

# Le Mercien

# La voix des Mercier d'Amérique

The voice of the Merciers of North America

### From the President

During the last meeting of the board of directors November 18, I was elected President for a second term. In accepting this honor, I repeated my commitment to stabilize the Assocaition on a sound financial position.

Recruiting new members is always important and interesting; however, retaining our membership base is essential, and we have undertaken a special operation aimed at those who have not renewed their annual membership in recent years.

We once numbered over 1 000 members, and there is no reason why we could not reach that level again from our current number of 275.

A first effort by Benoît, our accountant, with members who had not renewed their membership since 1999 has proved to be successful and encouraging. We will now reach those who have not renewed since 1998. We will go to previous years, hoping that there have not been too many address changes.

You might know some of the members who have let their membership lapse, there might even be some in your family. Do not hesitate to invite them to hookup again to the Association. We need the largest possible number of Merciers and their relatives.

(following on page 11)

Rural residence of Aline Maheux and Richard Genest at Saint-Damien-de-Buckland, Bellechasse.

That ancient restored house was owned by the Jean Mercier and Agnès Durebois couple from 1880 to 1902 (Détails on pages 3 et 4) (Photo taken by owners at Christmas time 1997)



Le bulletin de liaison de l'Association des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord The AMAN's Newsletter

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Armoiries des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord déposées par Jean-Paul Gélinas, Mgr en 1986

Armoiries des Mercier d'Angleterre déposées au **Burke Memorial Armory** de Londres vers le début du 15e siècle



Armoiries d'Ernest Mercier déposées en 1954 par l'institut généalogique Drouin

| Name                | Occupation     | Residence  | Admission |
|---------------------|----------------|------------|-----------|
| Ernest Mercier      | Management     | Québec     | 1999      |
| Pierre-Paul Mercier | Administration | St-Lambert | 2000      |
| Alain Mercier       | Communication  | Sillery    | 2000      |
| Charles Mercier     | Engineering    | québec     | 2000      |
| Christine Mercier   | Education      | Québec     | 2000      |
| Louis Mercier       | Actuary        | St-Bruno   | 2000      |
| Pierre Mercier      | Engineering    | St-Bruno   | 2000      |
| Suzanne Mercier     | Commerce       | Montréal   | 2000      |

| e              |
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| Le Mercien - Seasonal deadlines |        |            |
|---------------------------------|--------|------------|
| Number                          | Season | Deadline   |
| 1                               | Spring | Feb 1st    |
| 2                               | Summer | May 1st    |
| 3                               | Autumn | August 1st |
| 4                               | Winter | Oct 1st    |

#### Summary

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# Messages

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

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

Membership fees:

Yearly: 25 \$ Life (65 years and over): 250\$

Life (less than 65 years): 400 \$

Commander: 1 000 \$

Outside Canada, fees are to be paid in American dollars.

AMAN

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### **Editorial**

### **Rural Patrimony**

Since I retired as high civil servant of the Quebec and Canada governments in 1979, I made several studies on my rural background in North America and Western Europe. During my numerous investigations on the *Côte-de-Beau-pré* and the *Côte-du-Sud*, I have walked on the footprints of my ancestors of the nine generations wich preceded mine (the 10th), established rural roots and left descendants in North America. These walkings around have enabled me to establish physical links between the land, and the Mercier Folks and related who cleared the land and cultivated the fields during the last ten generations.

### **Touring the sites**

On July the 21<sup>st</sup> 2000, I rented a bus and made a one-day tour on the Côte-du-Sud with my wife, Marcelle Normand, our six children, 12 grand children and their escorts.

The main purpose of that tour was to have our immediate descendants know the lower St. Lawrence valley geography and the first foothills of the Appalachian (*Monts-Notre-Dame*); the seigneuries and townships; the main routes and roads; namely *Le Chemin des Anglais, le chemin Taché and the great Route-des-Montagnes*; the Canado-american Border; the parishes, municipalities and ranges; the lands and houses where the Merciers' ancestors and related of the six generations anterior to mine have worked as country builders. A similar one-day tour in the Eastern section of the *Côte-du-Sud* where Marcelle's ancestors worked in the Kamouraska region is planned for the Spring 2001.

# Family history

That tour of the western section of the *Côte-du-Sud* last summer preceded the hand out of the extended patrilieal Mercier ancestry title that I have decided to leave to my descendants of the second and third generations. Marcelle has

already given the history of her Normand ancestors to our six chilfren. That ancestry title which encompasses some 500 pages and is copiously illustrated, includes three parts.

The first part deals with AMAN (Association of the Merciers of North America) and the origin of the Mercier family name in Western Europe.

The second part describes the content of a family register including basic date: dates of birth, death, and marriage or entry to a religious order —when available—for each american generation anterior to mine.

The third part encompasses chapters of the family patrimony of my parents Mercier / Dion; my paternal and maternal grand parents; my training, career, accomplishments and personal convictions; my voluntary work as well as a chapter on Marcelle's contribution to the development of our descendants in the province of Québec and Canada.

That ancestry title is not a personal biography of Ernest and Marcelle. It is a written document transmitting parental accomplishments and establishing communication lines between past, actual and future generations.

#### Conclusion

To readers who may wonder about the cost of establishing these communicating passages between generations, the authors say that financial, physical and sentimental efforts are considered small by parents who want to transmit, orally and by written texts to their close descendants the facts and movements of those country builders of whom our fore fathers were in North America.

It is in rural areas that these restored jewels of our **family**, **ecclesial** and **civil** patrimonies built by our ancestors are found. Let us admire the country builders and save these architectural jewels for future generations.

**Ernest Mercier** 

# Architectural Patrimony

The subsistence farm of my paternal grand-parents Merciers in Saint-Damien-de-Buckland was owned by Jean Mercier and Agnès Durebois when the cadastral register of the Saint-Lazare-de-Bellechasse parish was put into action in 1880. Owners have changed several times since. The actual owners of the house are Aline Maheux and Richard Genest of Lévis, QC. They have restored my grand parents Merciers' house and made it their rural residence where they spend their holidays and weekends, during every season of the yerar, since 1976.

### The St. Lazare and St. Damien parishes

The St. Lazare parish was separated from that of St. Gervais in 1849. The former includes the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> concessions of *La Livaudière Seigneury and part of the Buckland township* (Source: *Des Cadiens... aux Gervaisiens*, 1780-1980, pages 72 et 76).

The vast St. Gervais parish, founded in 1780, has given birth to the following parishes: Ste. Claire (1824), St. Anselme (1831), St. Raphaël (1851),

St. Lazare (1849), St. Nérée (1883) and Honfleur (1903).

The parish of Saint-Damien-de-Buckland, founded in 1882, included a part of the St. Lazare parish erected in 1849. This is the reason why my grand father Jean's ancestral house is located nowadays in the 8<sup>th</sup> range of the St. Lazare cadastral register but in the parish of Saint-Damien-de-Buckland.

The following photos show the main stages of the Mercier / Durebois house restoration. Except the two skylights on the south side of the roof and the chimney on the west side of the house, there are few structural modifications which have been made during the last 25 years. The house walls made of squared softwood logs have been covered on the outside to isolate the house and stop the costly painting works.

The owners have laid out several yard improvments (double garage, wood shed, yard lamp, surface well for lawn and flowerbeds irrigation, trees and lawn) which improve the old house look.



South-western view of the yard (Photo Paul-Émile Mercier, 1998)

# The Mercier / Durebois house restored by the actual owners Aline Maheux and Richard Genest

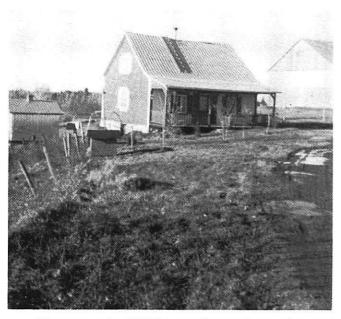


Photo a: In 1976, southwestern view

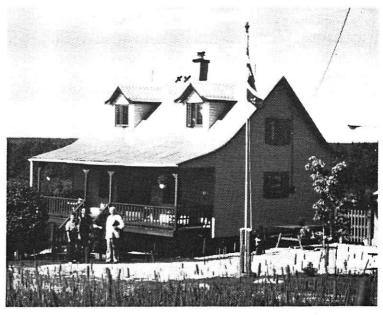


Photo b: In 1986, southeastern view

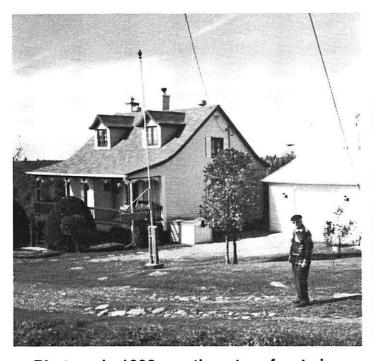


Photo c: In 1998, southeastern front view



Photo d: In 1998, northside rear view

My son-in-law, Jacky Morrow from Quebec, has taken the photo b in 1986. Photos dated in 1998 were taken by Paul-Émile Mercier from Charlesbourg, QC.

# Family Patrimony

# Descendants of Joseph Mercier and Vitaline Lejeune (1910-2000)

On the first and second of July 2000, some 150 descendants and related of the above mentioned couple celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of the Mercier ancester of the ninth generation in North America, married at St. Magloire, Bellechasse County, Québec, Canada.

The organizers of that gathering were Jean-Marc Mercier (11<sup>th</sup> generation) and his wife Lauréanne Brochu. They got the idea during the 1988 trip to France organized by the first president and founder Ernest Mercier. Here is Jean-Marc statement regarding that decision.

"During the first trip to France, — the native land of Julien — my wife and I got the idea to write the history of our family and prepare a celebration gathering. My dream came to a reality on the first of July 2000. We were 154 descendants including those who joined the family since 1935.



Jean-Marc Mercier and Lauréanne Brochu



Joseph Mercier and Vitaline Lejeune in 1910

"Here are some details concerning the family reunion.

- ◆ 13 h 30 People gathering in front of the local church
- ◆ 14 h Mass celebrated and presided by father Réal Lapointe (related cousin with three families).
- Word of wellcome by the president of the steering committee, Jean-Marc Mercier who presented his book entitled: Vitaline Lejeune et Joseph Mercier, 1910 à 2000 - Ancêtres et descendants.
- Hommage paid by Aurore Mercier, the only surviving daughter of the 10<sup>th</sup> generation.
- Each family—seven of them—presented offerings at the offertory time.
- After the mass, a visit to the cemetery and prayers on the grand parents' grave.
- Then reception at the Parish Hall followed by an evening program with orchestra. On sunday, a brunch at the same place; distribution of the book and chattings to cousins of all ages and both sexes."

"Here is the list of Joseph Mercier and Vitaline Lejeune's children. Six of them have generated 200 descendants of whom 175 are living. Only Aurore (78 years) and Gérald (76 years) are living and residing at St. Magloire.

"Six generations have resided at St. Magloire: Joseph, Pierre, Joseph, Pierre, Joseph, Rosario, Lucette and Simon."

### 10th generation:

### Children of Joseph Mercier and Vitaline Lejeune

| First name    | Date of marriage | Spouse               | Place                        |
|---------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Adrienne      | 1936-07-04       | Georges Ménard       | St-Magloire                  |
| Rosario       | 1935-08-19       | Marie-Laure Ménaro   | d St-Magloire                |
| Raymond       | 1937-08-31       | Évelyne Maurice      | St-Magloire                  |
| Germaine      | 1936-07-04       | Albert Dupont        | St-Magloire                  |
| Léonard       | 1940-06-25       | Juliette Ménard      | St-Magloire                  |
| Aurore        | 1942-12-28       | Louis Lapointe       | St-Magloire                  |
| Gérald        | Bachelor         |                      |                              |
|               |                  | Deaths of children - | age at death                 |
| Lucien        |                  |                      | <ul> <li>3 months</li> </ul> |
| Alphonse      |                  |                      | <ul> <li>9 months</li> </ul> |
| Blanche-Alice |                  |                      | - 16 months                  |
| Blandine      |                  |                      | <ul> <li>3 months</li> </ul> |

Jean-Marc and Lauréanne have set up a celebration steering committee of which members appear on the photo below



Celebration steering Committee:

From left to right: Gilles Mercier (Raymond), Gilmond Mercier (Léonard), Marcienne Ménard (Adrienne), Ginette Lapointe (Aurore), Laurice Mercier (Rosario), Lucette Mercier (Rosario), Jean-Marc Mercier (Rosario), Bibiane Dupont (Germaine Mercier), Louise Lapointe (Aurore), Fernand Lamarre (Bibiane's spouse).



Participants Photo taken in front of the St. Magloire's Church On the first row are found from the left to right:

Miville (Rosario), Georges Ménard (Adrienne Mercier's spouse), Louis Lapointe and Aurore Mercier (only daughter living); Germain Dupont (son of Germaine Mercier) representing grand father Joseph; Lucette Mercier (Rosario's daughter) representing grand mother Vitaline; Réal Lapointe (celebrant); Gérald Mercier (only living son), Évelyne Maurice (Raymond Mercier's wife), and behind Aurore Mercier in the second row, Marie-Laure Ménard (Rosario Mercier's wife) and the other members of the nice and large Mercier / Lejeune's family

At the occasion of the year 2000 gathering, Jean-Marc has published a book on the descendance of the Mercier / Lejeune couple. That book, prefaced by the AMAN First President and founder Ernest, is copiously illustrated and encompasses the basic data proper to each descendant of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation.

Those who are interested may buy the above mentioned book, sold at 40 \$, at the author's residence: 43 de Rotterdam,

Laval, QC, H7M 1L5; téléphone 1-450-667-6491.

The AMAN administrators and members congratulate Jean-Marc and Lauréanne Brochu for their initiative and success regarding the development of their family patrimony. They invite other members of our young family Association to follow their example and present their findings for publication in *Le Mercien*.

The Management

Reproduced on page 9 gives for each one of the 10 north american generations anterior to that of Jean-Marc (11th) the initiator of the festivities and author of the volume Vitaline Lejeune et Joseph Mercier (1910 à 2000).

# AscENDANTS

de/of

# Jean-Marc Mercier

Mère/Mother Date et lieu de mariage/ Date and place of marriage Père/Father en France/ in France Thiennette Le Blond Jehan Mercier I 1557-06-20 - Tourouvre, Perche, France Jehanne Brisson Marin Mercier II 1571-12-09 - Tourouvre, Perche, France Roberte Cornillau François Mercier III 1605- ?-? - Tourouvre Perche, France en Amérique du Nord / In North America Marie Poulin Iullien Mercier 1654-01-18 - Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, Québec, Canada Anne Cloutier Paschal Mercier II 1681-11-11 - Château-Richer, Québec M. Madeleine Gagné Pierre Mercier 1711-01-19 - Contrat Jacob M. Louise Tremblay Pierre Mercier IV 1744-11-09 - Saint-Vallier, Québec Marguerite Gagnon Joseph Mercier 1783-01-28 - Saint-Michel, Québec Joseph Mercier Rosalie Roy 1823-10-15 - Saint-Michel, Québec Marguerite Rouleau Joseph Mercier VII 1849-11-26 - Saint-Claire, Québec Delvina Lacasse Pierre Mercier VIII 1886-06-30 - Saint-Magloire, Québec Vitaline Lejeune Joseph Mercier IX 1910-06-26 - Saint-Magloire, Québec M. Laure Ménard Rosario Mercier 1935-08-19 - Saint-Magloire, Québec Lauréanne Brochu **Iean-Marc Mercier** XI 1960-07-23 - Sainte-Magloire, Québec

Compilé par/Compiled by Paul-Eugène Blais, Ernest Mercier et/and Jean-Marc Mercier Authentifié par / Certified by \_\_\_\_\_\_ à/in Québec, 2000-11-29

# Careers Women in power



Martine Mercier, elected on the UPA Executive Council in 1999.

La Terre de chez nous, semaine du 1er au 7 juin 2000, page 42

"Martine Mercier is the second women sitting on the Executive Committee of the UPA (Union des producteurs agricoles) during the first 75-year history of one of the most powerfull Farmers' Union in the word.

"Elected in december 1999 to the UPA Executive Council, Martine Mercier, owner of a 10 000-laying - hen farm at St. Alexis, QC, wear also two other hats, as being the first woman to be President of the incubating-egg producers Union in the Quebec province. She also is the first woman to become president of the Office of Meat Chicken Producers in five provinces.

"I have chosen to have nursery helpers says that mother of two children who, very early in life, has been initiated to agricultural syndicalism by her father. Involved to the neck in the UPA and also in the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Mrs. Mercier, in spite of difficult choices, has incubated the agricultural vocation to her son. The latter, registered in the Joliette Cégep, will take over the family farm.

Nicolas Mesly

### Recruting MERCIERS and related in AMAN

| I, undersignered, wish to help AMAN in becoming:   |                   |     |
|--|-------------------|-----|
| □ regular member and pay 25 \$ by year   | Name              |     |
| ☐ life member and pay ☐ 250 \$ (for people over 65 years of age) ☐ 400 \$ (for people below 65 years of age)                         | Address           |     |
| ☐ 400 \$ (for people below 65 years of age) ☐ sustaining member (commander) and pay:   | City              |     |
| <ul><li>one single amount of 1 000 \$</li><li>two annual amounts of 500 \$ each</li><li>five annual amounts of 200 \$ each</li></ul> | Zip (postal) Code |     |
| □ sponsor  | Telephone         | Fax |

| 🕆 Décès   |                     | <b>Deaths</b> ♀              |  |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 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              |  |
| Jeannette Mercier Mailly  | 2000-09-25          | Beauport, QC                 |  |
| Marie-Rose Roy-Mercier  | 2000-10-07          | Ste-Euphémie, QC             |  |
| Marguerite Mercier Dufour   | 2000-10-07          | Beauport, QC                 |  |
| Irène Soucy Mercier   | 2000-10-10          | Ste-Foy, QC                  |  |
| Hélène Carbonneau Mercier   | 2000-10-11          | Lévis, QC                    |  |
| Madeleine Mercier   | 2000-10-12          | Beaupré, QC                  |  |
| Gabriel Mercier   | 2000-10-14          | Ste-Agathe-de-Lotbinière, QC |  |
| Paul Mercier  | 2000-10-28          | Lévis, QC                    |  |
| Gertrude Mercier St-Laurent   | 2000-11-11          | Québec, QC                   |  |
| Gilberte Cloutier-Mercier   | 2000-11-19          | Château Richer, QC           |  |
| Responsable : Isabelle Mercier Dufour   |                     |                              |  |

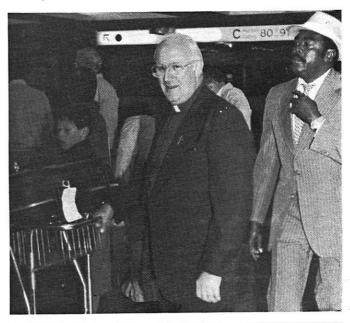
# Career in religious Order Father Bruno Mercier, C.S.S.R.

Father Bruno Mercier, C.S.S.R. is son of Léonidas and Rosalia Talbot.

On September 25, 1985, he left for missionary work in Port-au-Prince, Haïti Capitale.

On October 14, 2000, he celebrated his golden sacerdotal Jubilee at St. Isidore-de-Clifton, his native village, in the Eastern Townships. He returned to Haïti on last November the fifth.

He is the brother of Sister Marie Mercier, F.C.S.C.J., of Gracia Mercier-Vaillancourt (Philippe), of Sister Jeannette Mercier, F.C.S.C.J., of Sister Marguerite Mercier, F.C.S.C.J. and of Sister Lucienne Mercier, S.J.S.H.



### (Continuing from page 1: From the President)

The next meeting of members of the Assocaition will take place in Quebec City and will spread over two days: August 25 and 26, 2001.

This decision resulted from a wish expressed by many members interested in devoting more time to meet other Mercier families.

A ten year period between two gatherings is too long, and the Quebec City area is a site of choice: it is the cradle of New France and that of our Association.

Plans are already underway under the chairmanship of Jean-Guy from Saint-Foy and his steering committee is already at work. More information will be available in the next issue of *Le Mercien*.

With Christmas and the new year approaching, the Association extends its best wishes of health, happiness and prosperity to all its members and their families.

Pierre-Paul Mercier, C.A., Adm. A.

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