

Levasseur



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Illustration: Notre-Dame-de-Québec Basilica and the Market, circa 1830 (Source: ville.quebec.qc.ca)

April 30, 2020 will mark the **350th** wedding anniversary of **Laurent Levasseur** and **Marie Marchand** in Notre-Dame Parish in Quebec City.

by: Jean-Pierre Levasseur
historical verification: Joceline Levasseur



Vincent Levasseur
(1923-2006)



J.-F.-Adrien Levasseur
(1923-1995)



Alfred Levasseur
(1930-2008)



We have published several articles relating to one of the ancestors, **Laurent Levasseur**. A short biography was recently published in the [Levasseur Newsletter](#). In addition to the work done by the founder of our association, **Vincent Levasseur**, informing us about the life of this ancestor and his numerous descendants, we also made reference two important books: the volume of **M. J.-F. Adrien Levasseur**, "Laurent Levasseur - Origin, History and the first generation in New France" and also the reference volume of **Mr. Alfred Levasseur** "Genealogy and History of Laurent Levasseur and his descendants in New France.

The marriage contract of the Levasseur-Marchand couple

Reading the registers and the various notarized contracts enables us to learn more about the people associated with an individual's life. It is common to find the age, marital status and occupation of the parties; marital status and the profession of witnesses; the relationship of kinship, either between the parties, between the witnesses, or between the parties and the witnesses, or between a party or a witness and a person named in the act for the purpose of identifying him or her (a man or a woman's spouse, father or parents of a single person, for example). From the transcript of the marriage contract of the Levasseur-Marchand couple, we can identify a dozen people cited as friends or witnesses (often neighbors). What was their relationship with the couple? We did some research in documents of that time period. In the transcription of the document (marriage contract) on the following page, we were able to identify from these texts, the name of persons typed in **red** with referral to references at the end of this document.

Other documents available prior to his arrival in New France

J.-F. Adrien Levasseur in his book informs us of handwritten notes, written by Father Archange Godbout at the Archives in Quebec City, and show a large number of acts relating to the probable parents of Laurent Levasseur, contained in the parish registers of the parish of Sainte-Trinité de Bois-Guillaume in France:

- On May 17, 1641, baptism of Nicolas Levasseur (brother of Laurent), son of Jean and Marguerite Maheu. Godfather Nicolas Dumont.
- On June 16, 1642, baptism of Pierre Levasseur (brother of Laurent) son of Jean and Marguerite Maheu, godfather Pierre Vallée, godmother Marguerite Rouvel.
- On 24 December 1685, the body of Marguerite Maheu, widow of Seventy-nine-year-old Jean Levasseur, having received the last rites, in the presence of Robert Autin, her son-in-law, and Thomas Levasseur, her brother-in-law." (Signed by Robert Autin and bearing the mark of Thomas Levasseur.)

Marriage contract between Laurent Levavasseur and Marie Marchand (Becquet N.R., November 19, 1669)

Note from the translator : (The official text of the marriage contract is in French and has not been translated)

Before **Romain Becquet (1)**, notary, were present, in person, Laurent Levavasseur, resident of the Côte de Lauzon, son of the late **Jean Levasseur and Marguerite (2)**, his father and mother, from the parish of Bois-Guillaume, Archdiocese of Rouen on the one hand and **Marie Marchand (3)**, daughter of **Louis Le Marchand and Françoise Morinneau (4)**, her father and mother, present in this country; willingly and without any force or coercion have acknowledged and confess to having agreed and with the consent of their common relatives and friends for this assembly namely: so-called Louis Le Marchand and Françoise Morinneau, Louis Marchand, Jacques Marchand, **Henry Brau Sieur de Pommainville (5)**, **Noel Penaut (6)**, **Jean Bourasa (6) Toussaint Dusaut (7)**, **Baptiste Proverau (8)**, **Anthoine Dupré (9)**, **Jean Janvin (10)** and **Jean Chaillet (11)**.

Ont fait les accords et promesses de mariage qui ensuivent, c'est à savoir: que le dit Levavasseur a promis et promet prendre pour sa femme et légitime épouse la dite Le Marchand comme aussi elle promet prendre pour son mari et légitime époux le dit Levavasseur à celui. Mariage à faire, solenniser et célébrer en face de Notre Mère Ste-Eglise Catholique Apostolique et Romaine le plus tôt que faire ce pourra et qu'il sera avisé et délibéré entre eux, leurs dits parents et amis si Dieu et Notre dite Mère Sainte-Eglise y consentent et accordent pour être les dits futurs conjoints unis et communs en tous biens, meubles acquis et conquis, immeubles du jour de leurs épousailles à l'avenir suivant la coutume de Paris ne seront les dits futurs conjoints tenus aux dettes l'un de l'autre faites et créées avant le mariage, ainsi si aucune dette il y a, seront payées et acquittées par celui qui les aura faites et créées, et sur son bien, sera douée la dite future épouse du douaire coutumier ou de la somme de deux cents livres, taux du douaire, prix fixe pour une fois payer et ce au choix de la dite future épouse à celui douaire à prendre et avoir sur le plus beau et plus clair des biens du dit futur époux, qui en a dès à présent chargé et hypothéqué.

Et a le dit futur époux pris la dite future épouse avec tous ses droits, noms raisons et actions qu'elle a de présent et qui lui pourront échoir si après, tant par successions, donations qu'autrement, arrivant dissolution du dit futur mariage sans enfant procréé des dits futurs conjoints, ce sont faits et font donation l'un à l'autre entrevifs en meilleure forme et manière que donation puisse avoir lieu et prendre effet en tout son contenu de tous et chacuns les biens meubles acquis et conquis et immeubles qui se

trouveront leurs appartenir au jour du trépas du premier mourant sans aucune chose en retenir ni réserver pour et par le survivant du tout faire et disposer ainsi que bon lui semblera au moyen des présentes. Et pour faire insinuer ses présentes partout où il appartiendra dans quatre mois d'aujourd'hui suivant l'ordonnance les dits futurs conjoints ont nommé et constitué pour leur procureur général et spécial le porteur des présentes auquel ils donnent pouvoir de ce faire et d'en requérir acte. Car ainsi au promettant et renonçant et s'obligeant chacun en droit, soi au promettant fait et passé en la dite Côte de Lauzon maison du Sieur de Pommainville, l'an mil six cent soixante-neuf, le dix-neuvième jour de novembre, après-midi, en présence de **Jean-Baptiste Gosset**⁽¹¹⁾ et de **Gilles du Tartre**⁽¹²⁾ demeurant audit Québec, témoins qui ont signé à ces présentes avec les dits amis et notaire et ont les dits futurs conjoints déclaré ne savoir écrire ni signer de ce requis suivant l'ordonnance.

LOUYS MARCHAND
BROAU
GILLES DU TARTRE

GOSSET
BECQUET, not.

Identification of the individuals mentioned in this document

- (1) **Romain Becquet**, notary, usher, clerk of the diocese, lordly judge and lord, born in Bec (or Becq), near Rouen, in 1640 or shortly before, died in Quebec on April 20, 1682. From 1665 he practiced as a notary, even being called a "royal notary." The Becquet Registry, kept in the Judicial Archives of Quebec, is one of the most important for 17th-century Quebec.
- (2) **Marie Marchand**, wife of Laurent (circa 1651, died prior to May 4, 1716. There is a void that was left intentionally in the contract. Laurent had probably forgotten his mother's last name. "Maheu" was later added in the deed of his marriage.
- (3) **Marie Marchand**, Daughter of Louis Marchand and Françoise Morineau, of Saint-Martin de Ile de Ré in Aunis, she contracted manage before the notary Becquet on Tuesday, November 19, 1669, with Laurent Levasseur, son of the late Jean Levasseur and Marguerite Maheu, of Sainte-Trinité de Bois-Guillaume, archdiocese of Rouen in Normandy and married her in Quebec City on Wednesday, April 30, 1670. From their union fourteen children were born. She was in the country in 1669. She joined the Brotherhood of Sainte-Anne on July 26, 1687, the Holy Family in Quebec on October 3, 1690, and the Saint-Rosaire Fraternity on May 1, 1699. She was hospitalized at the Hotel-Dieu in Quebec City on April 17, 1693 and September 28, 1694. She received the scapular of Mont-Carmel in Quebec on July 19, 1699. She died in late 1715 or early 1716. On May 4, 1716, the nuns of the General Hospital took care of her daughter Marie Renette (sic) Levasseur (innocent girl), twenty-two years old." (Ref. Biographical dictionary of Quebec ancestors (1608-1700) Tome 3.
- (4) **Louis Marchand** (Marie's father) is a cooper. He, his wife Françoise Morineau and their children (Marie, François, Charles, Étienne, Jacques, Louis, and Madeleine) immigrated to Canada in the summer of 1669. Noel Penau, unable to work, gave him his land on condition that he lived with them the rest of his life signed on 16 July 1670 before Sieur Pierre Duquet de la Chenayee.

- (5) **Sieur Henry Brault de Pominville.** He is also known as Daniel Barault. He was born around 1635 in Ballon, La Rochelle, Charente-Maritime, Poitou-Charentes, France 1, 12, 16. Sieur Henry Brault of Pomainville leased, a land with a servant, a house, a fishery, two cows and a bull, to Laurent Levasseur for two hundred pounds a year on September 22, 1669. He obtained a concession he had owned for fifteen to sixteen years between those of François Marchand and Jean Bourassa on August 8, 1677. In the census of 1681, Sieur Henry Brault of Pomainville owned a rifle, a pistol, three horned cattle and fifteen acres of land. The landlord leaves him two bulls, one ten years old and the other born in the spring, estimated at fifty pounds, and a large cow, estimated at sixty-five pounds and another cow, estimated at fifty-five pounds. Levasseur will be responsible for feeding them well and, if one of them dies as a result of his error, he will be required to pay its estimated valued price. If one of the cows no longer produces milk, the lessor will pay for its winter storage and feed. The taker will be able to clear an acre of land at the designated place at the edge of a stream that crosses the land, at the cost of fifty pounds by the lessor, for which the lessor will have half of the wheat harvested on the acre. The taker will be able to clear as much land as he can and cut as much wood as two men can during the first two years. He will have use of the garden and fruit trees provided he manages them well. Source: http://perso.drryan.net/sieur_henry_brault_de_pominville.htm
- (6) **Noël Penaut and Jean Bourassa** Noel Penaut and Jean Bourassa were Laurent Levasseur's two neighbors, on the land leased to Laurent by Henri Brau de Pominville for a price of 200 pounds a year. On September 10, 1673 (three years after his marriage), Levasseur acknowledged that he owed Breau 180 pounds. Breau reserved acreage along the small creek. Source: History of the Lordship of Lauzon, Volumes 1 to 2 by Joseph Edmond Roy.
- (7) **Toussaint Dussault** (Toussaint Toupin dit Dussault). Born in 1616, in Caon, department of Calvados, Lower Normandy, France. Died on August 10, 1676 at Château-Richer. He was born around 1616. He married Marguerite Boucher, daughter of Nicole Lemaire and Gaspard Boucher, on December 25, 1645 in Notre-Dame, Quebec. Marguerite Boucher and Sieur Toussaint Toupin Dussault signed a marriage contract on December 25, 1645 before Guillaume Audouart de Saint-Germain. The inventory of the property of Sieur Toussaint Toupin Dussault is made in 1669 by Gilles Rageot de Saint-Luc, the inventory includes twelve rifles, muskets, muskets and pistols, a large six-foot-long rifle, another four and a half feet long, another five feet, another four feet eight inches, a musket, another large musket, a small musket, a small rifle, a small rifle longer than the previous one, a small rifle, a large arson pistol, another pistol. He married Marie Bourdon daughter of Marguerite Prunier and Louis Bourdon on June 3, 1669 at Notre-Dame, Québec. He died on August 10, 1676. Complete history: <http://genealogie.quebec/info/index.php?no=2720>
- (8) **Baptiste Proverau.** He could. most likely, be Sebastien (Baptiste) Peuvreau or Provereau that the census taker lists as 44 year old. He had been in the lordship since 1667. He had contracted a partnership with Jean Bourassa (Laurent's neighbour) and Jean Huart to operate Charles Amyot's farm. All three had also acquired a common dwelling. On August 12, 1668, Prauverau sold land to Eustache Lambert (4). His name was last mentioned in the census (1681, and there are no other references of his name in archives.
- (9) **Antoine Dupré:** Among the concessions that were made in 1670, on June5, the Ursulines granted Antoine Dupré three acres on the banks of the river at the Scie.
- (10) **Jean Janvin:** No mention in the reference documents consulted.
- (11) **Jean Chaillet:** No mention in the reference documents consulted.
- (12) **Jean-Baptiste Gosset** (witness) baptized on October 3, 1645 in Pont-Audemer (Saint-Ouen). He married on June 10, 1677 in Quebec City (marriage contract on May 16, 1677 clerk, Gilles Rajotte). His wife Françoise Levasseur (daughter of Pierre Levasseur dit L'Espérance and Jeanne Chaverlange). Although Jean-Baptiste's wife was a Levasseur, there is no kinship between Françoise Levasseur and Laurent Levasseur.
- (13) **Gilles du Tartre** (witness) He is also known as Gilles Dutartre. He is also known as Gilles Dutertre dit Lacasse. He was born around 1640 in Saint-Sauveur, Bellesme, Séz, France. He was buried on January 17, 1682. He lived in 1666 in Quebec City. He was arquebusier from 1666 to 1681 in the Lower Town. He was an arquebusier (An arquebus is an early type portable gun) (History of French Canadians, 1608-1880, Volume IV, 18820).

Most of these references are taken from the volume "History of the Lordship of Lauzon, Volumes 1 to 2 - Joseph Edmond Roy 1807. The wedding celebration was held on April 30, 1670.

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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