



Le Mercien

La voix des Mercier d'Amérique

The voice of the Merciers of North America

From the president

I hope that your family gatherings during the holiday season have been an occasion to rejoice and lay the ground work for a happy new year.

The family is the nucleus of our society around which our activities revolve.

Our Association encourages such family reunions and gatherings and offers you to delegate one or two members of the board to share with you the pleasure of your meetings. We would be happy to be informed and invited to participate.

As the president, I would make it my duty and my pleasure to attend.

Such reunions should be the occasion to recruit new members. This is vital for our association.

The next annual meeting of the Association members will take place in the Quebec City area on August 25 and 26, 2001.

The program will cover two days, Saturday and Sunday, and It will include a visit to various historical monuments of the area.

The detailed program will be published in the next issue of *Le Mercien*.

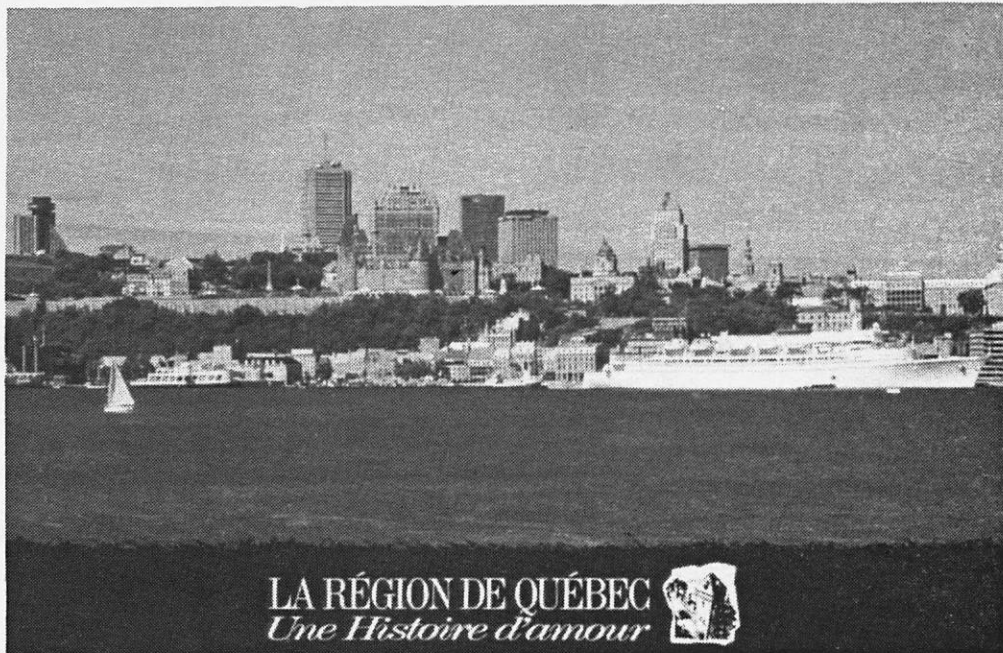
Please note those dates in your diary.
See you again soon.

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

Québec profile

Other details at page 8

Photo Yves Tessier-Tessinga
(Office du tourisme et des congrès de la Communauté urbaine de Québec)



LA RÉGION DE QUÉBEC
Une Histoire d'amour



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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, QC	1999
Pierre-Paul Mercier	Administration	St-Lambert, QC	2000
Alain Mercier	Communication	Sillery, QC	2000
Charles Mercier	Engineering	Québec, QC	2000
Christine Mercier	Education	Québec, QC	2000
Louis Mercier	Actuary	St-Bruno, QC	2000
Pierre Mercier	Engineering	St-Bruno, QC	2000
Suzanne Mercier	Commerce	Montréal, QC	2000
Lucienne M.-Croteau	Education	Bonnyville, AB	2001

Le Mercien - Seasonal deadlines		
Number	Season	Deadline
1	Spring	February 1 st
2	Summer	May 1 st
3	Autumn	August 1 st
4	Winter	October 1 st

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Messages

In order to hasten communications with the management,
please contact directly the members in charge of the AMAN
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 \$

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

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Association des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord
Site Address : genealogie.org/famille/Mercier
Courriel : preville@qc.aira.com

Editorial

In the editorial of this first number (Spring) of the 17th volume of the AMAN liaison bulletin, *Le Mercien*, the board of administrators invite voluntary people to accomplish tasks that are considered essential to the survival of our young family association. These tasks can be grouped under three main headings : **Up-to-date Index, Connection with relatives and Family history.**

Up-to-date Index

The up-to-date Index is simply the list — maintained to date, by alphabetical order under general headings — of topics discussed in a publication with references to the volume, number and page permitting to retrace them rapidly.

To date, Mrs. Dolorès Morin, helped by her mother, Mrs. M.-Reine Mercier / Morin, has listed and classified subjects discussed in *Le Mercien* since its first number in 1984. Data gathered are in a hand-written document. They have to be entered in the computer. As Mrs. Morin maintains she has not the desired dexterity to rapidly accomplish that task, she is looking for other voluntary helpers.

She is ready to pass to helpers her handwritten document and to advise them, if required, in fulfilling the second part of that important accomplishment. Her telephone number is (418) 831-2319.

The AMAN administrators sincerely thank Mrs. Morin for having realized the first part of their ambitious project to index all articles published to date by the family association in *Le Mercien*. They appeal to new voluntary members in order to computerize data and maintain the index to date. If you are ready to do voluntary work, please let the administrators know about it. Thank you in anticipation for your help.

Connection with relatives

Considering the relatively low performance of the AMAN regional committees in matter of recruiting new and reintroducing ancient members in our young family association, the administrators have decided to ask every full-fledged member to make a special effort to recruit new members among their relatives and the Merciers of the local community.

The modification in the recruiting procedure, applied by authors of books and articles on the descendants of a remarkable ancestor, seems to be proved more efficient than the connection on the local community.

The two ways of recruiting do not exclude each other but the connection on the relatives seems to give better results. Why not try it?

The AMAN administrators think of officialy recognize voluntary Merciers and related, who succeed in recruiting several new members, by delivering them a diploma or mentioning their name in *Le Mercien*.

Family history

The liaison bulletin Committee make an appeal to members who know the history of Mercier or related women who have marked the history of their local community. We must tell in written words, for the benefit of *Le Mercien's* readers, all says and moves of these family mothers who have contributed, in a silent but how admirable way, to build the country: Canada, Québec, and the parish municipality where they have lived their important contribution.

The contribution of members and related to the improvement of the liaison bulletin is highly appreciated. Let us help the committee in charge of *Le Mercien* to better develop the **family society** and document its history at the **local, regional, provincial, national (canadian) and international** levels.

Ernest Mercier

Agricultural Patrimony Harsh Living Conditions

The first Mercier to have come from Europe to settle in New-France was Julien who landed on August 6, 1647.

He was one of very few settlers at that time and a brief review of history helps in appreciating living conditions.

Even if Samuel de Champlain was given the mission to establish a permanent community of 'residents', the most important activity still remained fur trading with aboriginals.

Efforts at establishing a first settlement were paved with obstacles.

In 1608, efforts towards a first settlement of 'residents' were credited to Samuel de Champlain, and for that reason he deserves the title of founder of New-France.

Between 1608 and 1627, barely two hundred people came from France, but most of them had

returned. At no time was there more than 80 French settlers who hibernated in Quebec City.

In 1628, the first important contingent of some four hundred people came aboard five vessels. They were intercepted in the St-Lawrence River by an English fleet under the command of the Kirk brothers and returned to France.

From 1629 to 1632, Quebec City lived under British rule for the first time. During that period, some one hundred soldiers occupied Quebec City and only twenty-three French settlers remained. Their names are well recorded in documents of that time. The table of population movements between 1608 and 1631 speaks for itself. Twenty years after the arrival of the first French settlers, their number was smaller than at the beginning.

In 1632, through the Saint-Germain-en-Laye peace treaty, the Quebec territory was given back to France and settlement efforts started again.



Welcome to ancient members

List of ancient members recently reintroduced in AMAN

Name	Number	Address
Charlotte Mercier	1276	Shipshaw, QC
Alfred Mercier	602	Sherbrooke, QC
Sylvie Mercier	1367	Loretteville, QC
Francine M. Lecuc	1348	Ville Mont-Royal, QC
Carmelle Mercier	1271	Notre-Dame Montauban, QC
Yvon Mercier	1359	Ville St-Laurent, QC
André Mercier	1214	Sherbrooke, QC

If you know anyone of these former members reintegrated in our family association, please do not hesitate to congratulate them for their solidarity gesture. Why not invite them to prepare a short article on the realizations of their Mercier ancestors in the fields of **Family Society, Ecclesial Society or Civil Society.**

The ***Le Mercien*** Committee will publish these revealing facts about the contry builders in North America.

***The
Management***

On April 18 of the same year, a vessel leaving Honfleur brought Emery de Caën, some forty men, and three Jesuit priests from France. They arrived on July 5th.

In 1633, Samuel de Champlain sailed from Dieppe on March 23rd and arrived in Quebec City on May 22nd with some 200 men on board of three vessels : the *St-Pierre*, the *St-Jean* and the *Don de Dieu*.

In 1634, Robert Giffard departed from Perche and arrived in Quebec City on June 4th accompanied by 20 people, in an effort to stimulate the settlement project.

On July 4th of the same year, aboriginals requested Champlain to establish a permanent fur trading post in the Trois-Rivieres area. He agreed and delegated Laviolette to take charge of an expedition including settlers from Quebec.

Meanwhile in France, the idea of a settlement in the Montreal area took shape gradually. In 1641,

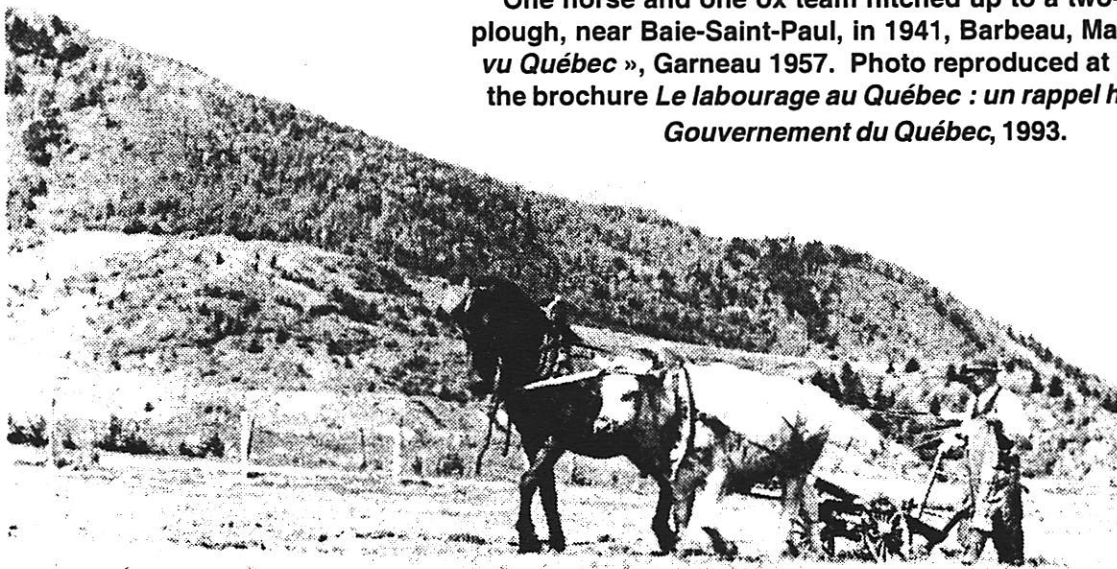
Paul Chomedey, Sieur de Maisonneuve, then 28 years old, agreed to command such an expedition. During the Spring of that year, he headed for La Rochelle, where he would depart for New-France. Due to a series of unfortunate circumstances, the last of three vessels under his command reached Quebec City at the end of September, and it was too late in the season to head Montreal. They hibernated in Quebec until the next Spring.

As soon as the ice had cleared from the St-Lawrence River, de Maisonneuve departed for Montreal and arrived nine days later on May 17, 1642. The two sailboats arrived in Montreal carrying the future inhabitants of Ville-Marie, Governor Montmagny, Jesuits fathers and Mme de la Peltrie.

This was the kind of environment that prevailed when **Julien Mercier** decided to leave France and become a settler in New-France. When he signed his contract to come over, on February 25th, 1647, on the eve of his twenty-sixth birthday, barely one thousand persons had preceded him



One horse and one ox team hitched up to a two-wheeled plough, near Baie-Saint-Paul, in 1941, Barbeau, Marius. « *J'ai vu Québec* », Garneau 1957. Photo reproduced at page 18 of the brochure *Le labourage au Québec : un rappel historique*, Gouvernement du Québec, 1993.



and they had settled in Quebec City, Trois-Rivieres and Montreal.

Once arrived, Julien had to face an hostile climate and very basic living conditions. In addition, their lives were treathened by repeated attacks from Iroquois Indians.

In fact, in the Spring of 1661 two of Marie Poulin's brothers named Pascal and Rene, then aged 16 and 10, dispeared mysteriously along with Louis Gaumont and Louis Gagné. They had been most likely abducted by hostile Indian tribes. They were never heard from and were feared dead.

The first settlers had concluded fur trading alliances with several aboriginal tribes : Hurons, Algonquins, Abenauquis, etc. However the Iroquois were often at war against those tribes, and the French settlers came to be seen as their enemies as well.



Using horses in lumbering operations in Canada

Horses have been used for a long time to haul logs in trails when practicing selective tree cutting in forest.

These adverses relations developped during the 1640s and deteriorated to a point where the thought of repatriating everyone to France was seriously considered around 1650.

The King of France then decided to send the Carignan-Sallieres Regiment formed of one thousand well equipped and properly trained soldiers to secure the new colony.

Following their arrival, a serie of forts were built along the St-Lawrence and Richelieu rivers, in an effort to push the Iroquois back in their territories. Peace come only in 1667.

Meanwhile, it is only on July 16, 1665, that a first contingent of twelve horses arrived in Quebec City. One can imagine the kind of harsh conditions that must have prevailed for the clearing and the cultivation of the land. Aboriginals were amazed that those '*Mooses from France*' were so domesticated.

Meanwhile, Louis the XIVth became King of France in 1663 and appointed Talon in 1665 as superintendant of New-France. Under his leadership, the settlement effort was revitalized.

Pierre-Paul Mercier

Modification to the ancestry title of Jean-Marc Mercier published in the last issue of the liaison bulletin (Volume 16, number 1, page 9)

At the fourth (IV) generation, one must read M. Louise Tanguay instead of Tremblay. All your excuses.

The Management

Population Movement in New-France from 1608 to 1631

Year	Arrivals	Births	Death	Depart.	Hibern. in French	Québec English	With Hurons
1608	31			3	25		
1609			17		8		
1610	11			1	17		1
1611			1		16		1
1612					16		1
1613	31				47		1
1614					47		1
1615	5				32		21
1616	33		2	3	60		21
1617	7		2	1	64		21
1618	8		1	3	66		23
1619	13	1	3		77		23
1620	6		1	22	60		23
1621	24	1	1	5	79		23
1622	6			42	50		16
1623	2			42	50		16
1624	6	1	2	1	56		10
1625	6	1	2	1	56		10
1626	27	1	1	12	71		10
1627	2	1	4	4	55		21
1628					55		21
1629	600	1	1	633	22	90	21
1630			14	5	10	76	14
1631		1			11	76	14

In 1629, Kirk invaded Quebec with a fleet of 5 vessels carrying 600 men.

Of that contingent, 90 remained to occupy the settlement. Fourteen of them died during the following year.

The names of the twenty or so French settlers who remained in 1629 are well identified.

They are : Guillaume Couillard, his spouse and 3 children, Abraham Martin, Marguerite Langlois, his spouse and their 3 children, Guillaume Hubou and Marie Rollet (widow of Louis Hébert) his spouse, Guillaume Hebert, son of the late Louis Hébert, Pivert and his spouse, Marguerite Lesage, a niece and a young man, Adrien Duchesne, surgeon, Pierre Royer from Paris, Lebecq, carpenter, LeBailly, d'Amiens, clerk for Louis Kirk, English Governor.

(Source : Cyprien Tanguay, A Travers les Registres)

Note 1 : Arrival of large livestock

At the beginning of the 17th century, De Monts in Acadia (1604), and Champlain, in Québec (1608), imported « dual purpose cows » from France to supply milk for the family and draught animals to clear the land. At his death, on October the 18th 1676, Jullien Mercier left to his wife Marie Poulin : « four draughting oxen, four cows, a calf and eight pigs ». (Ernest Mercier (1987) *Mercier depuis des siècles*, page 75). In 1628, a group of cattle coming from France arrived to Quebec. The herd was placed in Mgr de Laval's farm at Cap Tourmente. The group contributed to the development of the Canadian breed of dairy cattle, which is still kept in a small number of farms in the province of Quebec.

Horses were used, after their arrival in New-France, to transport people and mail between the places and villages on the right and left sides of the St. Lawrence River; for brigade; for sleigh riding and forestry operations during winter. Again, at the beginning of the 20th century several subsistence farmers were ploughing with a horse and an ox team — I so did at the beginning of the 1930 decade — in order to save the cost of maintaining a second horse, of which the meat was not consumed because the horse « was too noble » contrary to the ox meat.

E. Mercier

Congratulations

For almost 25 years, the AMAN founder and first president, Ernest Mercier, is voluntary at the **Québec/Appalachian Section of the Québec Division of the Canadian Cancer Society**. He is advisor on food as preventing factor of cancer in human beings. At the end of a six-year term as member of the Board of administrators of the **Québec Division**, he was named honorary advisor at the annual meeting of the said division held at Sherbrooke, QC, on November the 25th, 2000. Congratulations.

The Management

The 2001 Mercier Reunion

Facts about the Québec gathering

We all want that the Merciers' gathering to be held on August 25 and 26 in Québec City be as successful as the Trois-Rivières meeting in 2000.

The **organizing Committee**, headed by Jean-Guy Mercier is busy on establishing the stages of the reunion of which the main lines follow.

Site : Near the traffic circle north of the Quebec Bridge

Date : Saturday and Sunday, the 25th and 26th of August 2001

Saturday Program (August 25)

- 9 h 30 Registration
- 10 h 30 Annual meeting of AMAN members and their invited friends
- 12 h 30 Buffet on the site
- 13 h 30 Bus tour in the Old-Québec
- 16 h 30 Return to the registration centre
- 18 h Dinner at participants expenses

Suggestion : Round trip to Lévis on the ferry boat — at participants expenses — to admire the Québec profile under night lighting or an excursion on the river including the dinner — at the participants expenses — aboard the Louis Joliet Boat.

Sunday program (August 26)

Historical Mercier pilgrimage — at participants expenses — on the Beaupré Coast.

Timetable : To be revized if the number of participants so desire. Suggestion.

- 9 h 30 Departure for Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré if the number of participants is large enough
- 10 h Stop at Maizerets where Jullien Mercier worked for three years in the Jesuit Seignory
- 11 h Mass for the Merciers at Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré
- 12 h Lunch in group
- 13 h 30 Glance at the Jullien's family monument, ancestral houses of Jullien and Marie Poulin as well as those of their sons in Ste-Anne and St-Joachim
- 16 h Return to Quebec

Note 1 : The participants would profit in travelling by bus in order to get all the tourist information and arrive on time to visit various historical spots. Bus services — at participants expenses — will be available if the number of participants is large enough. Please! register in advance!

Note 2 : Details concerning the programm as well as costs of registration, buffet, Old-Québec bus tour and, possibly, the bus trip to the Beaupré Coast will be given to you in the next issue of the liaison bulletin *Le Mercien* (Number 2, Summer 2001) should be delivered to you early next summer. Please, reserve these dates on your agenda and register on time to facilitate the task of the advisory organization Committee. Early in August, you will have to let know the Québec, Montréal or Sherbrooke representatives concerning your decision to attend, at your own expense:

- ▶ the events suggested for the saturday evening;
- ▶ the little Mercier sunday pilgrimage on the Beaupré Cost. Come in large number and, please, register on time.

The Management

Agricultural Patrimony

Place of the ancestral farm of Pierre Mercier known as Caudebec in Montmagny County

After long and intense investigations on the place of the original farm owned by Pierre Mercier and his heirs in the *La Rivière-du-Sud Seigneurie*, around 1700, time has come to precise the act location of the said land. Conclusions of recent investigations permit to write, without any doubt, the statements listed below.

Firstly, the land cleared by the ancestral couple Pierre Mercier said Caudebec (Codebec), his wife Andrée Martin, their son Alexandre and their daughter Agnès — in the vicinity of the interseigniorial limit fixed by the Québec supreme Council in 1700 — was standing on the south (right) shore of the St. Lawrence River and the North (left) shore of la *Rivière-du-Sud*. The line between the Berthier / Bellechasse and la *Rivière-du-Sud* seigneuries corresponded, at that time, more or less to the direction of the secondary highway 231 linking today the highway 132 to the transcanadian (Jean Lesage) Autoroute, number 20.

Secondly, the historians Robert Lavallée and Yves Hébert wrote in the little history of Berthier-sur-Mer (1672-1997) page 28, that the acreage — still visible of the seigniorial domain was six french arpents and half in width by 60 arpents in length. In modern measures, it means that the domain had some 1 250 english feet (about 380 meters) in with by 2, 3 english miles (or 3,3 kilometers) in length. Now, that depth approximately correspond to the section of the interseigniorial line between the St. Lawrence and the *Rivière-du-Sud* decreed by the Sovering Council in 1734, following the *François de Lamonille's* survey (page 21).

Thirdly, the land of Pierre Mercier said Caudebec and Andrée Martin has never been divided in two parts lenthwise as the couple had decided by notary act it would be in the forenoon of November

the 23rd, 1716 but croswise, according to the Catalogne Map published in 1709. That map, on which the southern part of the original land of Pierre Mercier is identified, takes into consideration the natural drainage of the soils of the two seigneuries which shed their waters either in *La-Rivière-du-Sud* or the St. Lawrence River. (See *Mercier depuis des siècles*, pages 175-190).

Fourthly, Alexandre Mercier and Marie Josephte Gaudin, his wife, have cultivated the southern portion of the family land located in the limits of the actual municipality of *Saint-Pierre-du-Sud*. Parents: Pierre Mercier and Andrée Martin, have farmed the northern portion located in the limits of the Montmagny municipality. The photo of Alexandre and Marie Josephte's house is reproduced on page 187 of my book *Mercier depuis des siècles* (1987). That residence has been demolished recently. The parternal house displaced at the beginning of the 20th century stands today at 914, Boulevard Taché, the official name of route 132 in the Montmagny municipality. It is actually the property of couple Michel Proulx and his spouse, of whom the telephone number is 418-248-2306 (see photos on page 10).

Rearrangement of the territory

Following the decree of the Sovering Council to rearrange the interseigniorial territory in 1734, the limits of the original land conceded to Pierre Mercier and Andrée Martin have been messed up from A to Z. At the middle of the 18th century, the northern part of the original land concession had the number 38 and later the number 243, including the tips 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249 and 250 of the reformed cadas-



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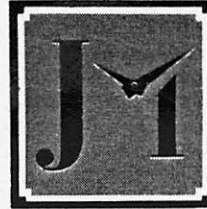
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