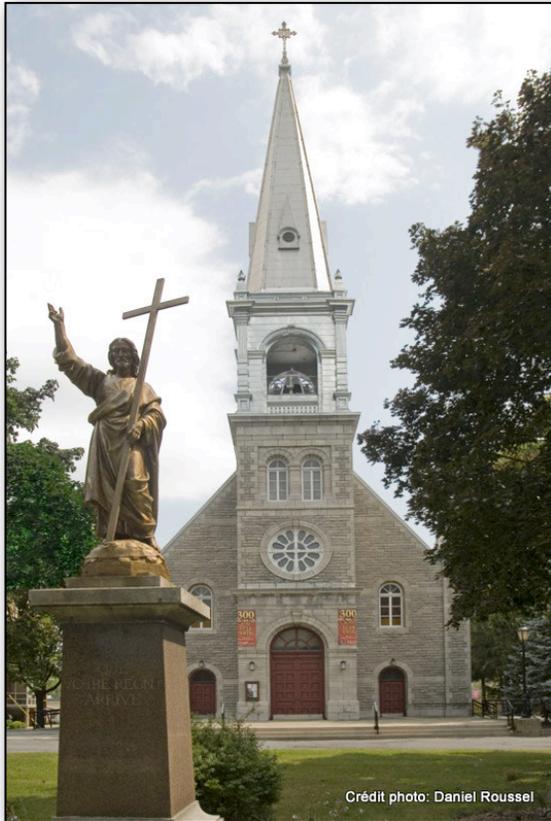


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## THE ANCESTRAL COUPLE

### PIERRE-SIMON MERCIER AND MARIE-RENÉE PINEAU

Parisian Pierre-Simon Mercier came to New France before 1725. The date of his marriage to Marie-Renée Pineau, on July 30th of that year is the first proof of his presence on North American soil. It is estimated that he was born around 1693 in Saint-Jean-en-Grève, located in Île-de-France, Paris. He was the son of Pierre Mercier and Catherine Baudo.



*Pierre-Simon was a sacristan for the first church in the Saint-François-Xavier parish in Verchères, which was built between 1725 and 1730. This picture shows the present church of the parish.*

Pierre-Simon may have had a peculiar place of birth, but he was also special because of his trade. He was one of the very few Mercier ancestors who arrived in New France before 1765 not to have settled on a plot of land. He was a sacristan in the parish of Saint-François-Xavier in Verchères.

His wife Marie-Renée Pineau was born in 1707 in Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade. She had ten brothers and sisters and her parents were Michel Pineau and Simone Beaudet. During her marriage with Pierre-Simon, she gave birth to two sons and five daughters: Joseph, Pierre-Simon Jr, Marie, Marie-Renée, Marie-Thérèse and two Marie-Louises.

The couple seems to have had an uneventful life and Pierre-Simon died in Verchères at the age of 47. Seven years later, his widow married Daniel Tétrault. Marie-Renée's passing was recorded on July 13th, 1789 in Verchères.

There are now numerous descendants of Joseph and Pierre-Simon Jr in the United States, particularly in Michigan and other Midwestern states. In Quebec, these descendants are mainly concentrated in the region to the South and East of Montreal.

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