to seek additional rewards and bonuses throughout his career. In April 1694, before leaving France, he had received the certificate of ship's ensign and company captain in the naval troops."⁽⁶⁾

3) René-Nicolas LEVASSEUR, Chief of Royal Shipbuilding and Inspector of Woods and Forests in Canada.

"Probably born in Rochefort, France, in 1705 or 1707, died in Aubagne, France, on August 2, 1784. René-Nicolas Levasseur had been with a family linked to the navy for almost a century. Some members of his family had served as steward and commissioner, and his father had devoted himself to shipbuilding. First a builder in Rochefort, he had become, in 1717, the first master at Toulon. René-Nicolas would follow in his father's footsteps, learning under him, while one of his brothers became an engineer and the other, Louis-Armand, the general commissioner of Rochefort. He entered the King's service in 1727 as a sub-builder at Toulon. In 1733 he led the construction of a 40-gun ship, the Aquilon. He was a man of trust, already experienced, proud of his integrity, his zeal and his usefulness, who would eventually assume all the tasks related to the royal enterprise in the colony."⁽⁷⁾

4) Louis LEVASSEUR, writer, Lieutenant General of the Admiralty on Royal Island (Cape Breton Island).

"Born on December 27, 1671 in L'Ange-Gardien (Qué.), son of Louis Levasseur and Marguerite Bélanger; on January 6, 1736, in Louisbourg, Royal Island, he married Marie-Anne, daughter of Jean François Lorant and Marie-Suzanne de La Bazanière, who gave him three daughters; Louis Levasseur, who died on June 3, 1748 in Saint-Malo, France. He was from a middle-class family, at a young age he joined the service of the intendant Jean Bocharto de Champigny as secretary. Later he moved to Marseille, France, where, in 1695, he was appointed writer. At the request of Pierre-Auguste de Soubras, organizing commissioner for the Royal Island, he went there as secretary, in 1716; he was entrusted with the day-to-day record-keeping and store-keeping function, and he was appointed clerk for the organizing commissioner. His progression in Louisbourg can largely be attributed to the protection granted to him by Soubras and his

successor, Jacques-Ange Le Normant de Mézy; during the 1720s, Levasseur was lodging with him." ⁽⁸⁾

Seven-Year War in New France 1755-1760

Researchers led by Marcel Fournier worked at the Montcalm Project. This project aimed to build a database of soldiers and officers sent by France to fight in New France during the period from 1755 to 1760. The results of this research were published in the volume *Fight for France in America*. Soldiers of the Seven Years' War in New France 1755-1760. In this volume we find two soldiers who bear the surname Levasseur:

5) Saint-Armand LEVASSEUR«LEVASSEUR (Saint-Armand, Saint-Arnaud),

Antoine-Arnaud. Lieutenant in the Queen's Regiment, unspecified company in 1758. He was born on June 18, 1743 in Quebec City (Notre Dame), Canada, son of Nicolas-René Levasseur and Marie-Angélique Just. He died in France. Notes: Volunteer with the regiment; lieutenant on July 25, 1758; lieutenant in the Queen's regiment on September 17, 1758. He returned to France in October 1760 and moved to the Béarn regiment on April 1, 1761. On the brief of proposals for vacant jobs of July 25, 1758, his date of birth is indicated as, August 2, 1742. The note reads: "This young man is of a French family; his father is employed for the king's service in Canada." (4494) » ⁽⁸⁾

6) Jean-Louis LEVASSEUR (Vasseur)

"LEVASSEUR (Vasseur) dit Saint-Georges, Jean-Louis. Soldier in the Burgundy Regiment, Maille's company in 1755, hired on April 22, 1743 as a soldier. He was born on August 20, 1720 in Crécy-la-Chapelle (St-Georges), Seine-et-Marne, son of Pierre Levasseur and Marguerite Testard. He died in Louisbourg (Hospital) on July 25, 1758. Notes: Militiaman incorporated into the regiment before 1755. He was present in Louisbourg according to a list of 1 October 1756. (3856)» ⁽⁹⁾

The War of the Canadians 1756-1763

Authors Jacques Mathieu and Sophie Imbeault published the volume *War of the Canadians 1756-1763*. This volume traces a number of soldiers who died during this period. War leaves widows. One of them bears the surname Levasseur at birth.

7) Marie-Hélène LEVASSEUR

Marie-Hélène Levasseur is a descendant of Pierre Levasseur and is the widow of Jean-Baptiste Chaille Mathurin. He died on April 29, 1760 at the Quebec General Hospital, the day after the Battle of Sainte-Foy. The couple had married on February 24, 1754 at Ancienne-Lorette. Jean-Baptiste was survived by a 5-year-old son and a 3-year-old daughter. Marie-Hélène remarried François Griot Larivière in Quebec City on June 15, 1762. ⁽¹⁰⁾

Sources :

(6) James S. Pritchard, « LEVASSEUR DE NERÉ, JACQUES », dans Dictionnaire biographique du Canada, vol. 2, Université Laval/University of Toronto, 2003– , consulté le 9 janv. 2016, http://www.biographi.ca/fr/bio/levasseur_de_nere_jacques_2F.html.

(7) Jacques Mathieu, « LEVASSEUR, RENÉ-NICOLAS », dans Dictionnaire biographique du Canada, vol. 4, Université Laval/University of Toronto, 2003– , consulté le 9 janv. 2016, http://www.biographi.ca/fr/bio/levasseur_rene_nicolas_4F.html.

(8) T. A. Crowley, « LEVASSEUR, LOUIS », dans Dictionnaire biographique du Canada, vol. 3, Université Laval/University of Toronto, 2003– , consulté le 9 janv. 2016, http://www.biographi.ca/fr/bio/levasseur_louis_3F.html.

(9) PROJET MONTCALM, sous la dir. de Marcel FOURNIER. Combattre pour la France en Amérique. Les soldats de la guerre de Sept Ans en Nouvelle-France 1755-1760, Montréal, Société généalogique canadienne-française, 2009, p. 447.

(10) MATHIEU, Jacques et Sophie IMBEAULT, La guerre des Canadiens 1756-1763, Québec, Septentrion, 2013, pp. 102, 107.



In an upcoming issue

Part 2: British Military and Naval Archives 1759-1871

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 !!

Web site : www.levasseur.org - webmaster@levasseur.org

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/associationlevasseur>

Other Levasseur Association Web sites:

irma.levasseur.org
carmel.levasseur.org
borgia.levasseur.org

Twitter: https://twitter.com/Fam_Levasseur