



Le Mercien

La voix des Mercier d'Amérique

The voice of the Merciers of North America

Word of the president

After more than a decade of remarkable efforts made by the AMAN's first administrators to develop it during the 1985-1998 period, the managers presently in function have decided to launch, at the beginning of the second millennium, a reinforcement campaign of our young family association. The main objectives of that campaign are:

- firstly, to increase the number of paid up members of the Association;
- secondly, to consolidate the AMAN financial position;
- thirdly, to develop the care for ancestral patrimony among all citizens; and
- fourthly, to organize the Mercier Foundation of North America.

The actual managers of the Association sincerely thank the government authorities, as well as all semi private and private organisations for their contribution to obtaining the AMAN's short, medium and long term objectives. They warmly congratulate and thank the senator Léonce Mercier and the founder and first president, Ernest Mercier, for having decided to lead the reinforcement campaign — VISION 2000 — and wish them all the anticipated success.

Michel Mercier, président

Léonce Mercier



Senator Léonce Mercier is a native of the Saguenay area, Québec. He was formerly involved in business and appointed to the Canadian Senate two years ago.

Senator Léonce Mercier was engaged in provincial politics as candidate of the Québec Liberal Party and became afterwards responsible of the organisation of that party for counties located in Eastern Québec during the 1970 decade. He then assumed the responsibility during the subsequent years for the organization of the Canadian Liberal Party for the whole Québec.

Let us mention that Léonce Mercier was member of the License Delivery Service of the Québec Liquor Board before his nomination to the Canadian Senate.

Léonce Mercier

**Conseil d'administration
et Conseil exécutif
Board of directors
and Executive Committee**

Michel Mercier, Terrebonne (président)	(514)961-2730
Claude Mercier, Pointe-Claire (vice-président)	(514)428-0593
Benoît Mercier, Charlesbourg (trésorier)	(418)623-0833
Lionel Mercier, Victoriaville secrétaire	(819)752-7867
Marie Mercier, Sherbrooke	(819)822-1751
Cécilia Mercier, Lac-Beauport (V.-P. et sec.)	(418)849-3462
Françoise Mercier, Charlesbourg	(418)628-2995
Ernest Mercier, Québec	(418)688-9820
André Mercier, Mascouche	(418)474-6633
Pierre-Paul Mercier, Saint-Lambert	(514)671-1455

Comité du bulletin : Le Mercien

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Ernest Mercier, Québec	(418)688-9820
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Messages

Afin de hâter la correspondance avec la direction, veuillez communiquer directement avec les membre préposés aux divers services de l'AMAN.

In order to hasten communications with the management, please contact directly the members in charge of the AMAN's Services.

Si vous déménagez, veuillez avvertir le trésorier au moins six semaines à l'avance.

If you plan to move, please inform the treasurer at least six weeks ahead of time.

Cotisation / Membership :
Annuelle / Yearly : 20 \$

À vie / Life (65 ans et +/65 years and over): 125 \$

À vie / Life (moins de 65 ans/less than 65 ans): 250 \$

Veuillez faire parvenir vos commentaires et suggestions à l'une des adresses indiquées en bas de page.

Please send your comments and suggestions to either address listed below.

**Le Mercien - Dates de tombée saisonnières
Seasonal deadlines**

Numéro Number	Saison Season	Date limite Deadline
1	Printemps / Spring	1er mars / March 1st
2	Été / Summer	1er juin / June 1st
3	Automne / Autumn	1er septembre / September 1st
4	Hiver / Winter	1er décembre / December 1st

***L'AMAN peut vous aider à produire votre
titre élargi d'ascendance patrilinéaire
Mercier***

***AMAN can help you to prepare your
Mercier patrilineal ancestry title***

Association des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord

AMAN	Adresse du site/
C.P. 6700	Site address : http://www.microtec.net~dhm/aman/index.htm
Sillery (Québec) Canada	Adresse électronique/
G1T 2W2	Electronic mail : amannet@microtec.net

Éditorial

A detailed analysis of the operations of AMAN during the first decade of its existence will oblige any realistic observer to acknowledge the weaknesses in the development of a family association in North America. These weaknesses manifest themselves mainly in respect of the **participation of a large number of members, financing current operating expenses, and promoting enthusiasm for the ancestral patrimony.**

1- Members' Participation

Once the fervour of the initial gathering has dissipated after the organizational assembly, the retention of existing members and the recruitment of new ones become more difficult. AMAN's case well illustrates this fact. From mid-summer 1985 to mid-summer 1987 the number of members in the association grew from one to more than one thousand. The peak in voluntary new memberships that was reached during the first international gathering in the month of August 1987 thereafter gradually diminished to reach a low of 350 dues-paying members in July 1990. Since that year the number of members in good standing has hovered between 350 and 400 (see *Le Mercien*, volume 9, number 1, Winter 1993, page 6).

The directors are justified in once again placing the figure of 1,000 members at the top of the list of objectives to be reached at the beginning of the second millennium. At present, membership dues remain the primary source of revenue for AMAN, and they are clearly insufficient to guarantee the association's financial security.

2- Financing Current Operating Expenses

Given the constant increase in the operating expenses of any family association, the directors of AMAN have only two choices: increase membership dues or seek sponsorships from the Merciers and their relations.

An increase in the annual membership dues is now out of the question. The directors have increased dues three times since AMAN was

founded. Dues have gone from \$10 (ten dollars) in 1985 to \$12 (twelve dollars) in 1987 to \$15 (fifteen dollars) in 1990 and to \$20 (twenty dollars) in 1996. They have thus doubled in the space of ten years. A number of older members living on modest incomes would like to spread the payment of their annual dues over the twelve calendar months.

The only possible solution at this time is for the administrators of AMAN to solicit financial support from generous sponsors among the Merciers and their relations who are prepared:

- either to make a substantial one-time donation of an amount as yet to be determined;
- or to purchase an annual advertising sponsorship in *Le Mercien* equal to one fifth of the one-time donation, to be remitted over a period of five years.

There is no other way to resolve once and for all the problem of financing AMAN's current operating expenses. That is why the directors of the association have decided to appeal to business people among the Merciers of North America and their relations.

3- Promoting Enthusiasm for the Ancestral Patrimony

The time has come for all family associations, including that of the Merciers and their relations, to instill in young and old alike enthusiasm for discovering, preserving, and developing their ancestral patrimony. They must be encouraged to celebrate all that is **beautiful, virtuous, and genuine** in the deeds of their immediate ancestors in those fields in which three great age-old institutions have fashioned the thrilling history of the human race. These venerable institutions are, by order of chronological precedence, **family society, ecclesiastical society, and political society.**

4- AMAN's Position

The North American Mercier family association is well situated to act, in cooperation with other, similar family associations in North America, as a catalyst in promoting interest in the family patrimony among both young adults and senior citizens. In 1997 AMAN invited the members of more than 8,000 Mercier households to assemble in Beauré (Québec) to



Éditorial (suite)

celebrate the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Association of the Merciers of North America. AMAN is ready to communicate once again with the occupants of these Mercier households to oversee locally the granting of bursaries and to organize competitions designed to generate a pragmatic enthusiasm for the ancestral patrimony. It can do so, however, only if it receives prior authorization from Revenue Canada to establish the **Mercier Foundation**.

5- The Mercier Foundation

AMAN recently submitted a second application to be registered as a charitable organization under the Canada Income Tax Act. Should the «MERCIER Foundation» ever see the light of day, our young family association will join locally with all other family associations that wish to:

- organize competitions for persons of all ages to promote interest in discovering the ancestral patrimony on the appropriate scale;
- participate in fundraising at the local, regional, national, and continental levels to establish bursaries to be granted to the winners of competitions relating to authorized projects for the development of the ancestral patrimony.

6- Conclusion

In short, the directors of AMAN have decided to increase rapidly the number of dues-paying members, to stabilize the financial position of our young family organization, and to encourage among persons of all ages and all families on the North American continent enthusiasm for **discovering, preserving, and developing** the ancestral patrimony in all appropriate fields in North America. To this end they require the support of all members of AMAN, of the Merciers and all their relations, and of the members of all family associations in order to attain these three supremely important short-, medium-, and long-term objectives.

Let us unite to ensure the success of AMAN's **VISION 2000 Renewal Campaign**. If we do so, we will know that we have done our duty to family society and to our ancestors.

Ernest Mercier, Life President and Founder

Message from the Co-presidents of AMAN's VISION 2000 Renewal Campaign

When we analyse the difficulties that many family organizations experience in getting started and remaining viable in North America, we discover three main causes of failure that are common to most of them. These causes are:

- a diminution in the founding members' enthusiasm after the initial organizational assembly;
- a resistance by many older members to an increase in the annual dues payable by regular members of a family association;
- a lack of interest on the part of a majority of young people, who have neither time nor money to devote to their genealogy and their family history.

It is a genuine pleasure for us to accept the co-presidency of AMAN's VISION 2000 campaign, whose aim is to reinforce the association's structures and broaden its mission. In this way we can contribute our modest participation to the considerable efforts of past and current directors, all of whom have endeavoured to:

- increase the number of dues-paying members in our young family association;
- solve once and for all the dilemma of AMAN's financial situation;
- develop in North Americans of all ages an interest in discovering, preserving, and developing their ancestral patrimony through the establishment of the **Mercier Foundation**.

Together we shall succeed in enhancing the status of family society in North America.

*Léonce Mercier, Co-president
Ernest Mercier, Co-president*

Rencontre annuelle des Mercier 1998

Date: Le samedi 26 septembre 1998
Lieu: Allen's Corner, Howick
Parc du Lieu historique national de la
Bataille-de-la-Châteauguay
Adresse : 2371, chemin de la Rivière, Châteauguay Nord
Téléphone : (514) 829-2003

Programme de la journée du 26 septembre 1998

10 h Accueil et bienvenue
10 h 30 Assemblée annuelle de l'AMAN
12 h Repas communal au Parc Canada
13 h 30 Film sur la Bataille de la Châteauguay
Visite guidée du Parc et du Musée
16 h Fin de la rencontre

Assemblée annuelle de l'AMAN

Avis de convocation

Les dirigeants convoquent les membres de l'Association des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord Inc. (AMAN) à la quatorzième assemblée générale annuelle qui aura lieu le samedi 26 septembre 1998 au Lieu historique national de la Bataille-de-Châteauguay, (ALLAN's Corner) route 138, chemin de la Rivière Châteauguay Nord, Howick, Québec, J0S 1K0. Tél.: (514) 829-2003.

Lionel Mercier, secrétaire

Ordre du jour

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Ouverture de l'assemblée et bienvenue | 7. Ratification des actes des administrateurs |
| 2. Lecture et adoption de l'ordre du jour | 8. Nomination de l'expert comptable |
| 3. Lecture et adoption du procès-verbal de la dernière assemblée (13 et 14 août 1998) | 9. Rapport des comités régionaux |
| 4. Rapport du président | 10. Élection des administrateurs |
| 5. Rapport du trésorier et dépôt du rapport de l'exercice financier terminé le 30 juin 1998. | 11. Présentation des élus |
| 6. Rapport du secrétaire | 12. Autres sujets :
a) remise des certificats de membre à vie |
| | 13. Réunion de 1999 |
| | 14. Levée de l'assemblée |

Réunion 1997 Reunion



Table de / of / Mercier-Croteau de / of / Bonnyville, Alberta

Assis (Sitting): Claire Mercier-Fortier, Jules Mercier (ptre), Liliane Desroches-Mercier et / and / Gérard Mercier
 Debout (Standing): Armand Fortier, Édouard Mercier, Vera Mercier, Marcel Croteau et / and / Ella Wonat
 de / from / Bonnyville, Alberta



Table de / of Cécile Mercier-Nadeau et / and Claudine Mercier

Assis (Sitting): Émilia Couture-Mercier, Cécile Mercier-Nadeau, Roger Mercier et / and M. Claire Tardif-Mercier
 Debout (Standing) : Alfred Mercier (?), Paul-Émile Mercier, Francine Mercier-Beaulieu, Alfred Beaulieu, Yvan
 Mercier et / and Claudine Mercier

Membres à vie - 1998-06-30 - Life members au 30 juin 1998
par ordre alphabétique des prénoms - by alphabetical order of the christian name

Nom - Name	Endroit - Place ¹	Numéro de membre - Member number
Mercier, Alain	Sillery, QC	77
Cloutier, André	Mont-Saint-Hilaire, QC	1313
Mercier-Nadeau, Cécile	Plessisville, QC	385
Mercier, Charles	Sillery, QC	76
Mercier, Christine	Ste-Foy, QC	75
Royer, Cécile	Ste-Foy, QC	47
Mercier, François	Nicolet, QC	63
Mercier-Bélanger, Françoise	Charlesbourg, QC	737
Mercier, Georges	Sept-îles, QC	219
Mercier, Gérard	Laval, QC (décédé)	787
Cauchon, Jean	Lac-Mégantic, QC	916
Mercier, Jean	Freligsburg, QC	951
Mercier-Bédard, Jeanne	Ottawa, ON, CND	204
Rioux, Jeanne	Québec, QC	1366
Mercier-Brouillette, Julienne	St-Esprit, QC	481
Mercier, Laurent	St-Esprit-de-Montcalm, QC	580
Mercier, Louis	Bussy, France	52
Mercier, Luc	Longueuil, QC	152
Mercier, Lucie	Plessisville, QC	126
Mercier, Marc	Trois-Rivières, QC	83
Mercier, Marcel	Montmagny, QC	452
Mercier-Famula, Marguerite	Lancaster, ON, CND	202
Mercier-Morin, Marie-Reine	Ste-Agathe, QC	1132
Gélinas-Mercier, Marie	Lévis, QC	169
Mercier, Maurice	Boucherville, QC	306
Mercier, Michel	Valleyfield, QC	34
Cauchon, Paul	Rimouski, QC	1365
Mercier, Paul-D.	Antrim, NH, USA	718
Mercier, Paul-H.	Ste-Foy, QC	31
Mercier, Pierre	St-Bruno, QC	73
Mercier, Pierre	Ville-St-Michel, QC	639
Mercier, Raymond T.	Canterbury, CT, USA	961
Mercier, Rhéo	Disraéli, QC	4
Mercier, Robert	St-Henri, QC	250
Mercier, Roger	Naples, FL, USA	2016
Mercier, Roland	La Pocatière, QC	61
Mercier, Simone	St-Jean, QC	1196
Mercier, Suzanne	Montréal, QC	74
Mercier, Vincent	Mont-Joli, QC	500

Membres honoraires à vie - 1998-06-30 - Honorary Life Members

Mercier, André	Québec, QC	189
Mercier, Benoît	Charlesbourg, QC	222
Mercier, Ernest	Québec, QC	32
Mercier, Jean	Sherbrooke, QC (décédé)	1008
Mercier Croteau, Lucienne	Bonneyville, AB, CND	988
Mercier, Monique	St-Grégoire-le-Grand, QC	49
Mercier, Ralph	Charlesbourg, QC	1151

¹ CND: Canada; USA: United States of America.

Health Seeds

The voluminous "Report on Food, Nutrition and Cancer Prevention: a Global Approach" has been published in Washington, USA, on October 8, 1997. Some people already qualify it as the Washington Bible on food and cancer. Considering the international status of the two organisations that sponsored the report and the volume of epidemiological studies on cancer prevention surveyed by scientific workers, we are going to hear more about it. No body can doubt of the integrity of the **American Institute on Cancer Research** and the **International Fund on Cancer Research** (See *Le Mercien*, vol. 14, number 1, page 3, Spring 1998).

Second article

Two Canadian organisations involved in the fields of health conservation and cancer research have approved the conclusions of the Washington Bible on food and health. They are:

- the Canadian Cancer Society and
- the Canadian Nutrition Institute.

These two organisations have issued — the same day the Washington report was published

(October 8, 1997) — a press release in which they comment on Canadian food habits and make proper recommendations on healthy food.

Their public relations officers concluded that the food habits of the Canadians are on the right track. However, the Society and the Institute managements are going to analyse the Washington Report's recommendations in view of fastening healthy food habits for all Canadians.

The recommendations of these two organisations for healthy food are the following ones:

1. Let us consume a great variety of foods.
2. Let us emphasize the consumption of cereals, breads, other grain products, vegetables and fruits.
3. Let us choose defatted dairy products, lean meats and foods cooked with little or no fat compounds.
4. Let us reach and maintain a healthy weight by making regular physical activities and developing healthy food habits.
5. Let us limit salt, alcohol and coffee.

Ernest Mercier, o.c., Ph D, agronome

Correction

Veuillez faire les changements nécessaires pour l'identification appropriée des cinq numéros du bulletin de liaison *Le Mercien*, publiés durant les années 1997 (volume 13) et 1998 (volume 14).

Please make the necessary changes to properly identify the five issues of the liaison bulletin, *Le Mercien*, published during the years 1997 (volume 13) and 1998 (volume 14).

1997 (Volume 13) et / and 1998 (Volume 14)

Volume 13 - 1997

Numéro Number	Saison Season	Couleur Color	Photo de la page 1 Photo on page 1
1	Printemps / Spring	Vert / Green	Comité / Committee
2	Été / Summer	Bleu / Blue	Lucie et / and / Michèle
3	Automne / Autumn	Jaune / Yellow	Michel, Honoré et / and / Pierre
4	Hiver / Winter	Gris / Grey	Enfant / Child

Volume 14 - 1998

1	Printemps / Spring	Vert / Green	Léandrus / Léandre
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GENEALOGY AND HISTORY

In a letter dated March 1, 1998, Gisèle Mercier Petitclerc raises a number of questions that young amateur genealogists often ask. It strikes me as opportune to publish here the answers to this woman's questions in order to make better information available to the members of AMAN who are interested in family history.

Question 1: Why are the dates of certain marriages not the same in all genealogical sources and in works such as the Grolier biographical collection?

Answer 1: Marital dates will not always be the same in all sources if the parish registers have been destroyed by fire or if they were not transmitted to the judicial district registry offices by parish priests of the time. The authors of these sources will have relied on other dates appearing in official documents such as, for example, marriage contracts, inventories prepared after death, etc., and even items published in newspapers, to mention only the principal sources of information on the marriage, birth, and death of persons who were well known in their day. The important thing is to furnish proof that the conjugal union of a couple (the parents of some individual) really did take place around such and such a date.

Question 2: How does one go about publishing a family history?

Answer 2: Anyone may write a volume or publish a work, and it is possible to obtain a copyright for it. The cost of publishing a genealogical work can be quite high, especially if there are many illustrations. The cost of printing the volume *Mercier depuis des siècles* amounted to about \$30 (thirty dollars) per copy in 1987. Today it would probably be between \$40 and \$50 per copy. It is therefore preferable to use modern processes that are both simpler and less costly than printing by a recognized publisher, unless the latter is willing to undertake to sell the volume.

Question 3: Can one write about whatever one wishes in a family history?

Answer 3: Absolutely not. The Civil Code of Québec protects the right to the privacy of personal information. In addition, the author must be able to prove his assertions. Furthermore, if the information in question is not public, he must obtain the permission of the person concerned before divulging it.

Question 4: What must I do to obtain precise information on some of my more or less immediate ancestors?

Answer 4: Marriage contracts, banns published in a church, wills, and public documents of the period in question are the only sources of information available, unless either your ancestors left biographical notes directly to the family or their activities are described indirectly in accounts such as those that are to be found in the minutes of meetings held in factories, municipalities, and school boards, to mention only the main sources.

Question 5: Must I include ancestors from France in my title of ancestry?

Answer 5: Why mingle European and American generations? In my opinion you should not hesitate to:

- cut the umbilical cord between France and North America with regard to marriages, because it is sometimes difficult to establish links between French ancestors and their Canadian descendants;
- assign the number one to your first-generation Canadian ancestor. You can always include the French generations but number them one, two, etc., in reverse order reaching back to the Middle Ages. Neither birth and baptismal dates nor those of marriages and interments were obligatory in France before the fourteenth century. In addition, a number of parish registers



† Décès

Deaths †

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
Claude Côté (époux de Suzanne Mercier)	98-03-05	Québec, QC
Lucille Mercier Robbins	98-01-04	Beloil, QC
Aline Mercier ¹	98-04-30	Montréal, QC
Yvette Mercier St-Pierre	98-04-08	Loretteville, QC
Marie-Ange Labrecque Mercier	98-04-25	Québec, QC
Jacques Baribeau (époux de Louise Mercier)	98-05-16	Stadacona, QC
Raymond Mercier	98-05-21	Ancienne-Lorette, QC
Marie-Ange Mercier	98-05-22	St-Fabien-de-Panet, QC
Claude Mercier	98-07-15	Charlesbourg, QC
Noël Yvon Fortin (époux de Rita Mercier)	98-07-18	Charlesbourg, QC
Jeannine Mercier Slythe	98-07-24	Sainte-Foy, QC

¹ Fille de Napoléon Mercier et de Éva Duval, soeur de Yvette Mercier-Roy

Responsable : Isabelle Mercier Dufour



were destroyed in the wars of religion between Catholics and Protestants in the sixteenth century as well as during the French Revolution in 1789 and in the years that followed.

Question 6: Why are each ancestor's forenames not shown in full in the title of ancestry?

Answer 6: Most authors of family reference sources use a single forename to designate the masculine and feminine members of a parental couple. In many cases the compound forenames became simple ones in Québec. That is not all. Until recently many people changed their forenames during their lifetime in order to satisfy the wishes of parents, a schoolmistress, or a spouse. Since there was really no incorrect way to write proper names, people spelled their names as they pleased. What is important is to recognize ancestors under their real names. I

established the title of ancestry of a Mercier whose third-generation ancestor had signed official documents under three different names. The religious forenames Joseph and Marie are generally dropped unless they are linked by a hyphen and form part of a compound forename.

Question 7: What is your lineage?

Answer 7: I am descended, in the tenth North American generation, from the ancestral couple Jullien Mercier and Marie Poulain, and my lineage is that of Paschal and of Anne Cloutier. My extended title of Mercier ancestry is to be found on pages 118 to 133 of my volume *Mercier depuis des siècles* (1987). It is possible to identify three generations of my ancestors in France.

Ernest Mercier

PUBLICATIONS CANADIENNES

CONTRAT: 94676

PUBLIÉ PAR:

*L'Association des Mercier
d'Amérique du nord*

ÉDITÉ PAR:

*La Fédération des familles-
souches québécoises Inc.*

C.P. 6700

Sillery, Québec

Canada G1T 2W2

PRIÈRE DE LIVRER À -
PLEASE DELIVER TO:



Port de retour garanti

Réunion annuelle — MERCIER — Annual reunion

Date : Le samedi 26 septembre 1998 / Saturday, September 26
Heure / Hour 10 h
Lieu / Place : Allan's Corner
Adresse / Address : Route 138, Bataille-de-la-Châteauguay
2371, chemin de la Rivière, Châteauguay Nord
Parc / Park : Howick, Québec, Canada

Inscription¹

Coût / coût : 22 \$ par adulte / par adult
Reservation : Coupon-réponse / Reply coupon
(à l'intérieur) (Inside)

Date limite / Deadline : 15 septembre / september 15

Responsable / Responsible : Pierre-Paul Mercier
(514) 671-1455

¹ Le coût d'inscription inclut: l'entrée, le buffet, le film, la visite guidée, les taxes et les pourboires.

The registration cost includes: the admission, buffet, film, guided visit, taxes and tips.

Pas de coût d'inscription pour les enfants de moins de six ans. La moitié du coût pour les enfants de 6 à 12 ans.

No registration cost for children below 6 years. Half of the cost for those aged between 6 and 12 years.