

# LE MERCIEN



VOLUME 7, NO 2, APRIL 1991

LA VOIX DES MERCIER D'AMÉRIQUE

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

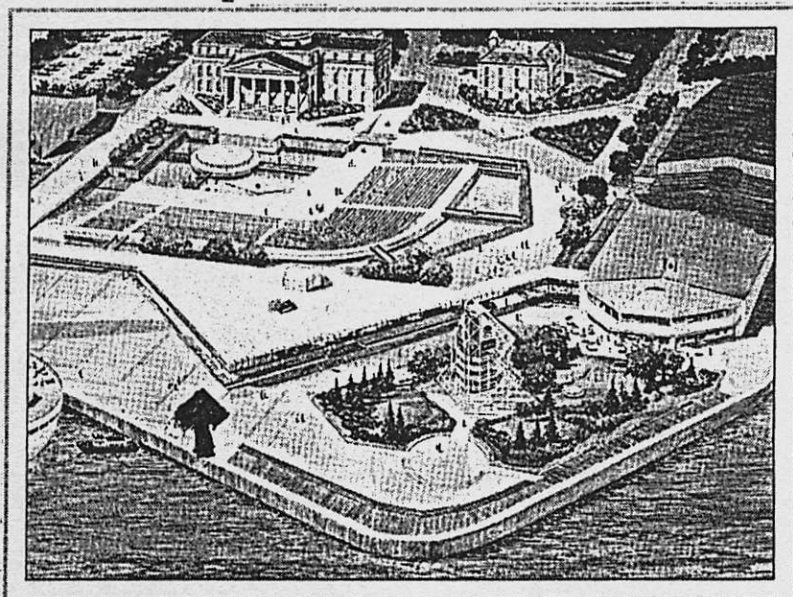
The Association of the Merciers of America-North (AMAN) has decided since its incorporation in 1985 to get in touch, if possible, with all the Merciers living on the North American Continent. The fact that some 1 500 Merciers and allied who came from all corners of America were present at the Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré Retrouvailles, during the reunion held in mid august 1987, is a proof that the association is looking forward. The wide distribution of the participants was the result of sending invitation letters to some 6 000 Mercier households in Canada and the United States of America. The fact that you attended the gathering shows your interest in finding your roots and knowing more about your family history. Congratulations and thanks to you.

In order to grow and reach its aims, the AMAN's management urgently needs the help of benevolent workers.

You undoubtedly are the best qualified person to reach at the lowest cost your kinship and the Mercier friends living in your vicinity. There are many ways of communicating with members of the large Mercier family: either by telephone calls, letters, talks at social gatherings such as family reunions, parties of all kinds, etc. Your directors recommend to organize, with the help of your family assistants, special meetings for the Merciers of your region.

Your Association Secretariat can help you in supplying invitation letters, circulars dealing with the purpose, aims and realizations of AMAN; lists of members and Merciers of your vicinity who might want to know more about their roots and their family history.

(See page 11, MESSAGE)



"Le Vieux Port" of Québec

Where the AMAN's gathering and annual meeting will take place on August 17 and 18, 1991. Details on page 11.

# Sites et généalogie – Sites and genealogy

Jean-Baptiste Mercier (1772-1841)

## Ses origines, sa venue en Louisiane et sa descendance<sup>1</sup>

In 1989, Réginald Hamel(1) published, with proper annotations, the social writing of Alfred Mercier, son of Jean-Baptiste, who came from France in 1793 to New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. These notes drawn from publications and the personal Journal, of Alfred, one of the last "Great Créoles" reveal facts that enable writers to establish with more precision the genealogy of Jean-Baptiste Mercier and, therefore, force Ernest Mercier (2) to revise the chapter 10 of his book entitled "**Mercier depuis des siècles.**"

Data published by Hamel dissipate the confusion resulting from the fact that two Jean Mercier living in the Bordeaux area, France, could have been the father of Jean-Baptiste Mercier. Chronological data presented by thinker and Hamel (1) enable genealogists to reconstitute the family register and history of Jean-Baptiste Mercier (1772 - 1841).

**1772:** Birth of Jean-Baptiste Mercier, son of Jean and Rudegonde Mayeuse at Blanquefort, Gironde Department, France.

**1793:** Landing of Jean-Baptiste Mercier who is granted a large track of land at McDonoghville on the east shore of the Mississippi River. In his book, Alfred Mercier, son of Jean-Baptiste, gives the name of "**Saint-Ybars**" to "**L'Habitation**" and also to his father, **Vieuxmaite**.

**1800:** Jean-Baptiste Mercier is married to Marie-Héloïse Leduc, grand daughter of Pierre and ? ? ? Lecours who came from Canada after the Paris Treaty in 1763. From that marriage are born: Jean-Jacques on March, the 8th 1801, Marie-Clarisse on July the 30th 1802, Charles-Edouard on January the 8th 1806, Henriette-Amanda on January the 16th 1811, Placide Jules-Armand on August the 6th 1813, Charles-Alfred on July the 3rd 1816 and Adèle ( ? ? ).

According to Alfred, the house of the Merciers' in "L'Habitation Saint-Ybars" was large with eight columns on each side of the ground and the first floors. On the Spanish style (almost flat) roof was sitting a vast platform, surrounded by a balustrade decorated by flowers pots, that could be reached by two sets of stairways starting from the superposed galleries. Behind the lateral gardens and the large backyard of the owner's plantation were sitting the kitchen and laundry rooms followed by the servants' mainbuilding. An orange tree grove was separating the servants' mainbuilding from the large fence-in lot in which "were found the

infirmary and its dependencies, the master's stables, the saddles, shoemakers, and carpenters' shops, the slaves' ballroom and finally the large vegetable garden" (1, page 98). Then, in the back, about 100 slaves' cabins bordering the plantation' side.

**1820:** Armand and Alfred spend their summer vacations at the home of their aunt, Mrs. Darcante in Gentilly, France.

**1827:** Henriette-Amanda (Armantine) is married to Pierre Soulé (1802-1870), a young lawyer recently arrived in America. Alfred is studying latin and greek at the central school in New Orleans.

**1829:** Armand pursues his studies at the **Louis-le-Grand College**, in Paris, where Alfred joins him in 1830.

**1834:** The long battle to be finished between the "**Capitalist Créoles**" of the "**Vieux Carré**" and the **American capitalists** of "**Gardens' Districts**" begins in Louisiana.

**1841:** Death of Jean-Baptiste Mercier. His succession is quite complex. Several lawsuits begin against Judge Canonge, the family's tutor and a number of New Orleans banks.

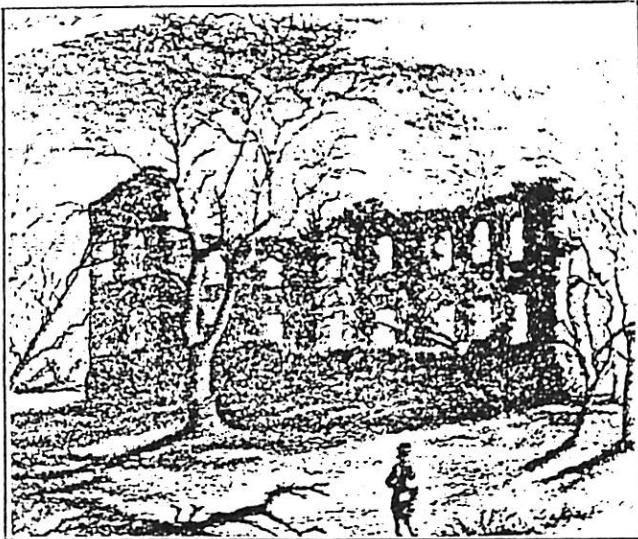
**1842:** Alfred, who registered at the Law Faculty, in Paris (1836); gave up his studies and came back to Louisiana (1838), goes to Boston to study English (1838), is correspondent for Louisianan periodicals and seems to seek his future (1840). After his father's death, Alfred goes to France (1842) with his nephew, Nelvil, the son of Soulé. He acts as correspondent of

"Le Journal de la Louisiane" et "La Chronique" and travels with Nelvil, like Jean-Jacques Rousseau in Belgium, Switzerland (1842) and later, like Alexandre Dumas (1844-1847).

1848: Alfred Mercier becomes friend of Louis Leblanc and frequents left-wing intellectual circles publishing "La Réforme". He writes the biography of his brother-in-law Pierre Soulé, elected senator in Washington.

1849: Virginie Vézian, the daughter of a Parisian merchant is married, on May the 10th, to Alfred Mercier who lives with her family. The newly-wed couple sails to North America, joins for a short while senator Soulé in New York and, in the same fall, returns to Paris. Alfred registers in the Faculty of Medecine: publishes his thesis and collaborates to "La Gazette des Hopitaux" and "La Presse Médicale." (1849-1855).

1854: While visiting his brother in Fontainebleau, France, Alfred is told by Armand that "they have lost their case against their cousin Canonge and the Citizen's Bank which had misappropriated a property that had been under Judge Canonge's tutelage after their father's death in 1841." In the fall of 1855, Alfred and his family sail from Le Havre to New Orleans. The two brothers associate



Drawing of the calcinated walls of the Mercier's House. (Saint-Ybars Plantation), in McDonoughville, New Orleans. The house was destroyed during the American Civil War. (1860-1865).

with Doctor S.E. Chaillé, M.D., and open a medical office at Circus Street Hospital. Alfred, with Doctors Charles Deléry and Jean-Charles Faget, starts La "Société médicale de la Nouvelle-Orléans".

1859: "Disgusted by New Orleans politics and by the violence and cultural poverty he finds in Louisiana, Alfred returns to France. He is posted to Algeria by the Minister of Colonies but his "commission as a doctor is slow in coming". He therefore "moves to Grand Montrouge, near Paris, where he practices medecine until 1865... From December 17, 1860 to April 9, 1865, the American Civil War" goes on. In 1863, Alfred Mercier takes position on American Politics in publishing his sole writing on the subject: "Du Panlatinisme. Nécessité d'une alliance entre la France et la Confédération du Sud" (On Panlatinism: The need for a Union between France and the Southern Confederation). He returns to New Orleans in the summer of 1868. During the Civil War the Mercier family lost what little fortune it had accumulated since 1793. Around 1830 the income of the Saint-Ybars Plantation was estimated at some 150 000 dollars and the establishment may have employed between 50 to 100 slaves.

1868: Alfred Mercier opens his medical office on Washington Avenue in New Orleans. He manages during seven years the newspaper "L'Avenir de la Nouvelle-Orléans" which closes its doors in early 1874. On May the 23rd of that year, he leaves New Orleans for New York; boards the ship "L'Amérique" for France and comes back to Louisiana the same fall.

1875: Alfred organizes the first meeting of a small elite group (12 members) that formed the nucleus of l'Athénée Louisianais, which is officialy launched on July 12, 1876 in presence of some 2 000 people. His brother Armand Mercier, M.D., is the first president until 1881. In 1877, Alfred publishes at his own expense his anticlerical novel "La fille du prêtre" which is denounced by the conservative and ultramontane circles in the New Orleans paper "Le

**propagateur catholique**". He is "accused of being freethinker, not only by the Creole community but also by some members of the **"Athénée"**.

**1879:** Alfred records many events in his "journal intime": the death of his sister Adèle (Mrs. Caire) on January 26. The payment of 5 000\$ by the bank for a lawsuit won, a sequel of the case lost in 1854; a trip to France in June, to North Africa in July; his return to New York in August. His trip to France convinces him that the French culture in Louisiana will likely disappear.

**1881:** Armand Mercier resigns from the **"Athénée Louisianais"** likely because his brother Alfred is recognized as the real founder of the paper. Thanks to a few suscriptions, Alfred is able to publish his social novel **"L'Habitation Saint-Ybars ou Maîtres et Esclaves en Louisiane"**. His novel is well received by the critics. In 1885 he is named an Officer of the **"Légion d'Honneur"**. That year, Armand dies before the two brothers can resolve the dispute that had separated them in 1881.

**1887:** Monsignor Ireland tells the Louisianians: **"One flag, one nation, one language"**. It is the beginning of a new attack on the French schools in Louisiana. Alfred Mercier reads everything that is being published in Paris and comments the situation during meetings of the **"Athénée"**. On

November the 6th, 1890 Mathilde, the wife of his son Charles-Alfred, dies from mental illness. In May, 1891, Alfred starts to destroy his letters and various personel notebooks. Renan, one of his intellectual French masters passes out in October 1892. A few months later, (January 22, 1893) his cousin Placide Canonge dies. "There had been no reconciliation between them since 1841".

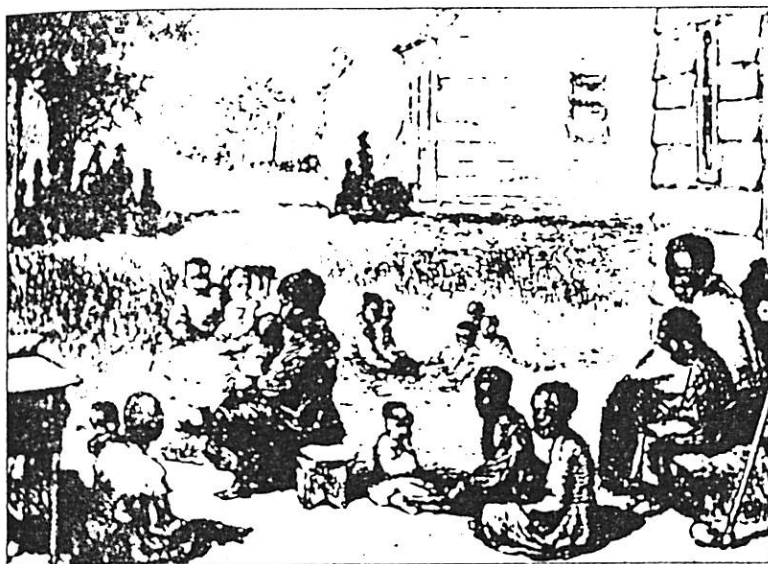
**1894:** On May 12, Alfred Mercier passes out. A few weeks later, his wife, Virginie Vézian, follows his to the grave.

The litterary production of Alfred Mercier, M.D., is large: 20 important writings including his social novel, 83 various articles (biography, correspondence, critic, necrology, poem, etc.). The reader will gain by reading Réginald Hamel's book of which a short summary was published in **Le Mercien, Volume 6, Number 4, October 1990.**

Ernest Mercier

(1) HAMEL, Réginald (1989). *L'Habitation de Saint-Ybars*. Alfred Mercier, Guérin Literature, Montréal, 421 pages.

(2) MERCIER, Ernest (1991). Revision par l'auteur du chapitre 10 de son volume intitulé: **Mercier depuis des siècles**, 502 pages.



Children of masters and slaves played together at the Habitation Mercier in New Orleans



## A BUSY MAYOR

Ralph Mercier, the Mayor of Charlesbourg, is very busy. As president of the UMQ (L'Union des municipalités du Québec), he is negotiating with Mr. Claude Ryan, Minister of Municipal Affairs in the Bourassa Government. The latter wants to transfer back to municipalities their responsibilities of looking after their roads (building and maintenance) and public transportation costs.

Inspired by the Magna Carta (1215) of "Jean Sans Terre", king of England and the Boston Tea Party in America (1773), the Fathers of the Canadian Federation adopted the democratic principle: "No taxation without representation". In fact, the British North America Act (1867) puts on the shoulders of elected town-councillors the entire responsibility of looking after public needs of the residents in the fields of health and welfare, as well as education, and gave them the power of taxing properties and services in order to collect monies to fulfill their own obligations.

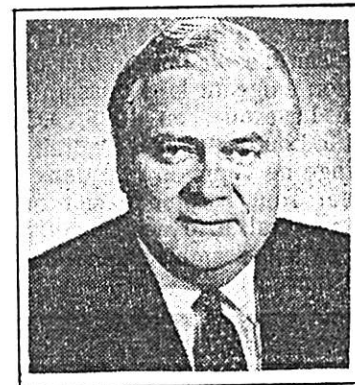
Beginning in 1926, the Québec Government granted financial assistance (50 %) to help municipalities implementing some public works projects. Few municipalities made their residents work for only half of the price indicated on the payroll, that is for the government subsidee. They were accused of theft but were not forced to reimburse their workers. In the 60's, municipal rulers agreed to transfer their taxation power to the provincial government in exchange of transfer payments that enabled them to assume most of their obligations toward their residents. During and after the Second World War, canadian provinces transferred to the Federal Government part of their taxation

power and responsibilities in exchange of perequation payments.

Guided by socialistic and political considerations, the Federal Government has overspent for years in many fields of provincial jurisdiction to the point that it is now forced to cut expenditures and, therefore, reduce transfer payments to provinces. As the latter have narrow financial manoeuvring space, they transfer back some of their obligations to municipalities. In Québec, the share of public monies raised locally for developing and maintaining services is apparently much lower (5 to 6 times) than in other canadian provinces and the United States.

The Québec municipalities are willing to assume their responsibilities but they want some fields of taxation to be transferred back from the Provincial Government.

Good luck! Mr. Président.



Mr. Jacques Mercier

## PROMOTION TO JACQUES MERCIER

Jacques Mercier is appointed Executive Vice President of the distribution centres of PROVIGO DISTRIBUTION INC.



Jacques Mercier

Mr. Mercier will continue to assume his general responsibilities as supervisor of all activities dealing with marketing, purchasing, merchandising, housing development as well as communications and corporate affairs. The appointee automatically becomes member of the Board of Directors of PROVIGO DISTRIBUTION INC. Jacques Mercier is working for the company since 1960. Congratulations.

**PRESIDENT ANDRÉ IS PROMOTED**

The AMAN's president, André Mercier, now assumes the function of Sergeant-of-Arms at the Québec National Assembly. In March 1990 he was appointed assistant to that post and performed the tasks related to his duties in the Blue Hall, namely the carrying of the Mace at the opening and closing of each meeting of the National Assembly. André is a member of the National Assembly's Secretariat. Congratulations.



André Mercier

**CASES OF ATAVISM**

"My maternal grand father Herménégilde Mercier was married to Louise Fradet, widow of Félix Maranda, at Saint-Lazare (Bellechasse), on May the 10th 1897. Consequently, he adopted the 7-month old baby, Marie

Maranda, daughter of Louise, who became by alliance the step sister of my mother Rose-Anna Mercier. On July the 16th 1917, the latter was married to my father Antonio Saint-Louis at Rosaire (Montmagny), Qc, Canada.

"My aunt Marie Maranda-Robichaud and my uncle Pierre Mercier have told me, when I attended the Merciers Gathering in mid-august 1987, that my maternal great grand-father, Pierre Fradet, had indian blood in his veins.

"My Brother's daughter, Saint-Louis has all face and skin characters of a very pretty Amerindian lady. I have come to the conclusion that the so-called personal family secrets revealed by my aunt Marie and uncle Pierre may be true. I wonder if Ernest Mercier, the author of '**Mercier depuis des siècles**', knows about similar cases.."

**Robert St.Louis, Laconia, NH, USA.**

"Lots of French Canadians", says Ernest Mercier, "have indian blood in their veins. They do not have to be shame of that. On the contrary, they must be proud of it. The first North American inhabitants have taught the European (french and english) settlers the way of surviving in the hostile environment we do know so well about.

"On your paternal grand-father side, Herménégilde Mercier, I do not know that there is any amerindian blood (See **Mercier depuis des siècles** pages 120 to 128). There may be some on the women's side of his ascendants. I, for one, have a touch of indian blood on my mother's side, Wilhelmine Dion. At the 13th generation back in my genealogy, prepared by '**l'Institut généalogique Drouin**', I find la 'Sauvagesse' Nipissing who became around 1625, according to the marriage laws of 'Les pays d'en-Haut', the first wife of Jean Nicolet, explorer and interpret in New France. The genes that I inherited from that noble lady do not prevent me from having blue eyes and fair hairs which I probably got from some of my European Nordic ancestors. Geneticists call **atavism** the form of heretity by which an individual inherits ancestral characters that were not found in immediate parents".

## *Histoire de famille – Family History*

### THE FAMILY OF PAUL-ÉMILE MERCIER AND MARIE-LOUISE TACHÉ

"My father, Major Paul-Émile Mercier, was the fourth child of the honourable Honoré Mercier (former premier of the Province of Québec) and Virginie St-Denis. His sister Héva, married to Homère Fauteux, and his brother, Honoré Jr., married to Jeanne Fréchette, lived to a relatively advanced age. However, two of my father's brothers, Iberville and Raoul, died in infancy. My grandfather Honoré had another daughter from his first marriage to Léopoldine Boivin, Eliza, who became the wife of Sir Lomer Gouin, Premier of Québec, 1905-1920, and also past lieutenant governor in 1929. (From January 10 to March 28).

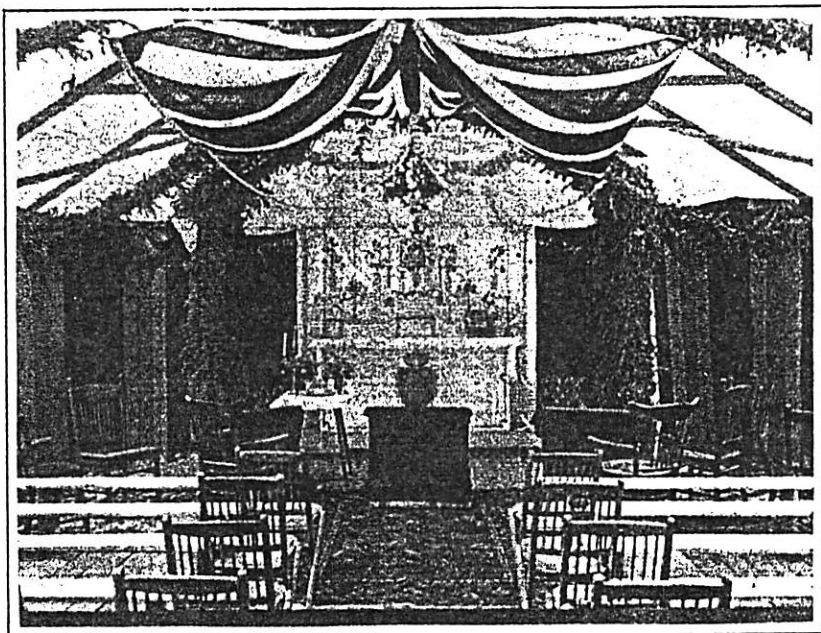
"My father, Paul-Émile was born in St-Hyacinthe on March 15th, 1877 and died suddenly on the 24th of August 1926, at the age of 49, on the North Shore of the St. Lawrence River, where he was supervising the construction of a Québec Government project. He completed his classical studies at the Collège Ste-Marie in Montréal and obtained a degree, (B.A.Sc.) in Engineering from the

'Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal.'

"He served as chief engineer for the city of Montréal from 1914 to 1919. He was appointed consulting engineer for the Montréal Transport Commission in 1920 and, in 1925, became a full fledged member of the same Commission. My father was also the holder of a chair in Engineering at the 'Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal.'

"Towards the end of the last century, he served as district engineer at White Horse in the Yukon. This happened during the famous gold rush at a time when the **Federal Department of Public Works** has undertaken the construction of several major engineering projects under the direction and supervision of my maternal grandfather Joseph-Charles Taché. That is where my father first met my mother. The latter, together with her mother (my grandmother Léda Drapeau) and her sister, Yvonne, had traveled to the Yukon to rejoin my grandfather Taché.

"My mother, Marie-Louise Taché, was born in Ottawa July 10, 1881. She studied at the convent on Rideau



Inside of the tent where the the marriage of Paul-Émile Mercier and Marie-Louise Taché was blessed on June 29, 1901. (Photo supplied by Jeanne Mercier Depocas).

Street, run by the Grey Nuns, and graduated from that institution in 1899. She married my father in White Horse on the 29th of June 1901. It was the first marriage between 'whites' performed in White Horse. As there was no church in White Horse at that time my parents were married under a tent, well decorated for the occasion. The marriage vows were received by Father Camille Lefebvre, o.m.i. It was during that same year that the first church was built in White Horse. My father drew the plans for that church. To underline the event, my parents donated the sanctuary vigil lamp to Father Lefebvre.

"When I visited White Horse in 1989, I searched in vain for that lamp. The church had unfortunately been torn down. I nevertheless had the pleasure, during that visit, of meeting with Father Jean-Paul Tremblay, o.m.i., who has lived in the Yukon for many years. I told him of my disappointment at not being able to locate that lamp and he promised that he would look into the matter personally. When he came to Montréal later, in 1989, not only did he have the information requested but he also had brought the lamp with him, with the bishop's permission. It is now in my possession. Words cannot express my feelings when he turned it over to me. I had heard so much about that famous lamp. I remember the old poem: 'Mary had a little lamp . . . .'

"My parents had seven children.

The oldest, Simone born in Québec City in 1905, died in Montréal on August 12th 1943. A younger sister, Pauline, born in Chicoutimi in 1906, died in infancy. Then comes your humble servant whose biography will come later.

"My sister Marie-Héva died in Montréal in 1975. She was the widow of Major Alexandre Dugas. He was killed in action during world war II.

"My only brother, Paul, the youngest in the family, died in Montréal on the 14th of June 1981.

"One sister, Yvonne, is still living. She is the widow of Edouard Bernard. Pauline, born in Montréal on February 17, 1920 was wedded to Jean Paquin in September 1944. She died suddenly on October 13, 1990.

"I, Jeanne, was born in Montréal on Christmas Day, December 25th 1907. I was married on the 14th of May 1930 to Pierre Edwin Hurtubise, son of Edwin and Eliza Chauveau. Pierre died in Montréal on May 24th, 1962, at the age of 59. We have nine children. The table below gives the name of our children and their escort as well as the number of their children and grand-children. As you can see, I count 28 grand-children and 17 great grand-children.

"On February 20th 1972, I married my second husband, Ernest Depocas. Born in Montréal the 19th of September 1896, he died there on December 30th 1975."

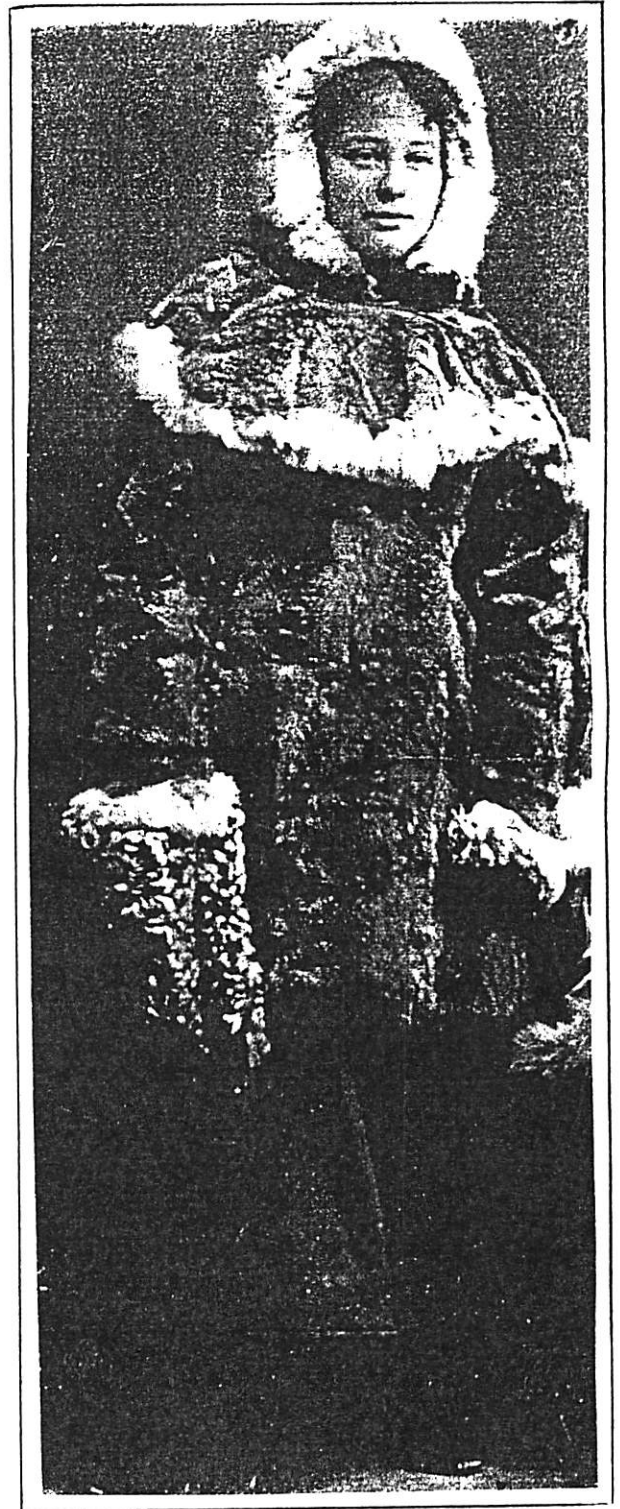
Jeanne Mercier Depocas.

<u>Name of children and Escort</u>	<u>Number of grand-children and great grand-children</u>
Elise Mercier André Bertrand	4 7
Monique " Norman Wise	2 2
Pierre " Maureen Cleary	3
Jeanne " Harry Mulcair	10 8
Paul " Nicole Lalonde	1
André " Marie-Marthe Léger	3
Edwin " Cécile Coulombe	2
Suzel " André Théberge	1
François " Thérèse Lacroix	2

28

17





Paul-Emile Mercier and his future wife Marie-Louise Taché in their Yukon garments around 1900



# On nous écrit

## From Rouyn-Noranda, Qc

"The Traditional New Year Party (1991) of the children and grand children of the couple Joseph Mercier and Alphonsine Côté has not been this year as joyful as in the past. My brother André Mercier had lost his wife (Ginette Lessard) in early November. René, the son of Roland and Anna Baril, died in an automobile accident on December 29th 1990. He was only 25 years old and student at Montréal University. These sad events did not prevent my mother, in spite of her almost 89-years, to receive her large family like she has done it every year since about 1975.

"The party took place on December thirty first in the basement of the St-Michel Cathedrale. We were 99 participants: 7 sisters and 7 brothers with their escorts; 50 grandchildren and 25 great grand children. Father André Bernard, curate in charge, joined us at midnight for the exchange of wishes. Love and best wishes from the family."

## Rita Mercier

### Le Mercien's answer

The AMAN members sympathize with your family and congratulate your mother Alphonsine and you Rita for maintaining the rural french canadian tradition of celebrating the New Year Day.

## From Salt Lake City, UT. USA

"I am writing to ask if you are going to sponsor another organization of North American MERCIER's. If so, could you place me on your mailing list. Thank you very much."

## George Mercier

### Le Mercien's answer

The fifth anniversary of the first (1987) Mercier gathering will take place in Montréal on August the

# Correspondence

18 and 19, 1992, at the occasion of the 350th anniversary of the founding of the City. All Merciers and allies from the world are welcome.

## From Auburn, Maine, USA

"I have recently become a member of the American-Canadian Genealogical Society. I have done research at the Bégin Chapter in Lewiston, Maine.

"I have been able to trace my husband's family back to Julien Mercier and Marie Poulin (Poulain).

"My husband was Ronald Eldridge Mercier who was born in Lewiston, Maine on December 6, 1928, died on March 9, 1987 in Auburn, Maine, at the age of 58 and is buried in the Maine Veterans Cemetary in Augusta, Maine.

"I am writing to request an application for membership in AMAN. I plan to visit Québec this coming summer and need information regarding library hours and if a reunion will be held this year.

"I will gladly share all information I have as soon as completed.

## Carmen Pelletier-Mercier

### Le Mercien's answer

The Secretariat of the Québec Society of Genealogy is located in the "Pavillon Casault", Québec National Archives, Laval University, Ste-Foy, Qc. The address is: **Société généalogique de Québec, C.P. 9060, Ste-Foy, Qc. G1V 4A8.** Phone (418) 651-9127.

Welcome to the AMAN. The initial membership fee is the same as the annual dues, 15 dollars.

In 1991, the annual Mercier Reunion and the Members' Assembly will take place in Québec City, (Le Vieux Port) on Saturday and Sunday August 17 and 18. Come along with your relatives and friends.

The quarterly liaison bulletin, **Le Mercien** is published both in french and english.

Condoléances aux familles Mercier dont l'un des membres est décédé récemment.

Deepest sympathy to Mercier families that have lost a member recently.

Nom - Name	Inhumation - Burial	Endroit - Place
*Pauline Mercier-Paquin	13 novembre 1990	Montréal, Qc
René Mercier	2 janvier 1991	Rouyn, Qc
Welly Mercier	6 janvier 1991	Sainte-Foy, Qc
Claude Mercier	9 janvier 1991	Breakeyville, Qc
Pierre Mercier	12 janvier 1991	Ste-Euphémie, Qc
Étiennette Mercier-Leblanc	19 janvier 1991	St-Marcel, Qc
Bernadette Mercier (Audesse)	5 février 1991	Ste-Hénédine, Qc
Jean-Robert Mercier	16 mars 1991	Château-Richer, Qc
Adélarde Mercier	18 mars 1991	Québec, Qc

\* Une des avant-dernière-petites-filles du couple Honoré Mercier, premier ministre du Québec.

**A message . . . continued**

Members of the Board of Directors could attend your meetings. Once again, the management is firmly convinced that phone calls and verbal communications from mouth to ear are the most efficient and economical way to develop our family association.

Are you ready to help AMAN increasing its membership to 1 000 paid-up members? The answer is yours. If so, complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to the secretariat.

Thank you for your assistance.

**André Mercier**

**ANNUAL REUNION AND MEMBERS' MEETING**

Please, keep on your agenda the dates of August 17 and 18. Come to Québec City at the occasion of the Annual Mercier's Reunion and the AMAN's members general meeting. The site is worth exploring. Besides the corn boil event, the two-day program will provide opportunities of fraternizing and visiting relatives and friends.

**TRIP OF THE MERCIER'S TO FRANCE (SEPTEMBER, 11-25, 1991)**

More than 300 French Merciers from all corners of France are waiting to meet you at Tourouvre and Fontenay-le-Comte. Do not disapoint them. Be a member of the party. Make your reservation directly with the agency VOYAGES LAMBERT, 1505, chemin Ste-Foy, bureau 301, Québec City, Québec G1S 2P1, phone (418) 681-1703.

**SOME AMAN MEMBERS OF ALBERTA AT WORK**

Lucienne E. Mercier-Croteau, her brother Lucien Croteau, and other members of that family have been very much implied in the organization of the Bonnyville Museum. Lucien has been named Man of the Year for that town. Lucienne has given lots of time and some money for the organization of the Museum. Sincere congratulations!

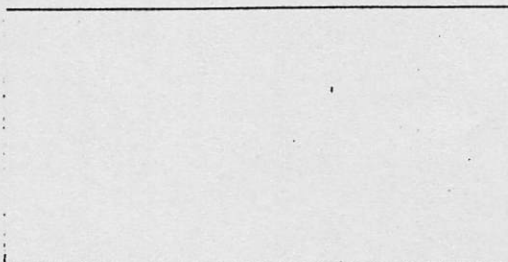
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Permis No. 7784

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#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please, inform the Secretariat if your address is changed. Thank you for your cooperation.

#### PAYMENT OF ANNUAL DUES

Do you want to receive **Le Mercien** regularly? Do you travel during the winter? Is your second class mail not forwarded to you? If so, please, be sure to pay your dues on time. You may ask the Secretariat to change the date at which you are kindly asked to pay your annual dues. In summer perhaps?

#### PRESENCE OF AMAN'S REPRESENTATIVES AT BIDDEFORD

The AMAN'S delegate will see you soon at Biddeford, Maine, on June 21 and 22, 1991. Please invite the Merciers and their allies of your locality to come and meet their cousins from Canada.

**BUSINESS PEOPLE: CAN YOU HELP?** If you want to help the AMAN financially by purchasing publicity space in **Le Mercien**, please do it. The rates for one year (4 numbers) are follows: one eighth of a page, 50\$; one quarter, 75\$; on half-page 150\$; a full page, 200\$.

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