
THE ANCESTRAL COUPLE

PIERRE MERCIER ET MARGUERITE LAMAIN



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In the daily menu of the settlers of New France, bread is the main staple. Miller Pierre Mercier occupies a primary function in the seigneurie.

Pierre Mercier, born in the parish of Saint-Denis-de-la-Chevasse in Poitou, in the current Department of Vendée in Pays de la Loire, would have been only 12 years old upon his arrival in Quebec City in 1665. At that time, he enlists for three years to the merchant Pierre Gaigneur. The Act makes no mention of his age. Ernest Mercier, the author of *Mercier depuis des siècles*, doubts of the validity of this information. He believes that there has been some confusion with another Pierre Mercier of Normandy who arrived that same year.

On January 8 1685, miller Pierre Mercier is married to Marguerite Lamain, Fille du Roy, in Neuville, situated in the current County of Portneuf, which

at that time was known as Pointe-aux-Trembles. His spouse is the widow of Michel Rognon dit Laroche and the daughter of Jacques Lamain and Marguerite Deshais of the parish of Saint-Vivien of Rouen in Normandy. She is already the mother of six children aged from one and a half to 11 years of age when she unites her destiny to Pierre. From their union are born 8 other children: six boys and two girls. Only two children survived more than two years: Antoine who marries Angélique Millet and Pierre who marries Louise Ledoux. The two couples will establish their families on land in Neuville. Pierre, one of the sons of Antoine and Angélique, born in 1719, became a surgeon. He is probably the first doctor under the name Mercier to practice this profession in the region of Quebec.

Shortly after their marriage, the ancestral couple exploit a piece of land that probably belonged to Marguerite in the seigneurie of Demaure, dite Saint-Augustin, a few kilometers from the city of Quebec. This land is situated on lot 16 along the St-Lawrence River on the first Rang of the seigneurie. A few years later, in 1691, Pierre loans, for a period of five years, the property of the seigniorial manor as well as the mill. At the end of this lease, he abandons the mill, for he wishes to work as a farmer and no more as a miller.

In May 1710, Pierre and his spouse donate half of their property to Marguerite Rognon and Charles de Sévigny on the condition that they will be cared for, lodged and nourished until their death. Less than two years later, their daughter and son-in-law renounce this donation to the benefit of Charles Rognon. Shortly after, on November 17 1712, Pierre dies at the age of 60 and is buried in Neuville. Marguerite will retire at the Quebec General Hospital to which institute her son Charles will be obliged to deliver annually some 18 bushels of wheat. She dies in 1714 at the age of 58.

The couple's lineage counts few descendants, approximately 2% of the Mercier of North America. They can be found in Quebec City, in the Lac Saint-Jean area and in Ontario.

References: The ancestral couple Pierre Mercier et Marguerite Lamain

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