VOLUME 8 NUMBER 2 APRIL 1992

LA VOIX DES MERCIER D'AMÉRIQUE

President's message

In a few months, we will again have the opportunity of meeting to assess our association for the 1991/1992 exercise which was a period of consolidation of our structures. The mandate regional creating consolidating regional and committees was given to a task force of AMAN's administrators who produced an excellent working document enabling our association to recruit and be present in all regions of North America.

In 1992, our annual meeting will take place in Montréal, which is celebrating its 350th

founding anniversary. Next august 16th the Mercier meeting will be held from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs giving us the opportunity to exchange on the past year realisations and to project on the next year agenda and longer terms if possible.

You are as of now invited to reserve august 16th, 1992 for our annual gathering and, if you are inclined, to participate to the numerous activities of the Montreal 350th anniversary.

ctnd, page 11, President

The AMAN 1991 workshop on regional committees



Paul H Mercier lead the workshop on regional committees during the 6th annual gathering of Merciers in "Le Vieux-Port de Quebec" on August 16 and 17th 1991.

Sites et généalogie -- Sites and Genealogy Origin of the Mercier family name in the world

Genealogists anxious to discover the origin of the Mercier patronymic in the world must first study, in general, the history of the Celts and Gallics, the Romans and the northern nations of Western Europe during the first millenary of the Christian Era. They must as well consider in details:

- o the advent of England (+43 to 877)
- o the scandinavian domination on Great Britain (878 to 1042)
- o the french conquest of England (1066 to 1204) and
- o the existence of the Communauté des merciers marchands de Paris (1137 to 1789)

The objective study of the Kingdom of Mercia in the development of England -- kingdom of which the written history dates back to the 7th century (633 to 877) --, and the diplomatic role of the Counts of Mercia in Great Britain's association to the french cause instead of the scandinavian (872 to 1068), must be done in minute details. Does this alliance bring us to the conclusion that the origin of this patronymic goes back to the designation of the Kingdom of Mercia? Lets us see the facts:

I - BIRTH OF ENGLAND

- -- 600 before Christ. The island of Great
 Britain was occupied by the Celts
 after the glaciers began retreating
 north from the centre of Western
 Europe about the 12th century
 before Christ. The slow invasion of
 Gaul by the south europeans (the
 Celts) started some 600 years before
 the christian era.
- + 43 Great-Britain was conquered by the Romans at the beginning of the christian era (in year 43 after Christ ???).
- 400 During the fifth and sixth centuries of the Christian Era, the Western Germans of Saxony (Eastern Gaul) invaded slowly the south of Great Britain and the north of France (?), two regions located on both sides of the English Channel.
- 633 At the beginning of the 7th century, Penda and his legal heirs to the kingdom of Mercia, -- kingdom situated in the upper valley of the

- Trent Rriver -- succeeded in subduing the British Heptarchy (the seven anglo-saxon kingdoms of South England) and dominating them for nearly two centuries (633 to 825).
- 825 for nearly a half-century the leaders of the Mercian kingdom quarrelled with those of the Sussex kingdom.
- Wessex and occupied London in 877, They divided the Great Mercia in two areas: the Danish Mercia, to the east of London and the English Mercia, on the west side of London (Whales and Gaul).

In short, after the fall of the Roman Empire under the weight of the so-called "barbarians" coming from East and West Gaul, at the end of the fifth century of the Christian Era, invaders (presumedly peaceful) settling in the centre of Great Britain, decided to dominate the Great Island. The Kingdom of Mercia situated in the upper valley of the Trent River

succeeded in dominating the British Heptarchy (the seven kingdom of the Brithish Lowlands) during some two centuries of the Medieval Age.

II - ENGLAND SCANDINAVIAN'S DOMINATION

- 911 In 911, Charles III known as the Simple, king of Franks, gives Normandy to Rollon, leader of the normans, and authorises the plunder of Burgundy (treaty of Saint-Clair-sur-Epte).
- 1013 King Sweyn of Denmark is proclaimed king of England in 1013. The english royal family takes refuge in Normandy, Edward the Confessor, son of Aethelred II and Emma (daughter of Richard, duke of Normandy) and future king of the English continues residency at the norman court in France.
- 1041 King Haricanute of Denmark and England disclaims king Edward the Confessor reigning in Normandy.
- 1042 At the death of Haricanute, Edward the Confessor is proclaimed as heir to English throne. He is crowned on Easter day 1043.
- 1055 Morkere, count of Mercia, is elected administrator of Lothia in Northumbria. In 1066 he replaces Tostig, king Edward the Confessor's brother-in-law.

In brief, the Danes reined as masters of London during more than a century and a half (877- 1042). During this period the descendants of the Mercian kings occupied near royal functions and exercised their diplomatic influence on dawning England.

It is to be noted that, in between the 9th and 12th century, the Vikings (Danes and Norwegians) pillaged the coast of Western Europe and, so doing, encouraged an association between England and France.

From the end of the 9th to the middle of the 11th century, Normans from Denmark and Scandinavia occupied England and northwest France. The descendants of the kings of Mercia, tired of the Vikings' domination favoured England alliance to France instead of an alliance to Scandinavia.

III- CONQUEST OF ENGLAND BY FRANCE

- 1066 Tostig, disgusted by the insult of the Northumbrianlanders, joins Hardrada, They invade Norway. of England from the north. They defeat Edwin and Morkere, counts of Mercia at York. The new king of England, Harold II, rushes to the brothers-in-law. rescue of his Together they defeat Tostiq and Hardrada at Stamford Bridge on September 25th, 1066.
- o In the following days William the Conqueror invades England; he defeats Harold II at Hastings; and had him beheaded in the evening of october 16th, 1066.
- 1085 William the Conqueror has the first census of lands and landowners made in England. He wants to know his subjects and associate with the owners of the land. This census, called the **Domesday Book** and published in 1086, is still in use in that country.

It is to be noted that Edith, wife of king Harold II, last king of the Medieval Era in England, is the sister of Morkere and Edwin, counts of Mercia. The latters did not participate in the battle of Hastings. On october 16th, 1066 they both were at Stamford Bridge consolidating the victory of Harold II, their brother-in-law, over Tostig and Hardrada.

Furthermore, William the Conqueror was

magnanimous, a good administrator and acknowledged the english noble who had not borne arms against him.

IV- DEVELOPMENT OF THE "COMMUNAUTÉ DES MERCIERS MARCHANDS DE FRANCE"

- 1096 The decision of the states Western Europe -- notably France, followed timidly by England -- to reconquer the Holy Lands fallen to the hands of the Mahometans, after victory of Omar over Christians at Jerusalem (in 637) gives an incredible opening to the franco-british alliance over the Middle East. The crusades (1096-1291) encourage the development of hostelry and commerce in Western Europe.
- 1137 The "Communauté des merciers marchands de France" officially exists in Paris. That year it has a fixed location at the "Halles de Paris", location for which a rental cost is five sous(20 sous = 1 Fr franc). The motto of the "communauté" is: "Merciers marchand de tout, faiseurs de rien" (Merchant of everything, makers of nothing).
- 1313 On 122 tradesmen, there were 36 merciers on Quincampois Street in Paris. The "haberdasher" Jean D'Espernon was taxed 90 parisis pounds a year as fourth largest taxpayer of the town.
- 1572 In 1572, Jacques de Cambray calls himself "Roi des merciers de Paris".

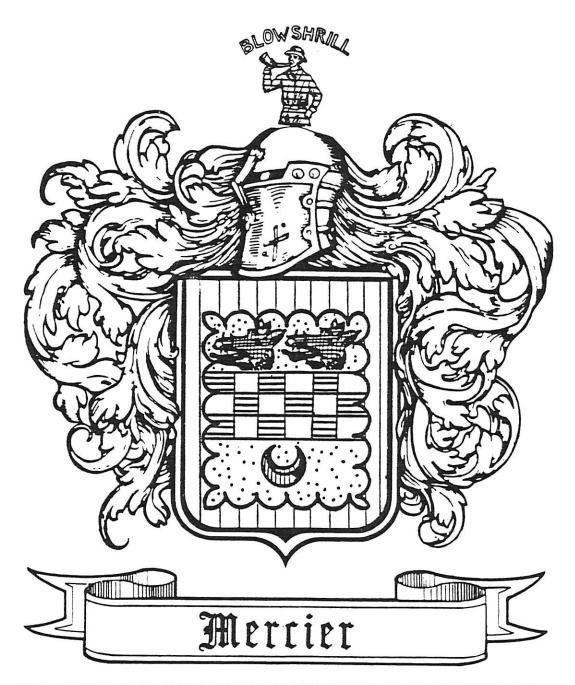
 This non state organization dominated by the "Rois des Merciers", is self-governed under masters without any civil power.
- 1789 The "Communauté des merciers marchands de France" was abolished following the French Revolution.

In short, the crusades, which lasted nearly two centuries (1096 to 1291), developed the trade and hostelry in **Western Europe**. The crusaders returning home brought back dry goods that they sold in the metropolis of the franco-english **economic association** (1106 - 1204).

Did the knights repatriated at the beginning of the 12th century form the "Communauté des merciers marchands de Parisis"? Did the knights, resellers of haberdashery, who dominated from early 14th century (1313) this independent association of free merchants, ever obtained the royal recognition of the Franco-British Union?

Facts be remembered. The "merciers marchands de Paris" bear at the time names of a locality as patronymic such as: Jean D'espernon (1313), Jacques de Cambray (1572). The first royal nomination of a Mercier citizen was that of Jéhan Mercier as captain of the château de Vivier by Charles V known as le Sage on september 4th, 1380. In which year did, a famous count of Mercia of north England, lay down his family coats of arms, whose Toujours fidèle" motto is These coats of arm indeterminable fact. are in safekeeping at the Burke's General Armoury in London. Nobody to date has been able to address this question.

Was this noble Mercier from England a descendant of Morkere or Edwin ??? He certainly was a christian and prob ably engaged in diplomacy or politics.



THE MERCIER COAT OF ARMS HEREBY ILLUSTRATED IS OFFICIALLY DOCU-MENTED IN <u>BURKE'S GENERAL ARMORY</u>. THE ORIGINAL DESCRIPTION OF THE ARMS (SHIELD) IS AS FOLLOWS:

"OR, A FESSE CHEQUY AZ. AND AR. BETW. TWO BOARS' HEADS IN CHIEF SA. AND A CRESCENT IN BASE GU. A BORDURE ENGR. OF THE LAST."

WHEN TRANSLATED THE BLAZON ALSO DESCRIBES THE ORIGINAL COLOURS OF THE MERCIER ARMS AS:

"GOLD WITH A CHEQUERED FESS, THE TINCTURES OF WHICH ARE BLUE AND SILVER, BETWEEN TWO BLACK BOARS' HEADS IN THE CHIEF AND A RED CRESCENT IN THE BASE AND SURROUNDED BY A RED BORDER, THE LINES OF DIVERSITY OF WHICH ARE ENGRALLED."

ABOVE THE SHIELD AND HELMET IS THE CREST WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS:
"A NATURALLY COLOURED HALF-HUNTER BLOWING A NATURALLY
COLOURED HORN, WEARING A BLUE JACKET; OVER HIS HEAD IS THE
MOTTO: 'BLOW SHRILL'."

Tiré du Volume "The Amazing book of the Merciers in Canada" by Sharon Taylor, 1985, page 28.

V- CONCLUSIONS

It is difficult to admit that the "Communauté des merciers marchands de Paris" in France is at the origin of the patronymic Mercier in the world. It is much too recent to claim this parenthood.

It is more likely to state that the family name Mercier is connected to:

- o the existence of the Kingdom of Mercia in Great Britain (522-877):
- o the domination by the mercian kings leaders of the English Heptarchy (633-825);
- the division of Mercia in two parts -english (Western) and danish (Eastern)-two regions of Great Britain established by Denmark during the occupation of England (877-1042);
- o the influence of the counts of Mercia who were active in diplomacy and fulfilled royal mandates (877-1066);
- o the dominant role played by the counts of Mercia of England (Morkere and Edwin), in the final shift of the country to the side of France instead of Scandinavia, in 1066.

It seems more likely that the mercian kings of England and their descendants, the counts of Mercia, gave origin to the patronymic Mercier, in between the 7th and 12ht century of the Christian Era. The tradesmen of the Friendly Franco-British Union (1106 -1204) who gave birth to the "Communauté des merciers marchands de Paris" (in the 12th century), after the beginning of the crusades in 1096, seem to have had nothing to do with the origin of the family name.

Ernest Mercier

N.B. The facts relative to the Kingdom of Mercia, the mercian kings and their descendants -- the counts of Mercia -- summarized in this article are extracts from the Encyclopaedia Britannica. Those concerning the "Communauté des merciers marchands de Paris" are from the "Dictionnaire historique des arts, metiers et professions" of A. Franklin (pages 478-481). These facts were reported in the book "Mercier depuis des siècles" (1987) of Ernest Mercier as well as in the AMAN's liaison bulletin Le Mercien published since (Vol.4 numbers 3 and 4, 1988).

Kinship in between the first six Mercier ancestors in North America

Jeanne Mercier landed in New France in 1635; married Claude Poulain at Québec on august 8th, 1639. This couple gave birth in 1640 (?) to Marie Poulain who in turn wedded Jullien Mercier on january 18th, 1654, in Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré (Notre-Dame-de-Québec).

Were Jeanne and Jullien Mercier related? Seemingly not. Why? Because Jeanne originated from the ancient province of Poitou while Jullien was from the ancient province of Perche (from Tourouvre). In the 17th century simple weddings were not pre-arranged.

The only one amongst the six original Mercier ancestors who could be related to Jeanne was, in my opinion, Pierre Mercier, the miller originating from St-Denis-de-la-Chevasse, Poitou, who came to Quebec some 50 years later, around 1683, He wedded Marguerite Lemain, widow of Michel Rognon (Rochon) on January 8th, 1685, in Neuville, west of Quebec City.

Ernest Mercier



Nouvelles et potins

News and Gossip

The following text is a summary of the conclusions and recommendations of the four workshops held at the Merciers general meeting in Quebec old port on August 17th and 18th 1991.

A. Regional Committees Workshop

Chairman: Paul H. Mercier Reporter: Jean Mercier

- Prepare a guide for the formation of leaders, recruiters and other volunteers of each AMAN regional committee.
- Allocate to each AMAN regional committee the necessary budget to cover their operational costs.
- Supply to each of the AMAN regional committee the list, sorted by postal code, of all the actual members, exmembers and persons who have contacted the Mercier's family association.
- Publish in Le Mercien a chronicle on the activities of AMAN regional committees
- Require from AMAN regional committee leaders to report on their activities at the annual general meeting of the family association.

B. Le Mercien Workshop

Chairman: Ernest Mercier

Reporter: Edith Mercier Normand

- Examine the possibility of grouping the french and english version of each number of Le Mercien in the same quarterly publication.
- 2. Publish all known information to date on the six Mercier ancestral couples that have descendants in North America.
- Offer to members of AMAN, Merciers and their allies the possibility of advertizing in Le Mercien.
- Further enhance Le Mercien even if the cost of printing with colour photos is higher.
- Call upon the young and not so young to increase and diversify the contents of

- the chronicles *News and Gossip* and *Family History* of the liaison bulletin **Le Mercien**.
- Report in the bulletin the activities of the AMAN Board of directors and regional committees.

C. History and Genealogy Workshop

Chairman: Claudine Mercier Reporter: Claudine Mercier

- 1. Develop the AMAN Genealogy Service
- 2. Input on computers support all data on Mercier weddings that founding president Ernest and other genealogists have gathered to establish liaison in between the three generations listed in the book "Mercier depuis des siècles" and the subsequent genealogy family registers (from 3rd to 9th ??, as may be the case,) that are compiled by most actual AMAN members.
- Promote the making and updating of genealogical family registers within all Mercier families in the world.
- Encourage the elders to submit, for publication to all information medias, their magnificent family history that they narrate so well.
- Promote the creation of family albums with identification of subjects and date of photos.

D. Recruitment Workshop

Chairman: Cécile Mercier Nadeau Reporter: Cécile Mercier Nadeau

 Select recruiters (both women and men) known in the region. These persons must be comprehensive, interested, perceptive and able to communicate, inform, and accept disagreement; be able to convince Merciers and allies to join the association; induce the members and their allies to participate in the activities of the family Association.

- 2. Assign to each recruiter a relatively small number (twenty or so) of listed telephone subscribers to be contacted.
- Establish an unity price for each Le Mercien number so that recruiters can show the publication to prospective members and offer it as gift to their relations and friends.
- 4. Organize recruitment campaigns, family gatherings and other special events that

- can arouse the interest of known and unknown Merciers and use these occasions to finance the operation of AMAN regional committees.
- Offer on sale the volume "Mercier depuis des siècles" as well as AMAN mementoes at regional gatherings.
- 7. Study the possibility of issuing plastified membership cards with photo.
- 8 Encourage member to take up AMAN life membership.
- Study the possibility of establishing member categories: married couples, adolescents, family, etc..

Following the recommendations of the workshop's participants, the board of the directors has set up a task force of which the mandate was to prepare a Guide for the managers of regional committees.

Comités régionaux -- Regional Committees

Georges Mercier of Sept-Iles held on february 10th, 1992, a reunion of the Mercier clan of the Middle North Coast. Some 70 invitations were mailed to Merciers of the area. Approximately 40 persons were present at this gathering of which 16 bore the family name Mercier. Few, but also many Merciers present. Nearly a fifth (20%) of those invited.

Among the Merciers present, there were descendants of Walter Mercier and Bernadette Gallien; descendants of Ardias Mercier and Joséphine Desmonds; descendants of Joseph Mercier and Yvonne Lambert; descendants of Louis Mercier and Yvonne Gaudreault; and the children (7) of Georges Mercier and Anita Boisvert who connect with Jullien Mercier and Marie Poulain to mention only the principals.

Georges presented the video on the Merciers of North America and of his trip to France in september 1991, He registered 7 new members; sold for approximately 100\$ of AMAN mementoes and 10 volumes of "Mercier depuis des siècles".

Congratulations Georges! AMAN will remain as long as its regional committees are active. It is the responsibility of each Mercier to promote the family association in his neighbourhood.

Histoire de famille -- Family History Merciers from Sainte-Euphémie-sur-Rivière-du-Sud

The AMAN administrators want to insure continuation in our family association.

They invite all, young ones, not so young and elders to write their family history, feed the AMAN liaison publication Le Mercien. Congratulations and thanks to collaborators such as Edith Mercier Normand, author of the following article, for her contribution to AMAN.



Uncle François and his niece Edith Mercier Normand, author of this article.

When I catch myself dreaming of images, greenery and of sun, I am always brought to this little village were I was born, "Sainte-Euphémie-sur-Rivière-du-Sud, comté de Montmagny." That is where my grandfather was operating a dairy farm and tilling the soil(1). The child that I was then was too preoccupied by his daily joys to evaluate all the energy and all the labour invested in this farm. Only later, when I became an adult, did I understand the hard trade of the farmer.

As my parents, Antonio Mercier and Germaine Langevin, choose to establish themselves in Quebec City, I had to leave behind the wonderland of childhood at the same time that I had to leave my native village. I was leaving behind all that we associate with liberty: wild runs across fields, outing with horse and bogey driven by my grandfather, the songs of the birds, water of the stream slowly running ...and grandma Eva Noel delicious pancakes.

It is the time as well when my uncle, François Mercier was wedding my mother's sister, aunt Annette Langevin. They for their part decided to acquire the family heritage and so continue the work of grandfather Antoine and grandmother Eva as well of the great- grandparents Ignace Mercier and Mathilda Allaire who came by foot (about 16 miles or 24 kilometers) from Saint-François-du-Sud in the middle of last century.

Because of our remoteness from Sainte-Euphémie and mainly because of the great hospitality of the farm owners, their house soon became a privileged place of reunion, synonymous of peace and tranquillity. All the sweet things of life are there: a garden to explore and later crops to admire, long walks on the old Saint-Pierre-du-Sud road, picnics in a wood coloured by fall, the heat of a crackling wood stove, the aroma of the kitchen, the homecraft creations of all sorts, ancient photos to look at in every which ways, evening spent blabbering of a

thousand and one thing ... and I am forgetting something, it is sure.

Sometimes, I just have to daydream to recall all the good moments spent in the country and in that farmhouse of my tender youth.

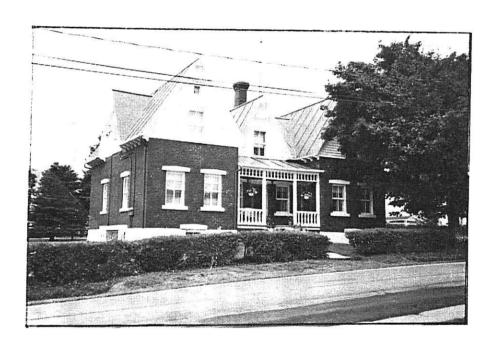
However, sites of my childhood underwent some changes. I am now conscious of the hard life of a farmer: early rising, livestock to feed and care for, seeding, the weather influence on crops, the maintenance of farm machinery, firewood to cut for the winter ... All daily chores that require rigorous self-discipline, heartiness and tenacity always renewed from the farmer. That is when satisfaction of work well and lovingly done takes all its

meaning.

In spite of all the requirements of the trade, it is evident that François and Annette ennobled it and that they have good reasons to be proud of their former choice. Thanks to them the kins have known joys that could not have been otherwise.

In brief, I must underline all the recognition that we owe to grand father Antoine, this redheaded man with large hands shaped by hard work. He has made his mark because, even if has left us for a better world, he remains for always a model of courage, patience and pride.

Edith Mercier Normand (1) see "Mercier depuis des siècles" page 422



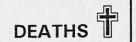
Sainte-Euphémie contemporary house (3rd) built on the Mercier family farm at the beginning of this century. Land grant was made by the Québec Government in the middle of the previous century.

Candidates solicited to the AMAN board of directors

President André and secretary-treasurer Benoit have expressed their wish to be relieved of their responsibility and leave to others the mandate to bring to safe port the fragile bark of "I'Association des Merciers d'Amérique du Nord (I'AMAN).

Who wants to assume the duties of president or those of secretary-treasurer of our young family association? The members only have the answer. Who wants to serve the **AMAN**?





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

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

Nom - Name Inhumation - Burial Endroit - Place

Joseph Mercier	1992-02-14	La Durantaye, Qc
Philippe Mercier (Abbé)(1)	1992-02-19	Saint-Damien, Qc
Antonio Mercier Anctil	1992-02-25	Tourville (L'Islet), Qc
Léon Turgeon (époux) Madeleine Mercie	er 1992-02-03	Lévis, Qc

(1)

MERCIER (l'Abbé Philip-



A vos prières, M. l'Abbé Philippe Mercier, décédé à l'Hôtel-Dieu de Lévis, le 15 février 1992, à l'âge de 77 ans. Né à St-Damien de Bellechasse, le 7 octobre 1914, il était le fils de feu William Mercier de feu Marie-Louise Goupil. Il laisse dans le deuil ses confrères de la Résidence Déziel de Lévis, son frère, l'Abbé Dollard, ses soeurs. Mmes Joseph Lachance (Yvonne) et Joseph Coriveau (Hénédine), sa belle-soeur, Mme Ferdinand Mercier (Rosa Aubin), ainsi que de nombreux cousins, cousines, neveux et nièces. Il sera exposé au salon funéraire de la Maison Mère des Soeurs de Notre-Dame du Perpétuel Secours de St-Damien, le lundi 17 février de 19h à 22h et mardi, de 13h à 16h. La dépouille sera ensuite transportée en l'église de St-Damien pour y être exposée, de 19h à 22h. Le service aura lieu le mercredi 19 février, à 14h30, en l'église de St-Damien, et de là au cimetière paroissial, sous la direction de la maison

Roy & Rouleau Inc. St-Damien, Bellechasse Ordonné prêtre le 18 mai 1940 par le Cardinal J.M. Rodrigue Villeneuve, M. l'Abbé Philippe Mercier fut nommé prêtre auxiliaire à l'Ecole d'Agriculture La Pocatière et de par sa formation d'agronome, était professeur à la Faculté de 1940 à 1952. Il a en-

suite été nommé curé à l'Ile-aux-Grues de 1957 à 1960, ainsi qu'à St-Fabien de Panet de 1960 à 1961. Directeur de l'Ecole d'Agriculture de Ste-Anne de La Pocatière de 1961 à 1962, ensuite missionnaire en Amérique Centrale, il fut directeur du Séminaire de Managua, Nicaragua, où il fut nommé camerier secret sous Jean XXIII de 1962 à 1970. De nouveau curé à St-Fabien de Panet de 1972 à 1977, il fut ensuite vicaire à St-Antonin de Rivière-du-Loup et St-Ludger de 1977 à 1983; puis aumonier à la Maison St-Bernard de St-Damien de 1983 à 1986. Il s'est ensuite retiré à la Résidence Déziel de Lévis. S.V.P., compensez l'envoi de fleurs par des offrandes de messes. Pour renseignements: 789-2143.

President from page 1

In the next edition (july) of Le Mercien, we will publish the entire program of the annual gathering which also provide for our traditional corn-husking party after the meeting. You are requested to assist your board of administrators which does not spare its effort to put to the foreground the Mercier family name in North America and Europe.

André Mercier

"Second class	post",	Please deliver this copy to
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Edited by	La Fédération des familles-couches québécoises inc. C.P. 700 Sillery (Québec) Canada G1T 2W2	
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Can any generous Mercier, who at time sneaks away proudly bear this beautiful family name?

The 1992 annual Mercier's gathering will be held on sunday august 16t at 10 AM at the Centre social des fonctionaires municipaux de Montréal 429 east La Gauchetière St. Montréal.

Just west of Berri Street, and three blocks down from the bus terminal and the Berri de Montigny (BERI UQUAM) metro station.

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