

LE MERCIEN



LA VOIX

DES MERCIER D'AMÉRIQUE

Volume 5, Number 2

April 1989

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Spring (April 1989) edition of *Le Mercien* is specially devoted to genealogy and family history. It is our way of trying to encourage all members of the Mercier family, who have not already done so, to start keeping family records and retrace as faithfully as possible the genealogical history of their respective families.

You have seen in the January 1989 issue that six separate branches of the Merciers were already well established in New France prior to 1770. There are at present in Canada and in the United States descendants of 16 of the 22 sons born to the original six settlers. In the case of each of these 16 male descendants, information may be found in the book "*Mercier depuis des siècles*" concerning the date and place of some 75 marriages of members of the 2nd and 3rd generations. The huge task of gathering this information has been accomplished thanks to the cooperation of dozens of genealogists who have had access to the original parish archives of New France.

The "*Service de Généalogie*" is currently proceeding with the task of computerizing information contained in numerous family genealogical records now in the possession of AMAN. Thus, it will soon be possible to provide immediate help to any member desirous of retracing his ancestry to one or the other of the six original Merciers.

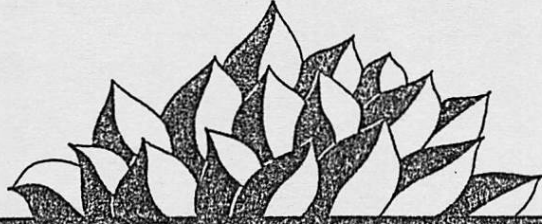
AMAN wishes to express its appreciation to all those members who have already forwarded copies of their family tree. A special request is hereby extended to all those who have not already done so.

Ernest Mercier



What is life?
Who has given me life?
Who has given life
to my parents and
my grand-parents?

TITRE D'ASCENDANCE ANCESTRY



Première génération

First generation

Deuxième génération

Second generation

Troisième génération

Third generation

Quatrième génération

Fourth generation

Cinquième génération

Fifth generation

Sixième génération

Sixth generation

Septième génération

Seventh generation

Huitième génération

Eighth generation

Neuvième génération

Ninth generation

Dixième génération

Tenth generation

Onzième génération

Eleventh generation

Retracé par:

Date:

GENEALOGICAL RECORDS AND ANCESTRY

For purposes of integration into AMAN's computerized data bank, your family genealogical records must contain the following information:

1. The family name and given christian names of the father and mother of the person desirous of tracing back his or her ancestry to one or the other of the six original branches of the Mercier family in North America.
2. Family name and given christian names of the four grand-parents, as illustrated below:

Person making the inquiry	{	father	{	paternal grand-father
				paternal grand-mother
	{	mother	{	maternal grand-father
				maternal grand-mother

3. Date and place of marriage of the father and mother and, if possible, of the two couples of grand-parents.
4. Date and place of birth of both parents and four grand-parents.
5. Date and place of burial of both parents and four grand-parents.
6. In each case, give the person's age at time of death and cause of death if possible.
7. The same type of information concerning each member of the inquiring person's family, i.e., brothers, sisters and if possible uncles and aunts.

To record your family genealogical history, you are asked to use the forms attached to the current edition of the *Le Mercien*, and forward same to AMAN, P.O. Box 6700, Sillery (Quebec), G1T 2W2.

A CALL TO MERCIER GENEALOGISTS

Possibly more than a dozen Merciers are members of Genealogical Societies in North America. Other amateur students of genealogy can count one or more Merciers among their immediate forbears. Collectively, they probably could produce genealogical records of thousands of Mercier families on our Continent.

Our president is currently finalizing arrangements to computerize all available information on the Merciers. This is an appeal to all Mercier genealogists, amateur or otherwise, in fact to all those who have been successful in drawing up their family tree, to send in any and all information they have been able to put together. Such consolidation of available data will enable the Genealogical Service of AMAN:

-to publish a preliminary list of the Merciers of the North American branch, linking each person to one or the other of the Mercier pioneer settlers and regrouping them according to their ancestral lineage;

-to provide, at reasonable cost, the ancestry of any Mercier appearing in the family tree of person or persons interested in tracing their Mercier roots in North America.

Our president, Ernest Mercier, is looking forward to hearing from you - The address: 910, avenue des Braves, Québec (Quebec), G1S 3C6. Tel.: (418) - 688-9820.

ATTENTION! THE WESTERN MERCIERS ARE COMING!

The first Mercier gathering of Alberta will take place on the first weekend of June (Saturday the 3rd and Sunday the 4th) at Bonnyville. Mrs. Lucienne Mercier-Croteau has invited over 300 Merciers and friends to come and meet Ernest Mercier, the President-founder of AMAN. Please, let your relatives and friends know about this gathering.

GENEALOGICAL FAMILY RECORD - COUPLES

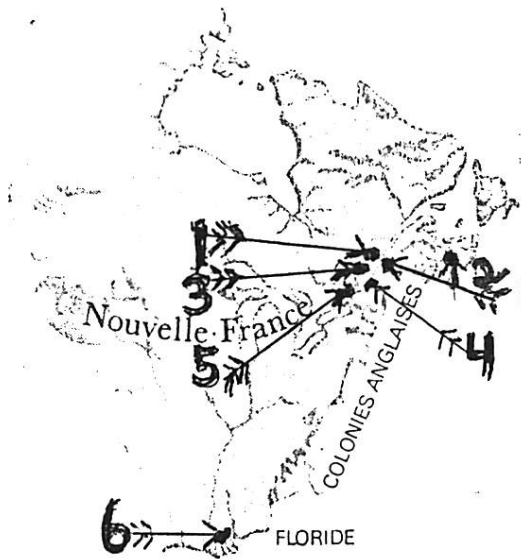
HUSBAND _____ SON OF _____

WIFE _____ DAUGHTER OF _____

Marriage Date and Place	Christian and Family names - at birth	Birth Date and Place	Burial Date and Place	Death																																																																															
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N.B. Indicate month in abbreviated form. Ex.: Feb., July., Sept.,

WHERE THE MERCIER PIONEERS SETTLED IN NORTH AMERICA



1. **Ste-Anne-deBeaupré**
Jullien Mercier
2. **Beaubassin and St-Pierre-du-Sud**
Pierre Mercier also known as Caudebec
3. **Neuville (St-Augustin)**
Pierre Mercier
4. **Verchères**
Pierre-Simon Mercier
5. **L'Assomption**
Charles Mercier, also known as Lajoie
6. **New Orleans**
Jean Mercier

AMAN WANTS TO KEEP YOU AS A MEMBER

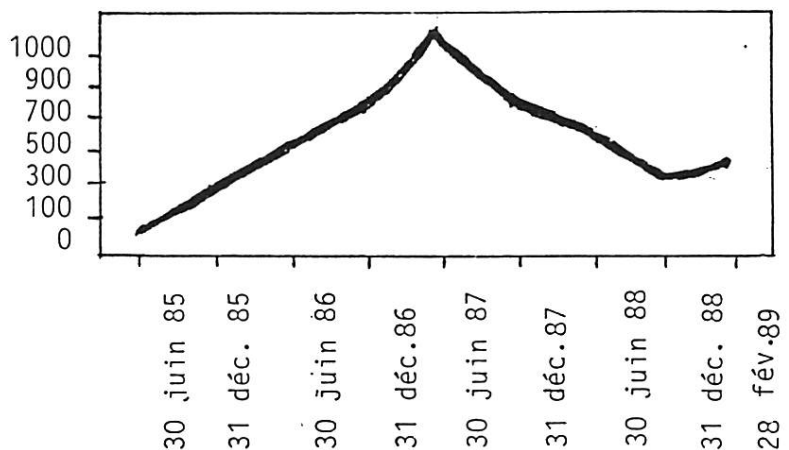
Two of the main objectives of AMAN ARE:
 - to **discover and record** the history of the largest number possible of Mercier families in North America.
 - to **trace the ancestry** of those families to one of the six Mercier pioneers who settled in New France before 1770.

The only possible way of reaching our objectives is to be able to **count on you as staunch and faithful members** of our Association. You have been of tremendous help in financing the activities of AMAN since the very beginning. AMAN graciously acknowledges that help. Remember, your **annual contribution is the only means of financing all of AMAN's activities**, including the publication and distribution of the newsbulletin **Le Mercien**.

The following diagram illustrates the rapid climb and the equally rapid and catastrophic drop in the number of members during the four years of AMAN's existence. Our association, founded in 1985, had recruited more than 1,000 members after two years at the time of our reunion in August 1987 on the very spot where Jullien Mercier settled in 1651. Why have we lost so many of our members since that date? AMAN needs you and you need AMAN. Why not keep working together for the good of the Mercier clan?

NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF A.M.A.N. FROM JUNE 1985 TO FEBRUARY 1989

30 juin 1985	51
31 décembre 1985	153
30 juin 1986	489
31 décembre 1986	705
30 juin 1987	1051
31 décembre 1987	807
30 juin 1988	612
31 décembre 1988	407
28 février 1989	461



THE PRODUCTIVE LIFE OF ANNA MERCIER

Anna Mercier died January 13, 1989 at the advanced age of 91 after a long and fruitful life.

The third member of a family of 17 and the eldest of the 13 who reached adulthood, she was called upon to second her parents in bringing up her numerous brothers and sisters. At the age 21, she married her cousin, four times removed, Emile Mercier.

Anna Mercier had 10 children and for 44 years shared with her husband Emile the responsibility of managing the local post-office in Notre-Dame du Rosaire, in the County of Montmagny. Her husband, one of the few literate members of the community, served as secretary of the Municipality and the local School Board from 1924 to 1933 during the worst years of the depression.

One of the founding members of the local "Cercle des fermières", she grew her own vegetables to help complement the family budget. After the Second World War, in the mid fifties, she reduced the size of her vegetable garden and used the space to grow a variety of flowers, most of which ended up on the altar of the church and at the foot of statues on religious feasts.

Her staunch faith and deep sense of duty prompted her to devote her entire life not only to her immediate family but to others as well. After harbouring her mother-in-law for a period of three years, she took her mother into her home and cared for her for another nine years.

Widowed in 1968, at the age of 70, she learned, not long afterwards, that she suffered from diabetes, an illness from which she never really recovered. Wishing to spend the last years of her life near her children, most of whom were living in Montreal, she sold her house in 1972 and was admitted to the Foyer St-Laurent in Côte Vertu, after a wrenching separation from the home and village where she had spent her entire life.



The sixteen years spent in the Côte Vertu Home for the Aged were hard on Anna Mercier, used as she was to a life in the wide open space of N.D. du Rosaire. "It is not easy", she would often say, "to transplant an old tree from the forest to the streets of Montreal".

In her own humble way, Anna Mercier earned for herself a place among the famous pioneers of the Mercier family. It can be said of her that she served well the three branches of society which had moulded her character and her life: her family, the Church and the State.

CATHERINE MERCIER, MARTYR

The prolonged sufferings of Catherine Mercier and the tragic death of her husband Jean Boudard date back to the summer of 1651. Details of this memorable event can be found on pages 40-42 of the book **Mercier depuis des siècles**.

Married in La Rochelle, France, in 1642, Jean and Catherine arrived in Ville-Marie, in New France, some time during the same decade. Their daughter Marie, baptized on August 29, 1649, was buried in Montreal on September 1st of the same year.

Jean Boudard, nick-named **Grand-Jean**, was surprised by a band of Iroquois on the morning of May 6th 1651, while clearing land not far from his homestead in the company of his neighbour, **Jean Chicot**. Both men tried to escape, Chicot penetrating further into the woods while Grand-Jean ran towards his house where he had left his wife Catherine. The latter, in the meantime, aware of the presence of the Indian band, had started out to warn her husband. They met half way and started running towards the house.

Unfortunately, Catherine was overtaken by the Iroquois and her husband, in an attempt to rescue her, was brutally murdered on the spot. The Iroquois cut off his head which they carried away as a trophy and Catherine, unhurt, was taken as a hostage.

Meanwhile, other members of the band managed to overtake Jean Chicot and after a fierce struggle scalped him and fled in their canoes taking with them the **unfortunate Catherine, Grand-Jean's head and the scalp of Jean Chicot**.

Jean Chicot survived his ordeal and lived **another fourteen years minus his scalp and part of his skull**. The funeral of Jean Boudard took place in the presence of the Jesuit father Claude Pijart on May 7th, 1651. Catherine Mercier was still alive on the fifth of July 1651. On October 28th of the same year, Father Paul Ragneau relates the details of her martyrdom in the "Relations des Jésuites".

"In May, a French woman was captured by a band of some fifty Iroquois, in full sight of the Fort, and taken captive. Since then, she has been **cruelly burned by those barbarians after they had cut off her nose, her ears and parts of her breasts**, indeed after venting their rage on this poor innocent lamb in revenge for the death of **eight of their warriors slain a few months earlier** in combat with the French settlers.

God granted the poor creature sufficient faith and courage to endure her cruel sufferings. While she **was being tortured, she did not cease praying for His help**. Her eyes looked up to Heaven and, to the bitter end, she remained steadfast in the expression of her faith. When the **end finally came, she was still whispering the name of Jesus** as she had done throughout her ordeal".

October, the same date as the feast of Ste Frideswide, as mentioned elsewhere in this publication.

DEATHS

AMAN has offered its condolences to Mercier families that have lost a member recently.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of burial</u>	<u>Place</u>
François Mercier	November 20, 1988	Montmagny
Gérard Mercier	December 11, 1988	Saint-Damien (Bellechasse)
Jeannine Mercier	January 6, 1989	Saint-Nérée (Bellechasse)
Anna Mercier (1)	January 16, 1989	N.-D.-du-Rosaire (Montmagny)
Claude Léon Mercier (2)	January 31, 1989	Montreal
Nazaire Mercier (3)	February 3, 1989	Cap-Santé (Portneuf)
Ovila Mercier	February 18, 1989	Saint-Anselme (Dorchester)
Madeleine Massé-Mercier	February 21, 1989	Sainte-Euphémie (Montmagny)

(1) Sister of president Ernest, of Napoleon, Amédée, René and Joseph, members (See Mercier depuis des siècles, pages 120 to 132 and 393 to 405).

(2) Last grandson of Honoré Mercier, former Quebec premier (pages 147-156 and 345-350 of book mentioned above).

(3) Brother of Armand, member (page 320 of aforementioned volume).

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

Pierre Mercier, an active member of AMAN since its founding in 1985, has recently been appointed **ambassador for OXFAM-QUEBEC**. He will also sit on the Board of Directors of that humanitarian organization. Bravo Pierre.

Jean Mercier is the new **Assistant-Deputy-Minister** for the Quebec Government Department of Employment and Income Security. Before his appointment, Jean Mercier was **Vice-President and Personnel Manager** at the Office of Human Resources. Congratulations and best wishes for a fruitful career.


ANNUAL MEETING - 1989

The Annual meeting of AMAN is tentatively scheduled for August 20, 1989 at Saint-François, in the County of Montmagny. Please reserve that date for a "family outing" on the South shore of the Saint-Lawrence River.

TRIP TO EUROPE

Because it has not been possible so far to recruit a sufficient number of participants, the second Mercier trip to Europe has been postponed until the Fall of 1989.





Jean-Louis Mercier
M. Purdy Crawford, président du Conseil, président et chef de la direction d'Imasco Limitée, a le plaisir d'annoncer la nomination de M. Jean-Louis Mercier au poste de vice-président du Conseil de la Société à partir du 1er janvier 1989. M. Mercier demeure président du Conseil et chef de la direction d'Imperial Tobacco Limitée, la division des produits du tabac d'Imasco.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

On Saturday, October 8th, 1988, **Mr. and Mrs. Roger Mercier** (Clara LeBlanc) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Fort Kent, Alberta. Roger is the grandson of **Joseph Mercier** and **Emilie Mailhot** who left Laurierville, Quebec in 1907 to settle in Bonnyville, Alberta, northeast of Edmonton.

Roger Mercier represents the tenth generation in the family of **Julien Mercier** and **Marie Poulain**. Five generations of **Merciers**, descendants of **Joseph Mercier** and **Emilie Mailhot**, are currently living in the province of Alberta.

Congratulations and many more years of happiness to Roger and Clara.

CORRESPONDENCE

From Alberta, Canada...

From Albert Mercier of Edson, Alberta, comes this cry of desperation: "It would be a crime to stop publishing the Voice of the Merciers of America".

Enclosed in Albert Mercier's letter was a photocopy of page 528 of the "Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church", containing a short résumé of the life history of Ste Frideswide (735 A.D.), erstwhile patron saint of the City and the University of Oxford.

"Daughter of Didanus, a Mercian prince, she had vowed to remain a virgin and fled to Oxford to avoid marrying King Algar, ruler of a neighbouring principality. She later founded a convent of which she became the Abbess.

A monastery, bearing Ste Frideswide's name existed in Oxford prior to the Norman Conquest (1066). Later occupied by Augustinian monks, the chapel of this monastery became a place of pilgrimage until it was destroyed in 1538.

The feast of Ste Frideswide, patron saint of the University of Oxford, is October 19th, as established in 1434 by Archbishop H. Chichele. It was abolished in 1549 and re-established in 1560.

Have no fear, my dear Albert, the publication of the French version of **Le Mercien** will continue as long as people like you keep sending in their annual contribution to AMAN. A heartfelt thank you from members of the **Editing Committee** and please continue providing us with news from Alberta".

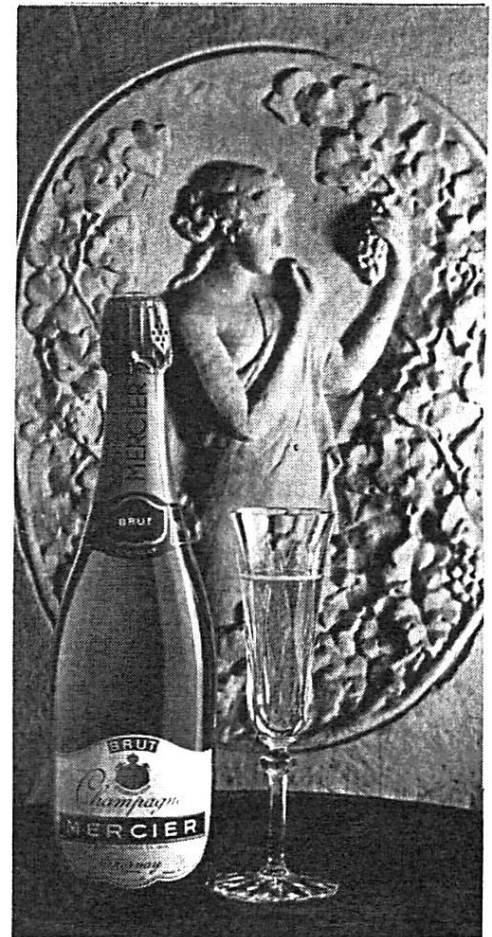
From France...

Mr. Jacques Mercier, honorary president of Mercier Champagnes of France, writes to

express his appreciation of the fact that the **American branch of the Mercier family** is so active thanks to the efforts of AMAN.

Now retired and living in Paris, Mr. Jacques Mercier is currently writing the genealogy and history of the **EPERNAY branch of the Merciers** which, in his opinion, "**brilliantly represents champagne not only in France but all over the world**". He sends a message of friendship to all the Merciers of America.

Thank you, Mr. Jacques Mercier, for your kind message and may your research into the wondrous achievements of the **Epernay branch of the Merciers** be crowned with success.



WHY IS NOT THE MERCIER CHAMPAGNE SOLD ANYMORE IN QUEBEC?

Following the amalgamation of the Societies Champagne Mercier and Moët and Chendon, the champagne Mercier is sold in England and France but not anymore in Quebec. The Meagher company owns the Champagne Mercier rights in North America.

MERCIER DEPUIS DES SIECLES

The directors of AMAN are launching a campaign to promote the sale of the book "Mercier depuis des siècles". The president, Ernest Mercier, has indeed undertaken to favour AMAN with the proceeds of the sale as soon as the original cost of publishing the book will have been recovered.

The cost of printing 2,000 copies amounted to some 45,000\$. This was paid in full by the president himself. So far 900 copies have been distributed, including some 50 copies graciously donated to a number of deserving organizations and close friends. Another 200 copies must be sold just to cover the original costs.

This book contains a mine of information on the origins, the genealogy, the achievements and the general history of the Merciers all over the world. It would make a nice gift for children, parents and friends, either at Christmas or on the occasion of a wedding or anniversary.

An English supplement, summarizing the first five chapters of the book, is now available at the price of 20 American dollars. If you are interested, please send your order to Joseph Norbert Mercier.

Members of AMAN interested in purchasing one or more copies of the book or willing to act as agents among their friends and relatives are asked to communicate with the president, Dr. Ernest Mercier, 910 Avenue des Braves, Quebec (Quebec), Canada, G1S 3C6. Telephone: 418-688-9820. The price per unit is 45 Canadian dollars -- american money is gladly accepted -- and you have to order directly from the author's residence in Canada.

TRIP TO STE-MARIE DES HURONS

The Fédération is currently organizing a visit to Midland, Ontario, for members of the families of the descendants of the "donnés" who chose to give voluntarily of their time and energy in the service of the Jesuits, between 1615 and 1649. It was in Midland that François Joseph LeMercier served the Mission in the capacity of purveyor during a period of fifteen years.

In the event that AMAN chartered a special bus for that purpose, would you be interested in making the six-day trip? The overall cost will be approximately \$500. If you are interested, please write or phone AMAN at your earliest convenience. AMAN, C.P. 6700, Sillery (Quebec), G1T 2W2. Tel.: (418) 653-2137.

MERCIER SNOWDRIVER

Gérard Mercier from Lauzon (Québec) has built a snowdriver. Combing the basic parts of the iceboat and the sailing board. The light engine weighs only some 110 pounds. It can be carried on the top of the car and assembled in about 10 minutes. The designer undertakes a marketing study in order to find out if the engine could be sold in large numbers.

Le Soleil, monday December 19, 1988,
page A-8.

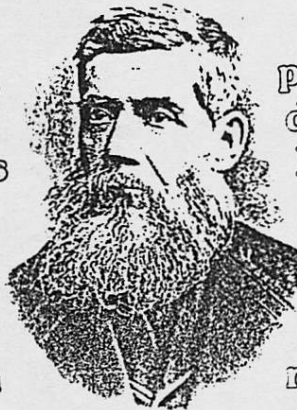
MERCIER

DEPUIS DES SIÈCLES

ORIGINE • GÉNÉALOGIE • RÉALISATION • HISTOIRE

Quelle est l'origine du
De quel ancêtre
Quelles sont les réalisations des

Ce livre d'environ quatre cents
cinquante illustrations, quarante
Quatre années de recherche et
l'auteur, Ernest Mercier, la



patronyme MERCIER?
descendons-nous?
MERCIER en Amérique du Nord?

pages contient vingt-six cartes
photographies de peintures.
de préparation ont permis à
réalisation de cet ouvrage.

Plusieurs membres de l'Association des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord (AMAN) ont rehaussé de leur histoire familiale une bonne centaine de pages de cet album historique.

Mercier... beaucoup.

For those who might be interested in acquiring further historical and genealogical documentation on the Mercier Family, a 500 page book entitled "Mercier Depuis Des Siècles" (Merciers Over the Centuries) is available directly from the author. This book is published only in French. However, an English translation of the first five chapters (120 pages) may be obtained as a supplement.

To order the French version send \$45.00 by check or money order to:

Ernest Mercier Telephone number:
910 Avenue des Braves
Quebec, QC, Canada G1S 3C6 (418) 688-9820

To order the English supplement send \$20.00 by check or money order to:

Joseph N. Mercier Telephone number:
625 No. Akeley Dr.
Glendora, CA 91740 (818) 335-2936

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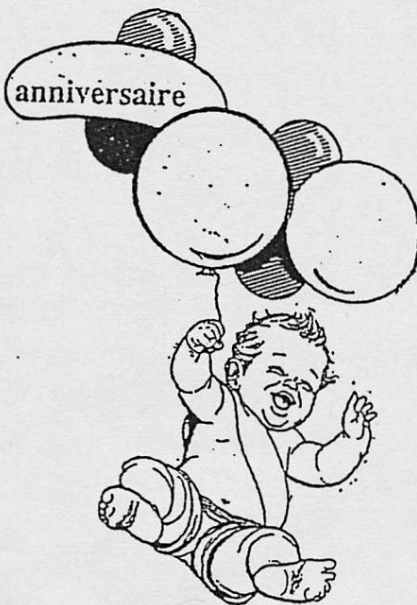
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WILL THE NEWBORN SURVIVE?

AMAN came to life in April 1985. Our Association will celebrate its fourth birthday in 1989.

The tragic drop in the membership of AMAN since the Mercier reunion in August 1987 has been a blow to the officers of the Association. From a maximum of 1051 members reached in June 1987, the number of contributing members has dropped to 407 at the end of December 1988.

There has been a slight renewal of hope since then, the number of paid up members having climbed to 461 as of February 28, 1989.

The future of AMAN is in your hands. The only solution: become a member if you have not already done so. If you are already a member, renew your contribution. Encourage one or more members of your family to sign up.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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