



# Levasseur and Carmel Families

Web: <https://www.levasseur.org> | Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/associationlevasseur>

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## A word from the president

In the last few months, your Association has introduced several new features. Let's mention the video clips to explain how to use the databases on the Web site, the creation of a complete index regrouping all the subjects treated in the Levasseur newsletters since 1989, a help file to facilitate research on our Web site and the creation of a YouTube channel that gathers our video documents and training sessions.

On December 15, your board of directors and some volunteers held a meeting by videoconference. The purpose of this meeting was mainly to plan the next gathering of the Levasseur and Carmel families in 2022. By mutual agreement, it was decided to postpone this gathering to a later date. You will have understood that the uncertainty regarding the possible spread of the COVID-19 virus variants leads us to reconsider holding this event. Be assured that it is only a postponement and that we will get together in the area of Lévis, sometime in 2023.

The Levasseur and Carmel Family Association will soon take steps to have a commemorative plaque installed to highlight the presence of our ancestor Laurent Levasseur on the land of Lauzon (now the City of Lévis). This plaque would most likely be placed near the land of Laurent Levasseur and Marie Marchand, and near the bicycle path near the St. Lawrence River. Our vice-president, Alex Levasseur, is in charge of this file and we will keep you informed of the progress of this project in the coming months.

It is also time to prepare for our next general meeting. We invite you to get involved and apply to fill the vacant positions on the Board of Directors.

Jean-Pierre Levasseur

# Louis Levasseur from Rouyn, Qc: Hockey player, movie star and garage door manufacturer

by: [Alex Levasseur](#)

Jean-Louis Levasseur, better known as Louis Levasseur, has an impressive track record. He is a ninth descendant of Pierre Levasseur dit L'Espérance, the very first Levasseur to settle in New France.

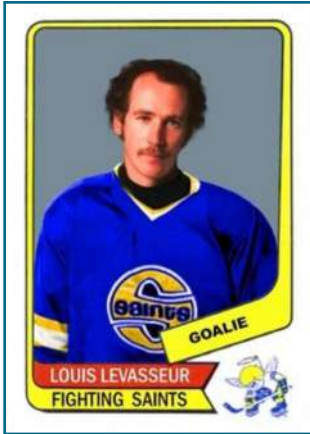
Louis is no less famous for it: businessman, professional hockey player, and even a bit of a comedian. But let's start at the beginning.

## Goalkeeper

He was born in 1947 in Rouyn, Abitibi. As a young man, he worked in the mines of Abitibi for 8 years. But in 1968, at the age of 21, he became a professional hockey player, as a goalie. He started his career with the Dixie Flyers of Nashville (Tennessee), but his dream came to an abrupt end as he had to quit after 2 games. He returned to his hometown of Rouyn to work in the mines.



The Orillia Terriers, winners of the Allan Cup in 1973



The blogger Keithacton says: "In 1972, a new league, the World Hockey Association (WHA), was about to take off. Levasseur wanted his dream back and sent a letter to each of the WHA teams. One of them invited him to their camp, but as he was passing through the Toronto airport, Levasseur learned that the team had been wiped off the map. » <sup>(1)</sup>

From 1975, he played in the major leagues, including the World Hockey Association. Between 1975 and 1979, he played for the Minnesota Fighting Saints, the Edmonton Oilers, the New England Whalers and the Quebec Nordiques (3 games only). After the merger of the World Association with the National League in 1979,

he returned for one game with the Minnesota North Stars. His career as a goaltender ended the following year in the 1980-1981 season. In total he played for 14 different teams in 7 leagues.<sup>(2)</sup>

### Slap Shot



Louis Levasseur inspired the role of Denis Lemieux, played by Yvon Barrette

Louis Levasseur was an original both on and off the ice, as evidenced by this confession to blogger Keithacton: "Levasseur fit the stereotype of the quirky goalie perfectly. Apparently he used to do a lot of things that his teammates didn't understand. For example, legend has it that he once showed up at a team party dressed as a fisherman, where he spent the evening trying to catch a bar of soap with a rod in an aquarium."<sup>(3)</sup>

While playing with the NAHL's Johnstown Jets, whom he helped win the Lockhart Cup, something else was brewing in the background. Nancy Dowd, the sister of his teammate Ned Dowd, was taking notes to write the script for a movie, Slap Shot. Nancy Dowd created the character of Denis Lemieux, a French-speaking goaltender who had crazy ideas, based on Louis Levasseur.

### « "It was an all-out battle!" »

According to Levasseur, the wild, even bloody, hockey scenes in Slap Shot are not that far from reality, "On our team, we had a guy named Ned Dowd. At one point, his sister came to watch him play during the holidays. That night we were playing the Philadelphia Firebirds, a tough gang as well. The fighting had started during the warm up. The referees were not yet

on the ice. It lasted almost an hour and a half before they got it under control. The refs came in, the police were on the ice, as well as stretchers...it was an all-out battle!" he recalls. <sup>(4)</sup>



"It was obviously comedian Yvon Barrette who played Denis Lemieux, but Levasseur was still able to participate in the film. The Ducks' goalie, Tommy Hanrahan, was played by actor Christopher Murney. However, he was not a hockey player. That's why, during the scenes where Hanrahan wears his goalie mask, it's actually Louis Levasseur who plays the part. This includes the famous scene where Reggie Dunlop (Paul Newman) goes behind his net and yells at him that his wife is a lesbian. »

[You can review the clip of that scene here](#)<sup>(5)</sup>

Louis remembers the shooting of the film very well, but admits that he never thought he would talk about it again 40 years later; he readily admits that Paul Newman was a "nice guy, a gentleman" :



Paul Newman as Reggie Dunlop -  
Slap Shot

«We didn't think back then that it would be so big, so intense. We had a lot of fun. Paul Newman said it was the most fun he'd ever had making a movie. He was laughing, it was a big party.»

Of course, it was the great Paul Newman who held the most attention: "Paul Newman would arrive at 9:00 am with his winnebago and his bodyguards. He would arrive fully dressed, skates on, and jump on the ice. He always got a standing ovation and the shooting would have to stop.

After ten minutes, we would start again".<sup>(6)</sup>

## Portes Levasseur



Louis founded the Levasseur Doors company in 1983; he first got into the repair of garage doors. He started manufacturing them himself around 1987. He now has his own exclusive Polytek model. He acquired a new 45,000 square foot building, and employs about 25 people. His daughter Annie works with him. He is still the CEO of his company. He manufactures about 500 doors

per year; he is also a Garaga dealer, for whom he sells and installs garage doors. His production is sold in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region and James Bay.

**His ancestry**



Henri Levasseur and Anne Marie Magnan

Son of Henri Levasseur and Anne-Marie Magnan, Jean-Louis also has 7 brothers and sisters. His father Henri followed in the footsteps of his own father Philippe and he also became an outstanding carpenter.

His grandfather, Philippe Levasseur, was also a man of renown, as he was a great builder. Around 1926, Philippe was superintendent for the construction of the Jacques Cartier Bridge in Montreal and then for the Mercier Bridge for Dufresne Engineering. It was also Philippe Levasseur who built the St-Joseph de Rouyn Cathedral (unfinished bell tower).



St. Joseph de Rouyn Church

St. Joseph's church was built from 1946 to 1948 according to the plans of architects Eugène-Henri Talbot and Auguste Martineau. The supervision of the construction was entrusted to Philippe Levasseur. The parish of Saint-Joseph was canonically established on May 30, 1946. The construction of the bell tower began in September 1956 according to the plans of architect Marcel Jetté. Once again, the supervision of the work was entrusted to Philippe Levasseur. The octagonal bell tower is covered by a four-sided steeple roof with a metal Latin cross on top. Originally, clocks with a white square dial were installed on each of the four main sides of the bell tower. They were replaced with the current clocks in August 1988.<sup>(7)</sup> »

**Philippe's house is part of the cultural heritage of Rouyn-Noranda:**



Maison Levasseur - Photo: Manon Sarthou 2003 -  
City of Rouyn-Noranda

« Can you imagine, by looking at this house on Valmont Road in Beaudry, that its builder was not only a pioneer, but a builder? This Craftsman and Québécois style bungalow was built in 1937 by its first resident, Philippe Levasseur. In Montreal, Mr. Levasseur had taken evening classes in building. He used this expertise to build his own house when he moved to Abitibi with his four children. Afterwards, he earned his living as a foreman on construction sites and built mostly churches and bridges.



Church of Rémigny

His natural talent for carpentry became an important asset for the region. He designed and built the Beaudry church and its presbytery. The latter and the Levasseur house are part of the building heritage of Rouyn-Noranda. He also supervised the construction of the St-Joseph church in Rouyn, as well as the churches in Cloutier and Rémigny. It is not surprising that he earned the trust of the parish priests: the Levasseurs, who left France around 1686, were all talented carpenters and sculptors! »<sup>(8)</sup>

### Here is the ancestry of Jean Louis Levasseur



References :

- (1) <https://pucktatie.blogspot.com/2017/07/louis-levasseur.html>
- (2) <https://www.hockeydb.com/ihdb/stats/pdisplay.php?pid=8044>
- (3) idem
- (4) <https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1019251/40-ans-slap-shot-louis-levasseur-rouyn-noranda-denis-lemieux>
- (5) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7tvfdSjRE4&list=PLZbXA4lyCtqov-JzdUTZJ0Nb39kaLBCv&index=6>
- (6) Entrevue accordée au journaliste François-Olivier Denommé, en février 2017. <https://www.iheartradio.ca/energie/energie-rouyn/nouvelles/40-ans-de-slap-shot-vu-par-un-rouynorandien-1.2434786/Louis%20Levasseur-1.2434788>
- (7) [https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cath%C3%A9drale\\_Saint-Joseph\\_de\\_Rouyn-Noranda](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cath%C3%A9drale_Saint-Joseph_de_Rouyn-Noranda)
- (8) <http://www.rnculture.ca/la-petite-histoire-de-la-maison-levasseur/>

Pierre Levasseur dit Lespérance (1627 – 1694) Paris, France	Jeanne de Chaverlange (1637 -1680) Bourges, France	7 enfants
Pierre Levasseur (1661 – 1731) Québec	Madeleine Chapeau (1662 – 1695) Sillery	3 enfants
	Anne Ménage (1676 – 1738) Québec	16 enfants
Denis-Joseph Levasseur (1712 – 1792) Québec	Charlotte Couturier (1710 – 1797)	9 enfants
Joseph Levasseur (1741 – 1825) Trois-Rivières	Madeleine Horne Laneuville (1742 – 1810) Bécancourt	13 enfants
Étienne Augustin Levasseur (1777 – 1851) Bécancourt	Antoinette Genest Labarre (1782 – 1814)	8 enfants
	Mélanie Vigneau (1793 – 1849) Havre-Aubert	9 enfants
Étienne Levasseur (1803 – 1890) Bécancourt	Marguerite Larivière (1806 – 1884) Bécancourt	19 enfants
Théophile Levasseur (1842 – 1932) Bécancourt	Marie Beaupré (1855 – 1940) Mont-Carmel	14 enfants
Philippe Levasseur (1882 – 1972) Mont-Carmel	Alice Blanchard (1895 – 1919)	4 enfants
	Alexina Lespérance (1888 – 1960)	0 enfant
Henri Levasseur (1913 – 2005) St-Stanislas-de-Kotska	Anne Marie Magnan (1918 – 1984) Noranda	8 enfants
	Irène Nadeau (1911 - ?)	0 enfant
Jean-Louis Levasseur (*-*) Rouyn	Paco Bureau (*-*)	1 enfant
	Réjeanne Brillon (*-*)	2 enfants

# News from our members: Living in the Northwest Territories

by: Marie-Annie Levasseur



One of our members and a tenth generation descendant of Laurent Levasseur and Marie Marchand, Marie-Annie who is originally from Rimouski, Quebec, graduated from the University of Winnipeg, then settled permanently in Yellowknife, NWT in 2009.

Yellowknife is located on the north shore of Great Slave Lake, one of the world's largest and deepest lakes. Being one of the best places to observe the northern lights and enjoy outdoor activities,

Yellowknife attracts tourists from around the world. It is also the perfect place to fish for lake trout and northern pike.

Yellowknife is one of the largest cities in Canada's North. A very young city at less than one century old, it is developing slowly thanks to diamond mining and national and international tourism. This city is located on the traditional land of the Dene Nation and its Indigenous culture is vibrant.

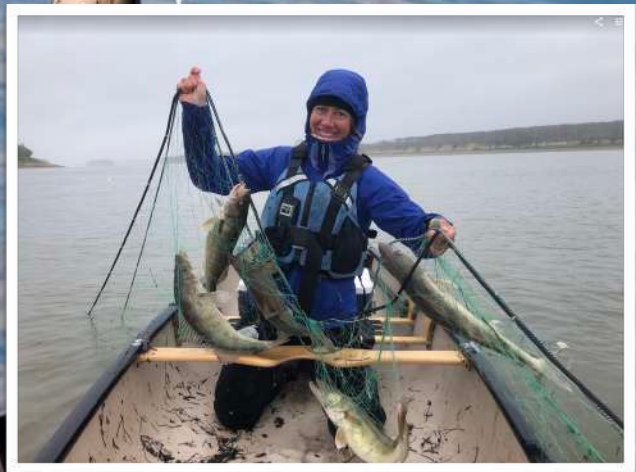
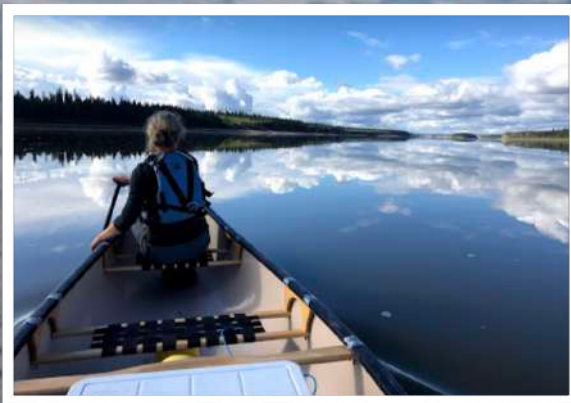
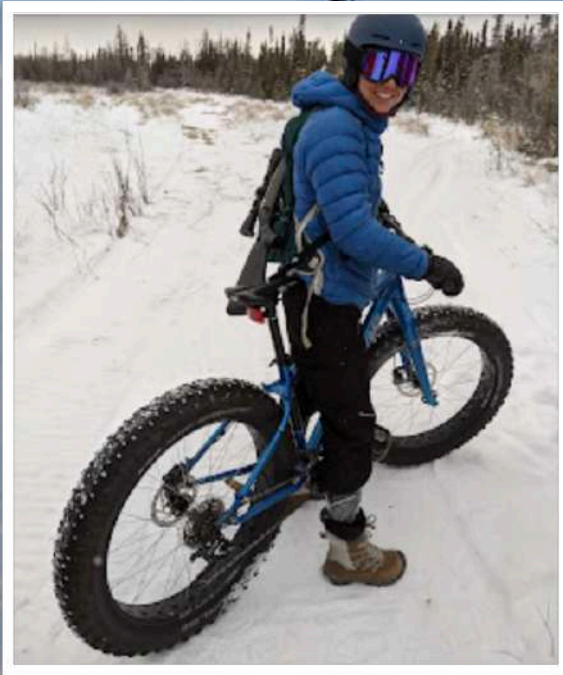
With its secluded location and freezing winters where the temperature often stays between -30C and -40C for several months, Yellowknife does not please everyone, but the vast wilderness and potential to live a unique lifestyle attract the attention of many canadian youth from the south.

*« I fell in love with the North in 2001 when I was hired to work in a remote fishing lodge<sup>(1)</sup>, accessible by bush plane, east of Yellowknife. Between 2001 and 2009, I completed my studies in Environmental Sciences at the University of Winnipeg, while maintaining my seasonal work in the Northwest Territories as a fishing lodge manager.*

*Since 2009, I have been living permanently in Yellowknife and employed by the territorial government in the field of environmental stewardship and watershed management. My work mainly boils down to the negotiation and implementation of transboundary water agreements with upstream jurisdictions.*



*In my spare time, I like to explore the many lakes and rivers by canoe and paddle board in summer, hunt small game by "fat bike" (2) in the fall and on skis after the first snow. Juliet and Wilder, my two children, were born in Yellowknife and practice many sports including hockey, which is very popular in Yellowknife, and also swimming and soccer»*



(1) <https://blachfordlakelodge.com>

(2) Fat bike: a bike with oversized tires designed to ride off-road, especially on soft terrain such as snow or sand..

# Conducting effective searches on our website

by: [Jean-Pierre Levasseur](#)



In a few months, our association will celebrate its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Our website has been up and running since 1995. During all these years, the association has produced and distributed thousands of documents related to the history and genealogy of the Levasseur, Carmel, Borgia and other families. A good part of this abundant documentation is available on our Internet site. We realize that it is not always easy to find a particular document among these gigabytes of data. The purpose of this paper is to give you some tips on how to make your search for information more efficient.

We will not cover here the methods of research in the Levasseur and Carmel family genealogical database. These data are kept on a dedicated server <sup>(1)</sup> and Mr. Gilles Carmel has recently published video clips <sup>(2)</sup> to facilitate your research in this application. Instead, we propose to show you in this article the methods to search for a given subject, either in the articles published in the Levasseur Newsletters since 1989 and also in the different sections of the Web site.

## **1- Searches in all "Levasseur Newsletters" 1989-2017**

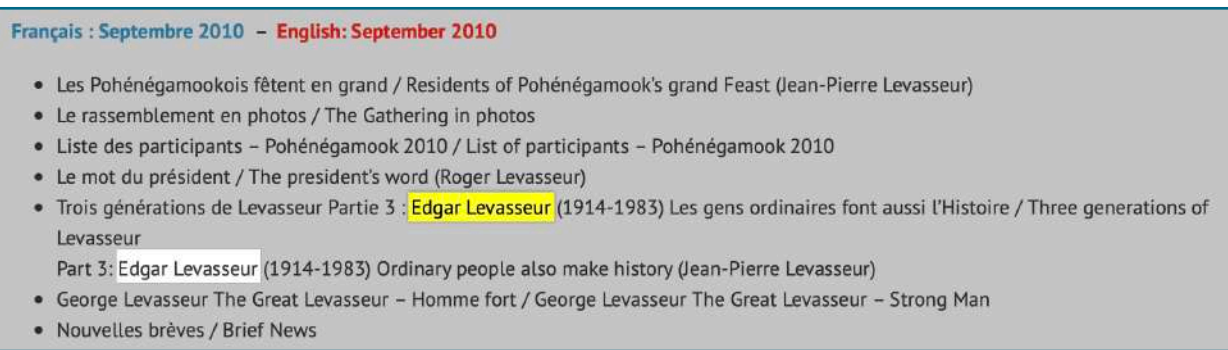
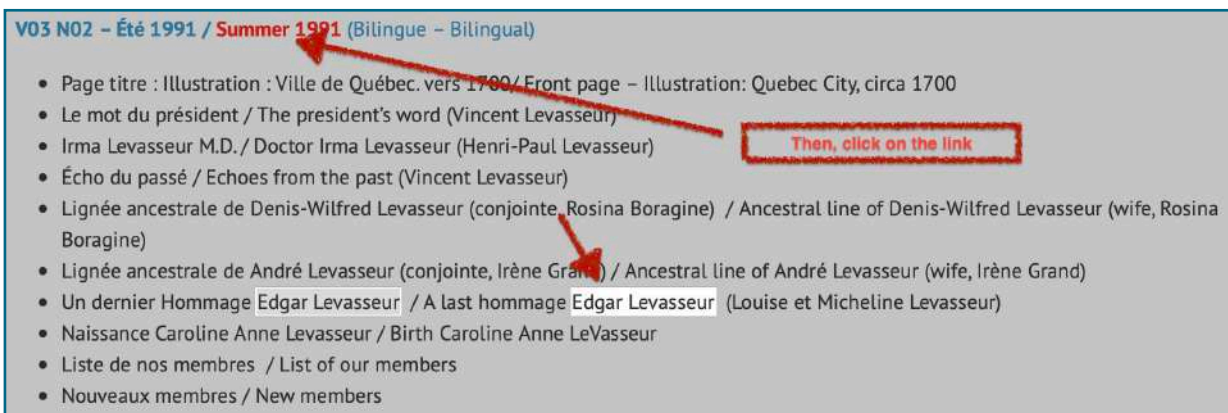
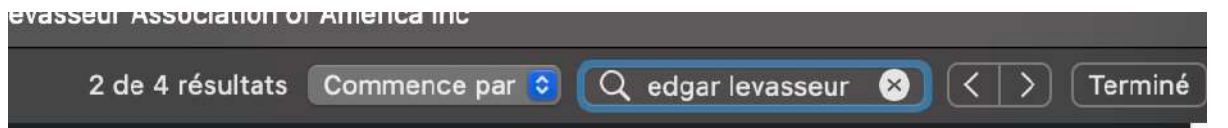
In order to facilitate searches in the publications, we have created for you a complete index of all articles published in the Levasseur Bulletin from 1989 to 2017. The link to consult this online reference is the following:

<https://www.levasseur.org/en/publications-1989-2017/>

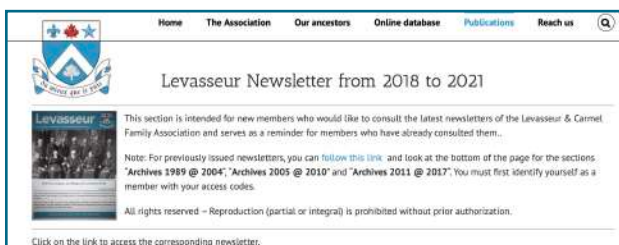
This list is sorted by date of publication, subject and author. You will note, however, that many of the web links within some of the articles are no longer valid, as the configuration of the website has changed several times since our association was founded.

You will be able to browse the document from top to bottom, but more efficient will be the method of using "Control" + F (or "Command" + F for Apple computers) to access your browser's search utility directly from this page.

For example, a search on the name "**Edgar Levasseur**" will return two hits, the 1991 Volume 3, no 2 Newsletter and the September 2010 Levasseur Newsletter. This method is the fastest way to find an article.



## 2- Searches in publications issued since 2018



To access more recent Bulletins and Newsletters (since 2018), please follow that link for the list of topics. The quick search methods are the same as described above.

[https://www.levasseur.org/en/newsletters-since\\_2018](https://www.levasseur.org/en/newsletters-since_2018)

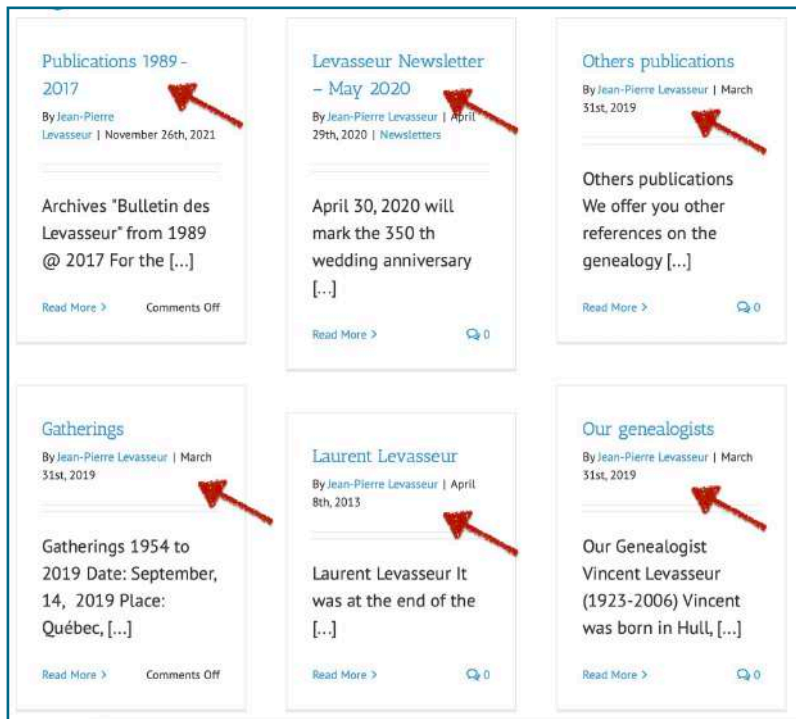
### 3- A powerful but little-known tool: The Magnifying Glass

No matter where you are in your navigation on our website, you will find the "magnifying glass" tool at the top of the page on the far right (also present at the bottom of the page).




Once the search is launched, this powerful indexing tool, which is constantly updated, will show you the link or find the subject of your search.

For example, a search on "**Marie Marchand**" <sup>(3)</sup>, the spouse of our ancestor Laurent Levasseur, will return several articles in which Marie Marchand is mentioned. All you have to do is click on the link to access the document.



## Improving the search

ASSOCIATION DES LEVASSEUR D'AMÉRIQUE INC



# How to run a search on our website

<https://www.levasseur.org>

This presentation was created with the Keynote application, then exported for publication with YouTube.  
You can print this document for future reference

Editing: Jean-Pierre Levasseur  
English translation: Pierre Levasseur  
Version : 20220201

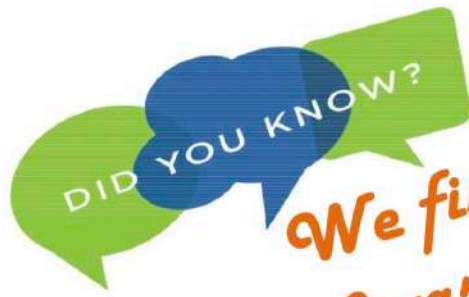
We have also put the essential part of these instructions on our Web site. You can access a PDF version for printing by following this link.

[https://www.levasseur.org/formation/search\\_web\\_site.pdf](https://www.levasseur.org/formation/search_web_site.pdf)

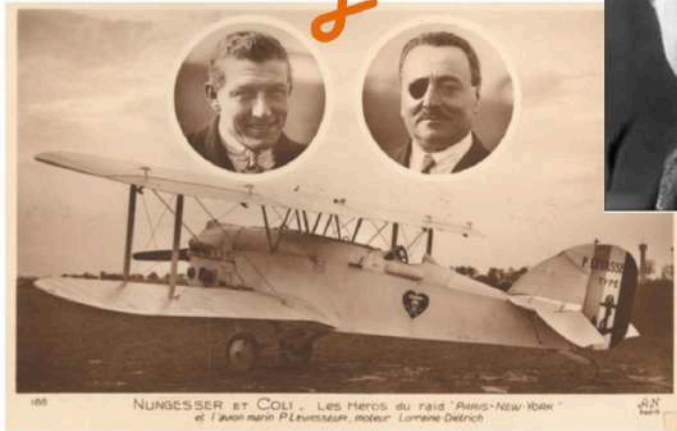
In the next few months, we will possibly integrate an even more powerful search module, either to propose an exact match of the phrase you are looking for, or to perform a "fuzzy logic" search <sup>(4)</sup>, or to sort by relevance and not simply by date.

Have a good look! We have spent many hours gathering this information. We hope you will appreciate these search tools. We are well aware that errors could have slipped into some links. In such a case, please do not hesitate to inform us of any corrections to be applied.

- 
1. <https://www.levasseur.org/tng>
  2. <https://www.levasseur.org/fr/tng-comment-faire-des-requetes/> (french)
  3. <https://www.levasseur.org/en/?s=marie+marchand>
  4. Approximate string matching: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Approximate\\_string\\_matching](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Approximate_string_matching)



*We find the name  
Levasseur everywhere*

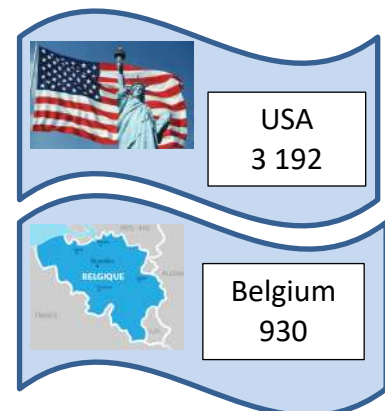
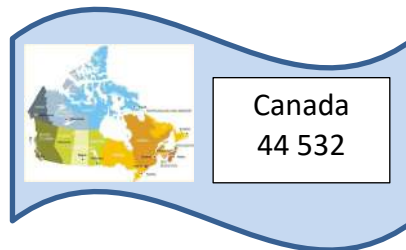
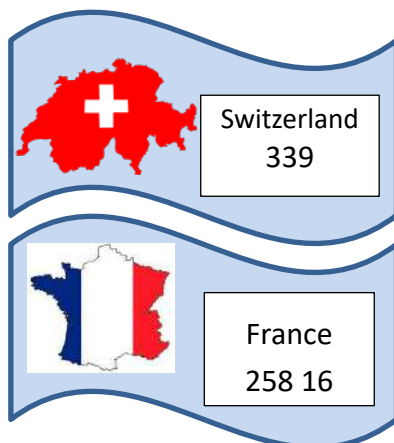


In 1927, the pilots Nungesser and Coli tried to cross the Atlantic in this Levasseur plane (PL8) named "L'oiseau blanc" (the white bird) without success; they were never found.



Pierre Levasseur (Paris, 1890 - 1941) was a French aircraft and propeller manufacturer. He founded the company "Société Pierre Levasseur aéronautique" at the age of 20. In 1913 he started to build planes for other companies. Soon he designed his own planes. By the end of World War I, in 1918, Levasseur had produced 350 fighter planes. Between the wars, he built a torpedo plane: the PL2. This was the first aircraft to be fitted to the aircraft carrier Béarn, the first French aircraft carrier, in June 1926. In total, he created some twenty different models, single-engine and often biplanes. The Pierre Levasseur Aeronautical Company disappears in 1963.

## The Levasseur in the world



# Brief News

## Coming soon in our June issue

- Their mothers, wives or daughters were Levasseurs. In many families there is "Levasseur blood" thanks to these ladies.
- The third part on the military Levasseur and Carmel. Part 3: The Anglo-American War of 1812.

## Statistics

The Levasseur and Carmel Family Association has 135 members and 2 spouses, for a total of 137 members as of January 2022. ♦ 51.5% English-speaking members - 48.5% French-speaking members. ♦ 81 Canadian, 55 American and 1 Australian. Note that 94% of them are over 60 years of age.

## Interesting facts



*Levasseur & Carmel*  
and adopted patronymics Borgia, Vasseur, Vassor, Vasser

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Dates and Anniversaries Share Print Bookmark

Our Web site contains 3,040 photos of deceased people. From these we know that :

- ♦ 154 people were born on March 1<sup>st</sup>
- ♦ 83 people got married on March 1<sup>st</sup>
- ♦ 112 people died on March 1<sup>st</sup>

# Bernard Gaouette (1925 - 2021)

Bernard Gaouette, 96, passed away at the CHUS Fleurimont in Sherbrooke on November 10, 2021. He was the son of Eugène Gaouette and Phélanise Levasseur and was married to Rita Pilon.

Bernard was born in Wotton (Estrie), seventeenth of a family of eighteen children. His mother Phélanise was the daughter of Rémi Levasseur. He is the eighth descendant of Laurent Levasseur and Marie Marchand.

At a young age, his father told him he would no longer be going to school:



1939: "September 4 was the first day of the declaration of war. At that time, I was 14 years old and was to begin my sixth year of schooling at a small country school. My father told me, "You won't be going to school today, you're educated enough." I had to accept. My mother was educated, she taught school for more than 16 years and she would have liked me to be educated to become a priest. Not having received a great education was never too much of a hardship. So I did the work that had to be done: pick potatoes, turnips, the harvests and plow with the help of two horses harnessed to a plow with handles. We prepared firewood for the winter, in the spring, the seeds for seeding and in the summer it was working the land. »<sup>(1)</sup>

He managed to continue his studies with the hope of becoming a detective. However, Bernard became a prospector in the mines of the far north (Fort Chimo, now Kuujuaq). But it was finally as a trainer for Social Credit Party where he worked for 33 years, after taking a correspondence course in political economy. In 1989, at the age of 54, he married Rita Pilon

For the past years, Bernard was a member of the Levasseur and Carmel Association of America. He was very proud of his Levasseur ancestors. In 2014, he participated in the Levasseur gathering that took place in Trois-Rivières.

(1) From the book he wrote: « *Souvenirs racontés par Bernard Gaouette* »





The Levasseur Association of America Inc. is a non-profit organization, founded in 1988, in accordance with a federal charter. It's 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 through the Internet, through an electronic Newsletter published four times per year and also through the publication of genealogical dictionaries.
- To maintain and update, on an ongoing basis, the genealogical data base that is 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 chronicles of 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.

### Board of directors 2020-2022

- President (interim): [Jean-Pierre Levasseur](#) (Québec, Qc)
- Vice-president: [Alex Levasseur](#) (Québec, Qc)
- Treasurer: [Pauline Carmel](#) (Granby, Qc)
- Secretary: [Gilles Carmel](#) (Notre-Dame-des-Prairies, Qc)
- Former President: Roger Levasseur (Ottawa, On)

### Collaborators to the Association: (in alphabetical order of responsibilities)

- Ambassador for the United States: [Ernest Levasseur](#) (Boiling Spring, PA)
- Genealogist: [Joceline Levasseur](#) (Québec, Qc)
- Quarterly infoletter: [Alex Levasseur](#) (Québec, Qc) & [Jean-Pierre Levasseur](#) (Québec, Qc).
- Recorder of obituaries and membership registry: [Gilles Carmel](#) (N.D.-des-Prairies, Qc)
- Social networks (Facebook & Twitter): [Carmen Trottier](#) (Longueuil, Qc)
- Texts translation: [Pierre LeVasseur](#) (Ottawa, On) and Roger Levasseur (Ottawa, On)
- Webmaster: [Jean-Pierre Levasseur](#) (Québec, Qc)