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# LE MERCIEN

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LA VOIX DES MERCIER D'AMÉRIQUE

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## ENGLISH SUMMARY

### Editorial

The July 1988 issue of "Le Mercien":

- is sent to you as a second class document at a reduced mailing cost;
- reaches your home in a plastic bag;
- has more pages than usual;
- contains much more historical information than the previous ones.

This improvement is the result of an agreement between Canada Post and "La Fédération des Familles Souches Québécoises Inc.". AMAN managers thank these two organizations for this development.

Members of the Bulletin Committee invite you to submit all information which might be of interest to members of the Association; for example: 50th anniversaries, death of members, appointments and promotions of Merciers, etc., etc.

Please take the time to send your suggestions and comments to the Comité du "Le Mercien". Thank you in anticipation for your kind cooperation.

Ernest Mercier, president

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1988 annual general meeting will take place on Sunday, July the 10th, in the Belgo Hall, R.R. 133, Sainte-Anne-de-Sabrevois, at 11:30 A.M. (pages 5 and 6\*).

Sabrevois is located on the east bank of the Richelieu River, between Iberville and Venise-en-Québec.

The following items appear on the agenda:

- 3.0 Agenda
  - 3.1 Opening and welcome
  - 3.2 Adoption of the agenda
  - 3.3 Minutes of the 1987 Annual Meeting
  - 3.4 President's report (1987-1988)
  - 3.5 Financial statements (1987-1988)
  - 3.6 Endorsement of all administrative decisions
  - 3.7 Election of officers to fill up vacancies
  - 3.8 Appointment of the Association's auditor
  - 3.9 Other business:
    - a) Mercier Foundation
    - b) Life membership certificate
    - c) Report on the Merciers' recent trip to Europe
  - 3.10 Visits to historical sites.

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\* Pages mentioned between parentheses in this summary refer to the French version of "Le Mercien", vol. 4, no. 3, July 1988.

The meeting will be preceded by registration at 9:00 A.M. in the Belgo Hall, followed by the Mass at 10:30 A.M. Participants will have the opportunity to visit the Honoré Mercier Museum (birth house) and the Anglican Church "Le Messie", built in 1848, located in Sabrevois (pages 5 and 6).\*

Brother Joseph Mercier died on Monday, March the 21st, at 100 years and 8 months of age (page 9 of "Le Mercien" and "Mercier depuis des siècles", page 369). He was one of the seven special guest members present at the 1987 Mercier gathering in Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré.

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

AMAN members visiting Europe in 1988 will participate, on July the 1st, to the unveiling of a remembrance plaque in honour of Jullian Mercier, in the national historical church of Tourouvre, Orne, Perche, France.

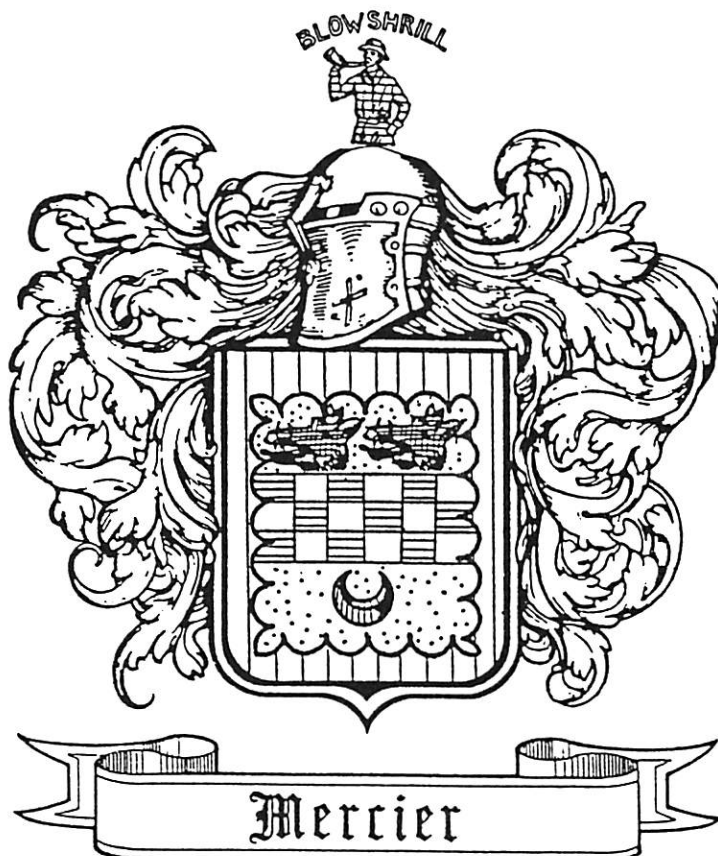
On Sunday, October the 16th, 1988, all Merciers and friends are invited to meet around the monument of Honoré Mercier in Québec City (page 7).

An excellent article on François Mercier, pioneer in the Arctic, is reproduced in "Le Mercien", vol. 4, no. 3, July 1988, pages 9-10. Who knows more about François Mercier?

Are you interested in AMAN offers? (pages 11 to 15)

Ancestry titles (11 and 12)  
The Mercier Book (13)  
L'Innocent, by Luc Mercier (14)  
Souvenirs du rassemblement (14)

#### ARMOIRIES DES MERCIER D'AMÉRIQUE DU NORD





## The 1988 Mercier trip to France and England

In late June and early July, 42 persons, mostly members of AMAN, will make a trip to France and England. Why do these Merciers and friends from North America go to Europe? For two reasons. First, to visit communes of France where some of the six North American Mercier ancestors came from. Second, to see some parts of England, formerly known as "Mercia", "La Mercie", which is believed to be associated with the origin of the Mercier surname or family name. In other words, they want to pay a special tribute to ancient rulers, current leaders and citizens of these two European countries that have done so much to organize democratic institutions which have survived in the Western World, including North America.

## Ancestors of the Merciers

The genetic make-up of the Merciers in the world traces back to Celtic peoples who migrated from South to Western Europe before the Christian Era.

These Celtic tribes, talking the Indo-European language, were individualized during the 2nd thousand years before Christ. They migrated in the the north-western direction as the third ice coverage melted and withdraw gradually from Central Europe. They were guided by climate. The beginning of this third ice coverage over "La Gaule", -- a territory located north of the Alps on the main European land -- started some 20,000 years ago. The ice cover

reached its peak, over 1,000 meters, around 12,000 years and finished melting some 6,000 years before Christ.

Celtic peoples knew how to work iron and clay and they made manual instruments and pottery. These artisan abilities were known as "La Tène" civilization, which they introduced in Western Europe, during the last centuries of the Ancient Era. They were present in South Western Germany some 2,000 years B.C.; in Central Italy by the year 650 B.C.; in Marseille, France, about 600; and in Northern France, England and Ireland around 300 years before Christ.

## Types of Celtic peoples

From the standpoint of physical appearance or phenotype, there were three Celtic types: the stout round-faced gray-eyed, the short-bodied brown-eyed, and the tall-bodied blue-eyed. These three types of Celtic tribes can still be identified nowadays among the Merciers in Europe and North America. The tall, long-faced, blue-eyed, light-colour-haired Germanic tribes came down the Rhine Valley and went up North, in the present Scandinavian countries, around 450 years before Christ.

## Invasions by Teutonic and Germanic tribes

During the fourth century of the Christian Era, groups of Teutonic people originating from the Saxony region of present-day North Western Germany landed into Great Britain through the Northern Sea and settled in the area

known today as South East England. Germanic peoples led by Attila, the king of Huns, invaded "La Gaule" and mixed up with Celtic tribes at the beginning of the 5th century after Christ.

The Mercian kingdom is first spoken of in 628 A.D. when its ruler Penda started to make war to his neighbours. For about 200 years, the Mercian kings dominated the rulers of the other six kingdoms of Lower Great Britain and established the British Heptarchy called Mercia or "La Mercie".

Beginning in 872, the Danes invaded London and the Normands besieged Paris in 886. Charles le Simple, king of France, bought peace from them at a high cost by giving to Rollon, their ruler in 911, the province of "La Normandie" and the permission to pirate "La Bourgogne".

#### Granting of a French domain to the Earl of Mercia

"La Mercie" was definitely united to the Wessex kingdom in 918. Prior to that date, this large territory had been occupied and devastated by the Danes since 872. The Danes were chased out of Great Britain in 1042 and Edward the Confessor became the first king of England in 1043.

Twelve year later (1055), Morkere, count of Mercia, in Great Britain, was given the territory of Lot, south of the Aquitaine kingdom in South Western France.

#### Origin of the surname Mercier

After the conquest of Great Britain, by William the Conqueror, duke of Normandy, in 1066, residents of England, as those of France, were compelled to give themselves surnames or family names. As people of Germanic origin preferred names of places rather than names of trades and occupations, it is

believed that some past residents of "La Mercie" (Mercia) in England or offspring of Morkere in France chose the surname Mercier.

The first official document bearing the Mercier surname is the coat of arms of an earl or noble Mercier from France or Leicester county in England. This document is described in the Burke's Memorial Armory of London (see attached description). This coat of arms is described in mixed French and English languages. Its motto, the same which is found on my personal coat of arms and which is described by L'Institut Drouin, is "Toujours fidèle". Was this earl Mercier an offspring of Morkere having received a domain in France or a resident of Leicester county in England? Who registered the first Mercier coat of arms? Nobody can tell for sure. There was no boundary between France and England from the beginning of the 12th to the middle of the 15th centuries.

#### Résumé

The genetic make-up of the Merciers of Europe and America is evidently a mixture of Celtic, Germanic and Normand bloods highly stirred up during frequent strifes, wars and conquests which marked the European history between the 5th and 20th centuries after Christ. One can find among Merciers of North America individuals looking like the three main types of Celtic tribes described in Encyclopaedia Britannica (vol. 5, pages 102-103, 1968) and in the book entitled "Mercier depuis des siècles", pages 14 to 21. Dates and facts related to the Merciers' history in the world are summarized in Le Mercien, July 1987 issue (Vol. 4, number 3, pages 15-20).

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