

LE MERCIEN



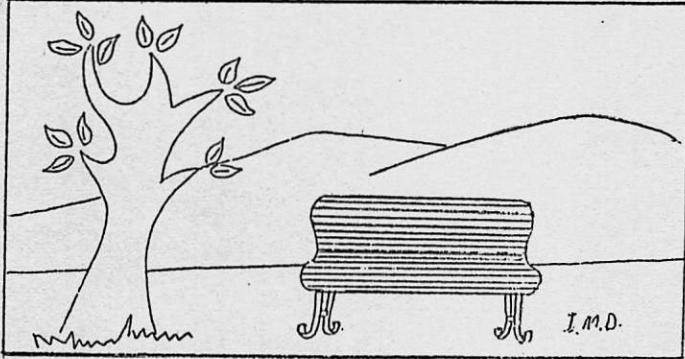
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LA VOIX

DES MERCIER D'AMÉRIQUE



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

As mentioned earlier, the year 1990 marks the fifth anniversary of AMAN'S incorporation (April 1985). At that time, large family associations incorporated in the Province of Quebec set at about 1000 their desirable membership list. For most associations, annual dues were set at about 10\$ but raised since. Those created recently charge as much as 20\$.

AMAN has surpassed the 1100 membership figure after 1987, the year of its first north american Mercier "rassemblement" in mid August at Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré. Since that event, the Association's membership has rapidly decreased by more than two thirds and staggers presently at the 400 figure. It is, however, on the upward trend.

The late 1989 recruiting campain has yielded good results. Many members had simply forgotten to send their annual dues. THANKS to both, the ancient and new members. Several of them want to receive regularly from the secretariat a notice regarding the payment of their membership dues. AMAN's directors have unfortunately been forced to accept this costly recommendation. They also have agreed to pay one dollar annually per member to the "Fédération des familles souches québécoises inc." It is greatly needed to assure the most essential services offered by the Federation. Furthermore, your directors have decided to return a portion of the recruiting fee and annual dues to Regional Committees in order to help AMAN reaching as soon as possible the 1000 membership target.

What can each member do to help AMAN to acheive its survival ? Please recruit a new member this Year !

The president

André Mercier

MERCIER PIONEERS: FROM "SAINT-JOACHIM-DE-BEAUPRÉ" TO "LA CÔTE-DU-SUD"

Descendants of Paschal and Jean Mercier, two of the five (5) sons of the ancestral couple Jullien Mercier and Marie Poulain, have cultivated land in "Saint-Joachim-de-Beaupré" before farming on the south shore of the Lawrence River at "Berthier-en-Grève" and "Saint-François-du-Sud" after the year 1709.



Aerial photo of "Saint-Joachim-de-Beaupré" (1947). The Mount St. Anne skiing Center and the Abitibi Price paper mill are located on the land formerly owned by Jean Mercier (a). Mr Clermont Cliche's house (b), located at about one (1) kilometer further east in direction of Cape Tourmente is apparently on the land (b) farmed before the year 1709, by Paschal Mercier. (Information obtained from Paul E. Pépin of St. Joachim; Edwards' photo provided by Raymond Gariépy of L'Ange-Gardien).

At the occasion of its fourth General Annual Meeting held in "Saint-François-du-Sud" on Sunday August the twentieth 1989, AMAM has handed a memorial plaque to the Maurice Mercier Family of "Berthier-sur-Mer" (Cf Le Mercien, volume 5, number 4, October 1989, page 10). This Mercier of the tenth north American generation owns a farm

bought in 1706 by J. Pascal Mercier, the senior of the three sons of Paschal land Anne Cloutier of "Saint-Joachim-de-Beaupré" and transmitted from father to son for over 280 years. AMAN reproduces below the remarks by its past President Ernest at the occasion of the unveiling of the commemorative plaque.

In an article entitled "Petite histoire de Berthier-sur-Mer", published in 1973 in the number 8 issue of the Annals of the South Shore Historical Society, Father Robert Lavallée of the White Fathers of Africa writes, on page 10, as follows:

"Alexandre Berthier was born in Bergerac in the french province of Gascony. He was born a Calvinist but became a Catholic in 1672. On the 11th of October of the same year, he married Marie Le Gardeur de Tilly in Québec. Soon after that date, he initiated the settlement of the seigniorial domain by granting tracts of land to some of the veteran soldiers who had served under him, but mainly, we are told, to sons of colonists born in this country, among whom Paschal Mercier, born in Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré and Pierre Blé (Blais) born in St.Jean, Isle of Orléans."

We may recall that Alexandre Berthier held the rank of captain in the regiment fo Carignan. The Intendent Talon granted him, on the 29th of October 1672, a seigniorial domain comprising the fiefdom previously conceded to Marsolet plus a considerable tract of additional land adjacent to it. This new seigniority of Bellechasse situated on the south shore of the St.Lawrence River, is bounded on the west by the Seigniority La Durantaye and on the east by the Seigniority de la Rivière-du-Sud. The seigniority of Bellechasse comprises the territory currently occupied by the parishes of Berthier-sur-Mer and Saint-François; that of Rivière-du-Sud, the town of Montmagny and the village of Saint-Pierre-du-Sud.

Paschal Mercier, Sr.

Who is this Paschal Mercier,

born in Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré? He was the eldest of five (5) sons born to the pioneer couple of Jullien Mercier and Marie Poulain, established on Côte-de-Beaupré since 1651. Paschal farmed, since the 30th of July, 1680, "hilly tract of land situated in the parish of Saint-Joachim-de-Beaupré." At the age of 25, on November 11th, 1681, at Chateau-Richer, he is wed to Anne Cloutier, daughter of Jean Cloutier and Marie Martin. (Ref.: Mercier depuis des siècles, 1987). He died on October 25th, 1695 at the age of 39 and was buried in Chateau-Richer.

Pascal Mercier, jr.

While Paschal Mercier, Sr. had refused to accept the offer of the owner of the Seigniority of Berthier-Bellechasse, his three sons did not follow his example. In 1709, they were no longer in possession of the lands of their parents had left them on the "Côte-de-Beaupré". The eldest of the three, Pascal Mercier, purchase on the 13th of July, 1706, from Joseph de Blois and Marguerite Rousseau (before Etienne Jacob), in the above mentionned seigniority a lot of land measuring 3 by 42 arpents and situated between lands of Pierre Blay (Blais) on the east and lands of Jacques Beaudoin on the west.

There is, at present, approximately one kilometre west of the church of Berthier-sur-Mer, a road bearing the name of Pascal Mercier. It leads from the main artery (Rte 132) to the site of the original church erected on land owned by the pioneer settler Pierre Blé (Blais) in 1719. The piece of land formerly owned by Pascal Mercier is situated approximately one hundred (100) metres west of the road which bears his name. The original ancestral home has been moved from the

riverside (original king's road) to its present site one kilometre to the south, following the general trend of the parish of Berthier-sur-Mer in 1859.

The canonical decree of Mgr. de St-Vallier, establishing the parish of "Berthier-en-Grève" and dated September 20th, 1721, mentions the names of the three Mercier Brothers, Pascal, Pierre and Jean, as well as those of Nicolas de Rigauville, Louis Beaudoin, Joseph Lemieux, Pierre Blais, Antoine Blais, Jacques Bilodeau, Antoine Bilodeau, Jacques Beaudoin and Jean Boutin.

The "habitant" tradition of the Merciers' of Beaupré

The facts previously reported provide ample proof of the profound attachment the descendents of the pioneer couple Jullien Mercier and Marie Poulain of New France felt for the land. It is not surprising. Jullien was the grandson of Marin Mercier, farm labourer, and Jeanne Brisson, whose marriage took place in Grand-Pré-de-Tourouvre in December 1571. The pioneer ancestor, Jullien, born and raised in a rural environment, came to Québec as a farm labourer. After his landing on August 1647, he worked during three years for the Jesuits in their seigniorie located on the east side of the St. Charles River. In 1651, he started to clear a lot of land at Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré. Two of his sons settled at Saint-Joachim-de-Beaupré on lands of limited fertility. They were, however, successful in transmitting to their offsprings their love of the land and the legitimate desire to possess ultimately the best farms on the South shore of the St. Lawrence River.

A tribute to the descendents of Pascal Mercier

On this occasion, the fourth Annual general meeting, held at Saint François-du-Sud, AMAN pays special tribute to the couple Maurice Mercier and Georgette Blais and their daughter, Nathalie. Maurice is a direct descendent, of the tenth generation, of Jullien Mercier and Marie Poulain, and the

current owner of the original tract of land purchases by Pascal Mercier and Madeleine Boucher in the parish of Berthier-en-Grève and transmitted from father to son for seven generations.

I now invite the couple Maurice Mercier and Georgette Blais, with their daughter Nathalie, to proceed with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque bearing the inscription:

"Land purchased by J. Pascal Mercier in 1706"



AMAN, August 20, 1989

OTHER MERCIERS AT "BERTHIER-EN-GREVE" AND "SAINT-FRANCOIS-DU-SUD"

In the declaration and census of his Seigniorie that Nicolas Blaize des Bergères, husband of Françoise Vianney Pachot, widow of Alexandre Berthier Ecuier and Lord of Villemure, presented to the Intendent Begon, on August the eight 1724, the Lord of Berthier-Bellechasse describes the lands exploited by the three sons of the couple Paschal Mercier and Anne Cloutier.

At that time, Pascal, Pierre and Jean Mercier were farming lands at "Berthier-en-Grève".

According to Catalogne, the king's official cartographer, Paschal Mercier's heirs had sold, before 1709, the lands that their father had bought from Charlotte Godin, widow of Pierre Fricchet known as Brulot of Saint-Joachim-de-Beaupré, on July the thirtieth 1680 (before Duquet). In their history of "Saint-François-du-Sud", Bonneau and Lamonde reported that heirs of the three sons of Paschal and Anne were farming in 1724 lands which were given numbers appearing on the 1875 official land registry of the "Berthier-en-Grève" municipality. The following table gives from east (Montmagny) to west (St. Vallier) the cadastre number and the site of the lands cleared by the three Mercier brothers on the water front Range of the municipality mentioned above.

In 1724, the three Mercier brothers were then well established in the core of the village of Berthier-en-Grève (additional information can be found in "Mercier depuis des siècles" page 95 to 101).

Other Merciers at St-François-du-Sud

Julien and Jean Jr., the two sons

of Jean Mercier and Barbe Monmainier were still cultivating the paternal lands described at the beginning of this article, at "Saint-Joachim-de-Beaupré", when the land inventory of the Québec area, was published in 1709. The 1724 declaration and census of the Lord of Berthier-Bellechasse place their new lands granted on August 27, 1712, (before Michon, contracts 58 and 59) on the Côte-Saint-Blaize a few hundred metres on the east side of the actual church of Saint-François-du-Sud. Julien's lands (lots 36 and 37 of the actual municipal cadastre) would belong to Mr. Michel Lamonde and Paul-Émile Campagna. Jean's lands (lots 38, 30 and 40) are apparently farmed by Mr. André Vézina. These farms are adjacent on the east side to the lands of the Garant's industry of this locality.

Jean Mercier Jr., has not cleared his land and settled near Utica in Illinois, U.S.A. His brother Julien has developed his land and left a fairly large number of descendents in North America. Honoré Mercier, 1840-1894, ancient Premier of the Province of Québec belongs to that line. Readers can find additional informations on these facts in "Mercier depuis des siècles" pages 107-117, 147-156 and 355-358).

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Name of the occupant	Number and sites of the Merciers' lands
Pierre Mercier	16. Adjacent to the east side of the Lord's domain.
Jean Mercier	18. Between the west side of the Lord's domain and the Church's lands.
Pascal Jr (Maurice 's farm)	22. The second on the west side of the Pascal Mercier Road that connects the main highway to the old "chemin du roi" along the River.

**A T T E N T I O N
A R T S L O V E R S !**

Mr. and Mrs. Jean-Marc Mercier, 43, rue de Rotterdam, Laval, Québec, H7M 1L5, telephone (514) 336-2332, own an art shop. They have two paintings (type of aquarelle) signed by J.F.X. (Mercier ?). The two scenes (summer and fall) are entitled: Old Main St. Bridge, Attelboro, Mass.

If any member concerned by these productions? Please, get in touch with them.

**W E D D I N G
A N N I V E R S A R I E S**

Mr. and Mrs. Trefflé Mercier (Ella Baril), living presently at Bonnyville, Alberta, have celebrated, on the 23rd of October 1989, their 55th wedding anniversary. The couple has 9 children, 14 grand children and 7 great grand child-ren. Congratulations, good health and happiness.

Mr. and Mrs Harvey Polsfut (Lily Mercier) who live in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, have celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on October the twenty fourth 1989. Congratulations, many years of happiness with their daughter Joscelyn.

50TH RELIGIOUS JUBILEE

On September the third 1989, Sister Marie Mercier, a.m.j., has celebrated its fiftieth anniversary of her religious engagement at the Augustine's Monastery of "l'Hôtel-Dieu de Québec".

Last year has been marked by numerous festivities for that religious Order, namely the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the three sisters who founded "l'Hôtel-Dieu - de - Québec"; the beatification of Catherine Simon de Longpré, also known as Saint-

Augustin by the Pope John Paul II on April 23rd at Rome; and the anniversary of foundation in 1639 of the Ursulines convent, at Quebec. (Cfr. Le Mercien, vol. 6, no. 1, January 1990, page 10).

Sister Marie Mercier stands in third place on the left side of the photo taken by Raymond Dionne at the September festivities which included the mass, the banquet and the presentation of gifts by relatives and friends in the afternoon.



Photo de Marie Mercier et autres

THANKS TO BÉATRICE AND BERNARD

On January, the twelveth 1990, some past and present members of the board of directors and their escorts organized at their own expenses, a little send off party to pay tribute to Béatrice Mercier and her husband, Bernard Lacroix.

These two devoted members performed during almost three years the difficult task of setting up the AMAN'S secretariat.

Marcelle Normand and past president Ernest welcomed guests at their home, 910 avenue des Braves, Quebec. After the traditional exchange of New

Year's good wishes and a little buffet, President André, expressed, on behalf of all members, the gratitude of the Association to our faithful past secretaries.

Tokens of appreciation were presented, on behalf of the Board members, by Paul H. Mercier and Ernest Mercier to Bernard and Béatrice, respectively.

Bernard still helps the Association in looking after the mailing of LE MERCIEN. Good Health, long life and sincere THANKS to these two benevolent and voluntary workers.



Béatrice and Bernard exhibit a painting by Monique Mercier received at the party.

D É C È S - D E A T H S

Condoléances aux familles dont l'un des membres est décédés récemment. Deepest sympathy to Mercier families that have lost a member recently.

<u>Nom - Name</u>	<u>Inhumation-Burial</u>	<u>Endroit - Place</u>
Rose-Anne Rouleau (J. Léandre Mercier)	1990-01-03	Victoriaville (Québec)
V.J.W. Harvey (Colette Mercier)	1990-01-09	Beauport (Québec)
Jean-Paul Mercier	1990-01-15	St-Antoine-de- Bienville (Québec)
Andrée Mercier Labrecque	1990-01-30	Ste-Foy (Québec)
Henri Grenier (Laurette Mercier)	1990-02-15	Québec
André Bélanger (Françoise Mercier)	1990-02-16	Charlesbourg (Qué)
Marguerite Chevrette (Ernest Mercier)	1990-02-19	Beauport (Québec)
Irène Mercier Lemay	1990-02-22	Deschaillons (Qué)
Henri Mercier	1990-03-19	St-Pascal-de- Maizerets (Québec)
M. Paule Côté (Gilles Mercier)	1990-03-20	Beauport (Québec)
Denis Mercier	1990-03-21	St-Georges-de- Beauce (Québec)
Anne M Gravel (Athanasie Mercier)	1989-10-12	Château-Richer (Québec)

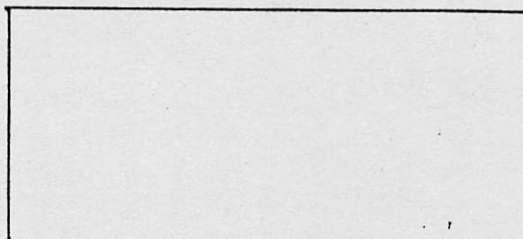
Madame Blanche Mercier Brault d'Edmonton, Alberta, fait l'histoire de sa famille. Elle a transmis au comité du bulletin Le Mercien une coupure du journal Le Franco-Albertain qui relate les funérailles de son père Joseph, décédé le 11 janvier 1969.

Joseph est issu à la neuvième (9ième) génération du couple ancestral Jullien Mercier et Marie Poulain, et est de la lignée de Jean Mercier et Barbe Monmainier. Il était cousin du 2ième au 3ième degré d'Honoré Mercier, ancien premier ministre de la province de Québec.

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MEMBERSHIP LIST

AMAN's membership list will enable you:

1. To get in touch with Mercier friends locally.
2. To know your folks who are members of the Association.
3. To help AMAN to achieve its recruiting objective:

1000 MEMBERS BY THE END OF 1990.

Help recruiting at least one new member and convince a former member to pay his annual dues.

Thank you for your help.

A TRIP TO FRANCE IN THE FALL OF 1990

If you know Mercier friends who want to make a trip to the country of origin of their ancestor, please let them know that AMAN is planning one in late September 1990. Are you friends interested? Please, communicate, as soon as possible, with the agency responsible for that trip; Agence Plein Soleil inc., 10650, boul. l'Ormière, Loretteville, Qc; Phone number: (418) 847-1023 (See yellow page inside of Le Mercien).

Thank you for your cooperation.

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