

# Levasseur



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*Louis-Félix Levasseur, accompanied by his professor, remits his discovery to the curator of the cultural center of the Ursuline Monastery.*

Louis-Félix Levasseur, a descendant at the twelfth generation of the ancestor Laurent Levasseur, makes an interesting discovery at the site of the Ursulines of Quebec

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**Features of the found coin:**

« 1857 Seated Liberty Half Dimes

Minted at: Philadelphia (No Mint Mark)

Designer - Engraver: Christian Gobrecht Metal

Composition: 90% Silver - 10% Copper

Diameter: 15.5 mm Mass / Weight: 1.24 grams »



Artistic representation of the [first coin factory in Philadelphia](#) where the type of coin found in Quebec City was engraved.

**Photo of the main page**

It is quite by chance that the young **Louis-Félix Levasseur** (8 years old) discovered in his schoolyard an old coin dating from 1857. Naturally curious, rather than discarding the piece of metal, he actually showed it to his professor who referred him to the curator of the Cultural Center of the Ursulines Monastery. They in turn, will be highlighting this piece for visitors to the museum.

Founded in 1639 by [Marie Guyart](#) of the Incarnation, The **Ursulines' school of Québec** is the oldest educational institution for young girls in North America. Built in the heart of Old Quebec, the school offers students who attend it, an exceptional cultural environment. Remaining faithful to the teachings of [Angele Mérici](#) and the thought of Mary of the Incarnation, a woman of heart, our educational project has been integrating the philosophy of international education since 1997. This is in perfect continuity with the educational mission that the Ursulines have pursued for 370 years. In April 2010, the Ursulines' school of Québec, in consultation with the Ursuline nuns, announced the opening of a teaching area to welcome boys as early as September 2010.

Source: <https://euq.ca/ecole/historique/>



1761 : View of the Orphans Hospital served by the Ursulines, taken from above the rampart ([source](#))

## What were Laurent Levasseur's links with the Ursulines of Quebec at the turn of the 18<sup>th</sup> century?

Two notarial deeds found: in 1694 ([Chambalon L.](#)) and 1708 ([Lacetière, F. de](#)) <sup>(1)</sup>

On **November 19, 1669**, Laurent Levasseur married, before the notary [Romain Becquet](#), the daughter of Louis Marchand and Françoise Morineau of Saint-Martin de l'Île de Ré (island) in Normandy. He married her at Notre Dame Church on **April 30, 1670**. The couple will have fourteen children. Of these, three boys and a girl will start a family; two girls will retire from the world to become nun among the Ursulines; five children died in infancy and a disabled girl was placed at the Quebec City General Hospital after her mother's death. **Laurent will provide a pension for his religious daughters** as well as for his daughter who lived at the General Hospital, Quebec City.

**Marie-Claude Levasseur** is the second child of Laurent and Marie Marchand. She was born on **March 3, 1672** in St. Joseph de Lauzon, almost opposite Quebec City, and baptized 17 days later<sup>(2)</sup> on **March 20, 1672** in Quebec City. She was admitted (Sister Marie-de-la-Visitation) to the Ursulines on **August 5, 1694** at the age of 22. In 1699, Sister Levasseur, o.s.u., Sister Marie de la Visitation was sent from the Quebec home to Trois-Rivières<sup>(3)</sup> to replace Sister Ste-Anne, who had died. Then, in 1700, Sister of the Visitation, **Marie Claude Le Vasseur o.s.u.** is a nun at Trois-Rivières. (Formerly the Ursulines of Trois-Rivières). Marie Claude died on **March 21, 1745** in Quebec City at the age of 73.

**Geneviève Angélique Levasseur** is the eighth child of the Levasseur-Marchand couple. She was born on **February 20, 1681**<sup>(4)</sup> also at St. Joseph of Lauzon and was baptized on **March 19, 1681** at [L'Islet-sur-mer](#)<sup>(5)</sup>. Geneviève Angélique was received at the Ursulines on April 21, 1708 (Sister Genevieve of St. Joseph) at the age of 27. She is said to have died on **November 8, 1749**, in Quebec City, at the age of 69.

(1) Full notarial deeds can be found at [BAnQ](#) (Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec) (Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec)

- 04 08 1694 (1692-1716) [[Chambalon, L.](#)] (Qc) *Obligation of Laurent Levasseur, resident, of the Côte de Lauzon, to the Ursulines of Quebec.*

- 20 04 1708 (1702-1728) [[Lacetière, F. de](#)] (Qc) *In recognition of the debt of Marie Marchand, current wife of Laurent Levasseur, of the lordship of Lauzon, for Geneviève Levasseur, sister of St. Joseph and servant, at the Ursulines of Quebec.*

(2) It was unusual at that time that a period of several days separated the date of birth from that of baptism. It should not be forgotten that Laurent and his family lived on the other side of the river. Crossing the St. Lawrence River was not easy, especially in the spring. It is likely Laurent's children were born in Lauzon and were baptized shortly after birth by a missionary who recorded the acts in different parishes.

(3) In 1697, at Bishop de Saint-Vallier's request, of the diocese of Québec, the ursulines *Marie Drouet de Jésus*, *Marie Le Vaillant de Sainte-Cécile* and *Françoise Gravel Sainte-Anne* founded the Trois-Rivières monastery..

(4) The census of 1681 tells us that Laurent (32 years old) lived in the Lordship of Lauzon. Besides his wife, Marie Marchand (30 years), here are the children of the household: Marie 11 years , Claude 10 years, Laurent 7 years,

Geneviève 5 years, Pierre 3 years, Angelique 1 year. Family possessions on the register: 1 rifle, 1 carbine, 1 pistol, 3 head of cattle and 6 acres, in value.

(5) [L'Islet-sur-Mer](#) is located about 80 km from the parish of St. Joseph-de-Lauzon where Genevieve-Angelique was born. It is also likely that the baptism was done by a missionary Father who recorded the act at L'Islet.

## The Ursulines of Quebec in a few dates

**1639:** The history of the Ursulines of Quebec begins with the arrival of Marie of the Incarnation. While waiting for the completion of the construction of their permanent monastery; the nuns lived in a small house in the Place Royal. This was the first school for girls in New France.

**1642:** Teachers move into their monastery: a 92-foot-by-28-wide building made of Beauport stone.

**December 30, 1650:** The convent is destroyed by fire. The Ursulines took refuge with the Augustines nuns and with their benefactor while the monastery was rebuilt on the ruins of the first monastery.

**1652:** The nuns take possession of the reconstructed convent.

**1672:** Death of Marie of the Incarnation, in 1672.

**In 1686:** Another fire ravaged the monastery.

**Summer 1759:** British ships park in front of Quebec City, and bore the city. Some canon bombs cause minor damage to buildings. A bomb goes through the ceiling of the chapel makes a hole in the floor.

**September 21, 1759:** The ground floor of the monastery is requisitioned to serve as a military hospital and headquarters of the British. James Murray (he had replaced James Wolfe, who died on the Plains). Meanwhile, the nuns live reclusively on the upper floors. They will regain possession of their convent after a year of forced cohabitation. The Ursulines, resilient as always, resist the temptation to return to France, despite a precarious financial situation. At the beginning of the 19th century, they regain prosperity by changing their administration and making their girls' school, bilingual, multi-faith and a scientific one of the most prestigious institutions in America.

**As early as 1835:** They added new buildings to their establishment: Wings Saint-Joseph, Sainte-Angèle, Saint-Thomas, Notre-Dame-de-Grâce and Marie-de-l'Incarnation, and the utilitarian buildings of the boiler room and stable. They also rebuilt their chapels, which had become too cramped, and the Home of Madame de la Peltrie.

**1965:** After the Second Vatican Council, the Ursulines are no longer held to strict rules. In order to embrace modernity, they turn their boarding school into a non-resident school. The building that held their day school is transformed into a museum.

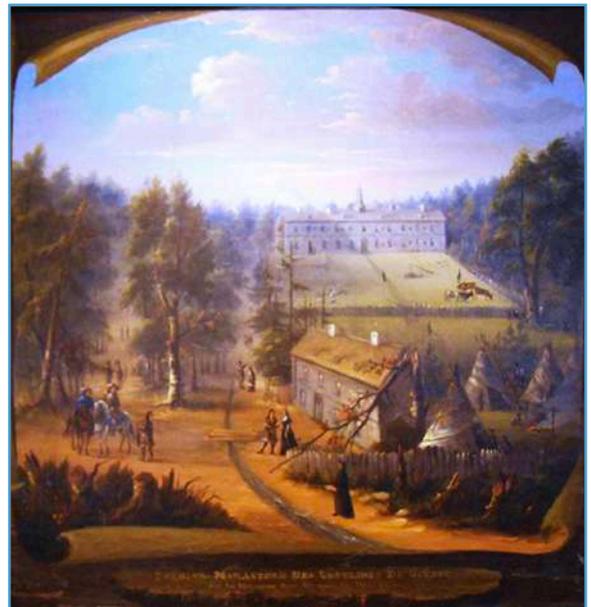
**Since 2014:** Several wings that were not used to their full potential have been transformed to accommodate an early childhood center and offices. 376 years after the construction of the first monastery, 368 years after the first reconstruction, 332 years after the second, 259 years after the occupation of the British, 117 years after the reconstruction of their chapel, 29 years after the erection of the Marie-Guyart wing, the Ursulines of Quebec will leave their monastery.

## Direct lineage of Louis-Félix Levasseur to Laurent Levasseur and his two daughters of the Ursulines Order

1. **Laurent Levasseur**, born around 1649, France. He may have arrived in New France in 1663. Married to Marie Marchand on April 30, 1670 in Quebec City, 14 children, including:
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> child : **Marie-Claude Levasseur** 1672-1745 (Sister Marie-de-la-Visitation)
  - 9<sup>nd</sup> child : **Geneviève Angélique Levasseur** 1641-1749 (Sister Geneviève de St-Joseph)
2. **Pierre Levasseur**, born January 02, 1679, Lauzon, St-Joseph, Lévis, Qc (Élisabeth Michaud).
3. **Pierre Levasseur**, born around 1710 (Geneviève Phocas\Raymond).
4. **Pierre Levasseur**, born October 08, 1746, Kamouraska, Qc (Euphrosine Michaud).
5. **Michel Levasseur**, né le 22 février 1784, Kamouraska, Qc (Catherine Dubé).
6. **Octave Levasseur**, born February 22, 1784, Cacouna, Qc Émilie Hébert).
7. **Alphonse Levasseur**, born June 14, 1863, Trois-Pistoles, Qc (Odina Boucher).
8. **Joseph Levasseur**, born January 19, 1886, Saint-Éloi, Qc (Rose-Anna Ouellet).
9. **Edgar Levasseur**, born May 05, 1914, Saint-Éloi, Qc (Annette Gagnon).
10. **Jean-Pierre Levasseur**, born in Trois-Pistoles, Qc (Paule Truchon).
11. **François Levasseur**, born in Rimouski, Qc (Raphaëlle Bédard-Marcotte)
12. **Louis-Félix Levasseur**, born in Québec.



Principal altarpiece of the Chapel of the Ursulines of Québec, Pierre-Noël Levasseur, 1726-1736. (Pierre-Noël is not related to the ancestor, Laurent Levasseur)



Joseph Légaré. First monastery of the Ursulines of Québec (as it was between, 1645 et 1650)  
PÔLE CULTUREL DU MONASTÈRE DES URSULINES

# 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](http://www.levasseur.org) - [webmaster@levasseur.org](mailto:webmaster@levasseur.org)

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

Other Levasseur Association Web sites:

[irma.levasseur.org](http://irma.levasseur.org)  
[militaires.levasseur.org](http://militaires.levasseur.org)  
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