



Le Mercien

La voix des Mercier d'Amérique

The voice of the Merciers of North America



**Old Fort on Saint-Helen' Island
Montréal**

Info-AMAN

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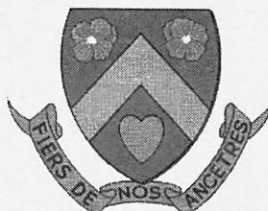
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Québec

Le Mercien - Seasonal deadlines		
Numéro	Season	Date limite
1	Spring	February 1 st
2	Summer	May 1 st
3	Autumn	August 1 st
4	Winter	Novembre 1 st

Summary

Info—AMAN	2
Editorial	3
Annual Meeting 2003	4
Addition to the Board of Directors	4
Old Fort on Saint-Helen's Island	5
Welcome to our New Members	6
History of Montreal	7
Pierre Mercier	10
Diamond Jubilee	11
The Great Recruit	12
Bravo Eric	15
Deaths	15
Sponsors	16

Honour roll AMAN's COMMANDERS



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 15^e siècle.



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

Nom	Occupation	Residence	Admission
Ernest Mercier			1999
Pierre-Paul Mercier	Administration	Saint-Lambert, QC	2000
Alain Mercier	Communication	Sillery, QC	2000
Charles Mercier	Engineering	Québec, QC	2000
Christine Mercier	Education	Québec, QC	2000
Louis Mercier	Actuary	Saint-Bruno, QC	2000
Pierre Mercier	Engineering	Saint-Bruno, QC	2000
Suzanne Mercier	Commerce	Montréal, QC	2000
Lucienne M.-Croteau	Education	Bonnyville	2001

Le Mercien Committee

Pierre-Paul Mercier, Saint-Lambert, president	(450) 671-1455
Claudine Mercier (genealogy)	(418) 527-3384
Isabelle Mercier, Sainte-Foy (events)	(418) 651-3839

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.

AMAN

C.P. 6700, succ. Sillery
Sainte-Foy (QC) Canada G1T 2W2

Association des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord

Site address: genealogie.org/famille/Mercier
Courriel: aman@videotron.ca

EDITORIAL

The time has come to plan attending our annual meeting which will take place in Montreal, on August 23 and 24.

Organizers have assembled a program of activities which will be of interest to participants of all ages. You will long remember the good times.

The program of Saturday takes place within the old fort of Saint-Helen's Island and will get underway by a fraternal meeting in the powder storage building where our statutory meeting will take place, followed by lunch.

It will also be the occasion for launching our video presentation "The arrival of Merciers in America" and also a series of five laminated mosaics depicting the places of origin of some Mercier in France. The narration is in French only for now.

The afternoon will be devoted to various activities. The firing of the gun at 13:00 hrs will be followed by military parades of the French Marine Corps and of the Olde 78th Fraser Highlanders in their colourful uniforms. There will be other demonstrations by people dressed in XVIIth century attire.

During all that time the two exhibitions of the museum will be at our disposal to visit as we see fit. There is the permanent exhibition devoted to history with artefacts of the XVIIth century and a special exhibition devoted to Josephine, the great love of Napoleon Bonaparte, who became empress of France.

To complete this wonderful day, we are invited to the "Governor's Feast" which takes place in one of the barracks of the fort.

This dinner event brings us back to the era when people sang and danced to celebrate happy events joyfully. All the major events and family anniversaries were an excuse to celebrate, often lasting over several days, and became occasions for musicians, singers and story tellers to compete

Live entertainers in period dress do the table service, sing and dance. The menu and utensils are inspired by the same period.

On Sunday, we meet at the Pointe-à-Calliere Museum located on the site where Montreal was founded to visit the exhibits.

We then cross over to the old port Montreal to visit the International Mosaicultures exhibits. 70 cities and organizations from 35 countries offer imaginary shapes of Major civilizations of this world, all sculpted with flowers, plants and shrubs. It is a unique sight

Nothing has been spared to make your visit most enjoyable and memorable. Even children will appreciate the activities planned for everyone, young and old.

I look forward to meeting you at Saint-Helen's island, on August 23.

Pierre-Paul Mercier

If you need hotel accommodation in Montreal

The most practical is the **Radisson Hotel**, located at the Longueuil subway station, on the South Shore.

Address: 999, de Serigny, Longueuil, QC, J4T 2T1

For reservations: telephone: **1-800-493-7303**

Rate: \$112. Per night, for two



Annual Meeting (2003) of the Members of AMAN

Notice of convocation

The members of the Association des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord Inc. are invited to the nineteenth annual general meeting which will be held on August 23, 2003, at the Stewart Museum, on the grounds of the Fort of Saint-Helen' Island in Montreal.

Jacques Mercier,
Secretary.

Agenda

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1- Opening of the meeting | 6- Appointment of an auditor |
| 2- Order of business | 7- Ratification of actions by the members of the board of directors |
| 3- Minutes of the last meeting | 8- Election of the directors |
| 4- Report by the president | 9- Other business |
| 5- Report by the treasurer | 10- Adjournment |

ADDITION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At their meeting of April 26, 2003, the board of directors approved the nomination of Lucie Mercier as a member of the board.

Lucie is the daughter of Gaston Mercier and of Lise Gauthier, of the Montreal area. The family descends from Julien Mercier and Marie Poulin, and then from the Pascal Mercier and Anne Cloutier branch.

Lucie has had a real estate career for the last 26 years, mainly as an independent broker. Her office is located in the borough of Saint-Lambert, in the new city of Longueuil, and she also lives in the same area.



She is married, a mother of two children and her daughter already gave her a grandson.

Lucie has long been involved in non-profit organizations. She has served on the fund raising committees of Notre-Dame Hospital in Montreal and of the Marcil Museum in Saint-Lambert. She has been president of Eveil Musical du Quebec and an administrator of other organizations.

She likes to travel, appreciate fine cuisine and fine wines, flowers, birds, music and theatre. We are pleased to greet her as a member of the board and benefit from her experience and her talent.

Le Mercien

OLD FORT ON SAINT-HELEN'S ISLAND

Since the 17th century, Saint-Helen's Island has been linked to military activities, both French and English

Looking back at the dates of key events will bring to life this magnificent site located in the middle of the Saint-Lawrence River between Montreal and the South Shore.

1611 Samuel de Champlain makes a note of the island in his diary and names it after his wife's name.

1676 Saint-Helen's Island is grouped with other concessions into the seigniorship of Longueuil.

1664 Saint-Helen's and the adjacent Round Islands are conceded to Charles Lemoyne, the father, and became part of the seigniorship of Longueuil.

1687 The island becomes an assembly point for the French. They organize expeditions against the hostile Iroquois living along the shores of the Saint-Lawrence River. Mr de Calliere, governor de Montreal, regrouped 832 soldiers, 800 militia men and 400 aboriginal people in preparation of an attack against the Iroquois.

1700 The seigniorship of Longueuil becomes a barony in favour of Charles Lemoyne, the son, for loyal services to the army of New-France. The famous Lemoyne family built a Summer manor close to the present Helene de Champlain restaurant.

1760 It is reported that Levis burnt the French regimental flags on Saint-Helen's Island to avoid rendering them to English troops.

1775 During the American invasion, Quebec Governor Guy Carlton assembled 1000

men to fight attackers coming from Longueuil.

1807 Two defence positions are built on the island at a time when political relations with the United States had deteriorated .

1817 Considered obsolete, fortifications of Montreal are demolished.

1818 The barony of Longueuil sells the island to the Imperial Government of London. The purpose is to establish a military base to protect Montreal which had become a turning point in water communications.

1820-1830 The Imperialist Government built military barracks and an ammunition depot. The island then becomes the central military ammunition depot for the portion of America West of Quebec City.

1830 The fort is used as a hospital during the cholera outbreak and is then converted into a military prison following the rebellion of 1837-38.

1870 The fort has never been used to fight back attacks from American troops. The British army is recalled back to England and the island is turned over to the government of Canada. A small garrison is kept on duty and the island is converted into a Summer military training camp.

1875 Part of the island is turned into a public park On Christmas eve,



a fire destroys the upper levels of the barracks. Only the bottom floor remained and it now used by the Governor's Feast, a replication of formal dinners held in centuries past.

1905 This is the end of the military role of the Island, as it became a municipal park. However it was used as an ammunition depot during the first world war (1914-1918).



1939 During the second world war, certain buildings were rehabilitated and they were used as a camp for prisoners of war, and then as a military prison.

1955-1977 La permission was granted to the Historic Society of Lake Saint-Louis to proceed with the renovation of a blockhaus and to install a small museum. Its founder was Mr David M. Stewart.

The museum is installed in some of the military barracks and in the small ammunition storage building. It is then known as the Military Museum of Montreal.

1977-1984 The museum then changed its name for Saint-Helen's Island Museum. While exhibiting the military history under the French and then the British regimes, the museum presented exhibits on various subjects of daily life and scientific applications.

1985 The continued to develop and changed its name to the David M. Stewart Museum, after its Founder.

Pierre-Paul Mercier

Translated from documents provided by the David M. Stewart Museum of Saint-Helen's Island.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

No	Name	Address
1454	Huguette Boutin-Couture	LaDurantaye, QC
1455	Madeleine Boutin	Ste-Foy, QC
1456	Anne-Marie Boutin-Bélangier	St-Hyacinthe, QC
1457	Marcelle Boutin-Maheux	Ste-Foy, QC
1458	Daniel J. Gilbert	Wetumpka, Alabama



HISTORY OF MONTREAL

Before the Founding

Imagine, thousands of years ago, an island completely forested and teeming with game, situated at the intersection of the Saint-Lawrence and the Outaouais Rivers.

Regularly, aboriginal people would use this area as a stopping place to put their canoes into the water to continue their journey toward the Atlantic Ocean or removing their canoes from the water to portage, avoiding the rapids if they were heading westward towards the Great Lakes.

During that period Old-Montreal was an elongated crest of land formed by several shelves parallel to the St. Lawrence River. The crest was dominated by a small hill, (which no longer exists) and separated the rest of the island by a brook which ran thru a swampy depression and joined another brook to form a small river. This small river, as it empties into the Saint-Lawrence River, leaves at its mouth an island land mass upon which the French will one day found the city of Montreal.

Native American Villages

Early on, the aboriginal tribes established villages along the little river. Archeologists of the twentieth century have found stone tools, which possibly dated back some 4,000 years. It is certain that there was a presence of Native Americans 2,500 to 3000 years ago. Well before



the first Europeans arrived, the Iroquois inhabited the Island of Montreal.

The first Europeans

One day in 1535, the Iroquois of the village of Hochelaga, on the Island of what was to be Montreal, watched the French disembark from their ships and they welcomed the French warmly. The French were sent by the king of France, Francois the 1st. and led by Jacques Cartier. Having climbed the adjacent mountain, Cartier viewing the panorama exclaimed "Quell Mont Real" (in old French).

In 1603, Samuel de Champlain visited the Island of Montreal but found no village. On a subsequent visit in 1611, Champlain established a settlement on Saint-Helen's island, in honor of his young wife Helene Boule. He also cleared a plot of land on the Island of Montreal (today called Pointe-a-Calliere) which he called Place Royale.

The objective of establishing a permanent colony here was not realized. He settled a group on the point of land at the mouth of the Petite Riviere, (The Little River) but the founders of Montreal were yet to arrive.

Ville-Marie

In 1641, about fifty French men and women recruited in France by Jerome Le Royer de la Dauversiere of Anjou, under the auspices of The Society of Notre Dame of Montreal, set sail for New France. Their objective was to create an exemplary Roman Catholic community.

After a long ocean crossing and many stops the small group led by Paul de Chomedey de Maisonneuve, with the help of Jeanne Mance, landed on the point of land surrounded by the Little River on the 17 of May 1642. Here they founded Ville-Marie.

In 1643 they built a small log fort for their protection between the Saint Pierre and the Saint Lawrence Rivers. Encouraged by the faith of these



pioneers the new arrivals constructed the larger Fort Ville-Marie, in the area formally occupied by Champlain.

The Founder of Montreal

Paul de Chomedey was born in French nobility. He was the son of Louis de Chomedey, Lord of Chavane, Germeoy-en Brie, and other places. Paul was baptized in his native Champagne on 15 February 1612. He grew up on the family estate at Neuville-sur-Vannes close to the fiefdom of Maisonneuve and began a military career at a very young age, as was the tradition at that time. We know little of his military career, but do know that he was a very pious man wanting to serve God in foreign countries. This is what brought him to meet with Father Charles Lalemant who had just returned from New France. Father Lalemant talked about Maisonneuve's activities in the New World with Jerome Le Royer de La Dauversiere who was looking for someone to head up a new expedition. Actually a group of Gentlemen got together a few years earlier to create The Society of Notre-Dame of Montreal. Their objective was to establish a missionary city in the interior of Canada. To accomplish this, the society acquired the Island of Montreal. Their dream was to create a Christian city in the heart of this savage land. After having met Paul de Chomedey, La Dauversiere was convinced that this was the man he was looking for and decided to make him the leader of his over seas project. The society was to recruit, finance and assist the new colony.

On 9 May 1641, two ships left the port of La Rochelle bound for New France taking with them a good number of the first Montrealers. Mr. Maisonneuve accompanied by twenty-five men including one priest were on one of the ships and twelve men and a Jesuit priest in the second ship. Also in the second ship was a nurse, Jeanne Mance who played as important a role as Maisonneuve in the survival of the new colony. Three other women were also part

of the crew of the second ship. Two of the women were the wives of settlers on board who refused to leave their husbands and the third was a woman who forced her way onto the ship because she was determined to serve God by working among the poor Indians. Ten other men joined them who had left from the port of Dieppe several weeks earlier. Three months later the ship carrying Jeanne Mance arrived in Quebec without encountering any serious problems on the way. The other ship carrying Maisonneuve on board was not so fortunate. They encountered violent storms at sea. They arrived so late that the founding of Montreal was delayed until the following year. The future Montrealers spent the winter in Quebec. During this time the Governor of New-France, Huault de Montmagny, along with notables of the city of Quebec tried to convince Maisonneuve that his objective of founding the city of Montreal was pure folly. They offered him the island of Orleans in exchange for the island of Montreal,



explaining that this would indeed protect his new pioneers. Maisonneuve retorted that his honor was at stake and that the colony would be established in Montreal “even if all the trees were to turn into Iroquois “.

The founding of the city

The 17th of May 1642, the Governor officially gave the Island of Montreal to Maisonneuve. A mass was said by father Vimont on the Island. The men started working and Maisonneuve insisted on felling the first tree himself. Father Vi-



mont gave a speech in which he predicted a great future for the city which had just been founded.

The first baptism

The first to be baptized in the newly founded city was a young Algonquin who was given the name of Joseph. Maisonneuve and Jeanne Mance were godparents. The religious aspirations of the founders seemed to bear fruit.

The cross on Mount Royal

The small establishment of Montreal was soon in great danger. The waters of the Saint-Lawrence River rose to a level which threatened to inundate the new settlement. Maisonneuve promised that if the floodwaters did not harm the settlement he would carry a cross on his shoulders up the mountain and place it on Mount Royal. The water level subsided and Maisonneuve kept his promise. This is the history of the cross that dominates the summit of Mount Royal.

The Iroquois

Strangely absent during the earlier days, the Iroquois made their appearance during the summer of 1643. From that time on they harassed the Montrealers relentlessly. They captured, tortured and killed a significant number of the colonists. Each morning the pioneers would prepare themselves for the possibility of death by receiving the Holy Eucharist. They formed a small, very Christian and fraternal community among themselves. The buildings of Ville - Marie consisted of a fort



for their defense, a hospital for the sick, (under the direction of Jeanne Mance) one large house capable of lodging 70 people who lived as a commune and a chapel called Notre-Dame. The 30th of March 1644, the dogs within the village barked in the direction of the deep woods. The inhabitants of the village asked Maisonneuve to take the initiative and attack the would be invaders. Heading a group of 30 men he did so, but they found themselves surrounded by approximately 200 Iroquois and an unbalanced battle raged. The French fought courageously but their ammunitions ran out. Maisonneuve then fought alone when an Iroquois Chief tried to cut his throat, but Maisonneuve fired upon him and the chief fell mortally wounded. The Iroquois warriors took their chief on their shoulders and fought in retreat. Maisonneuve returned to the fort a hero.

When something goes wrong

The Hurons were set afire and killed by the Iroquois. As their attacks threatened more and more frequently on the settlement of Ville-Marie, it became obvious that the situation could not last much longer. Month after month, the number of victims kept rising and a major decision had to be taken.

In the Spring of 1651, the attacks by the Iroquois were so frequent that settlers had to remain in the fort, thus abandoning their lands and making it impossible to grow anything. Thought was even given to close the settlement of Ville-Marie and patriate everybody to France. A solution was to be found, if Ville-Marie was to survive, and this is the topic of the next instalment of my history of Montreal.

The next article entitled "the Great Recruit" will tell you more on this subject.

Author. Mr. Jacques Mercier,
Saint-Stanislas de Kostka

Translation from French by
E.A.N. Mercier. Somers, Ct. 06071

PIERRE MERCIER



Saint-Denis-la-Chevasse is a modest village of some two hundred homes located in the province of Poitou, one of the thirty-three geo-political subdivisions of France under the old regime.

It is bordered by Britany and Anjou to the North, Touraine to the North-East, Berry to the East, the Atlantic Ocean to the West and by Limousin and Aunis to the South. It is like a transition territory between the North and the South and it is influenced by the people from both areas. Poitou has low mountain areas and its territory is relatively flat.

Many rivers flow through the land but their sources are from other provinces. The Poitou marshlands have long been known for their salt-mining operations which have been exploited commercially and have stimulated naval trade for centuries. The ocean eventually regained most of the land.

The climate is generally mild and favours different types of agricultures: wheat, vines and fruits. It is one of the most fertile land in France, when output is related to the area.

The economic activities of this province revolve mainly around agricultural products and stock-farming. Such agricultural activities will continue well into the XXth century.

Throughout history, Poitou has witnessed large movements of population and has become like a transition territory where immigrants from the

North and from the South mingled with local people. There were many occasions of friction on the basis of language and religion. Poitou has been a land of contrast and of conflict due to dialects from the North and from the South and wars between catholic and protestant factions.

Researchers estimate that 815 Canadian pioneers originated from that province. It was most likely in the Summer of 1665 that another Pierre Mercier came from that area and settled in New-France.

He was born around 1653 in Saint-Denis-La-Chevasse in the province of Poitou. He would have been around 12 years old, when he signed a contract on April 1st 1665, to work for three years for the merchant Pierre Gaigneur in Quebec.

The contract did not stipulate his age nor the remuneration for his three years of work. The first mention of his name in the official registers places him as present at the wedding of a miller, Jean Brusseau and Anne Greslon in Quebec, on the 6th of September 1683. He is said to work also as a miller.

On Monday the 8th of January 1685 in Neuville, this Pierre married Marguerite Lemain, the widow of Michel Rogon and daughter of Jacques Lemain and Marguerite Deshais, parishioners of Saint-Vivien in Rouen, in Normandie.

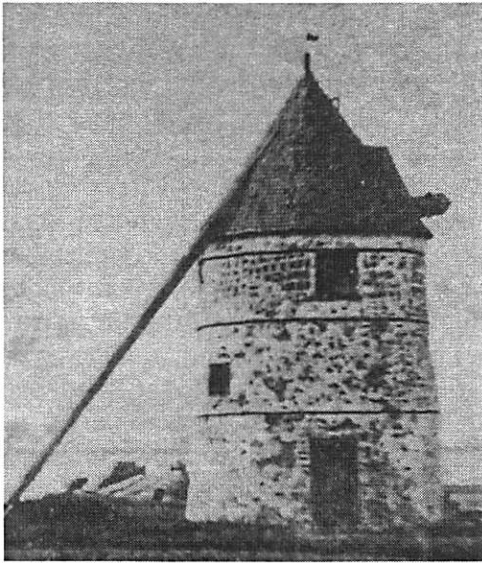
Marguerite Lemain arrived in New France in 1670 with a contingent of, (THE KINGS' WOMEN).

On the 23 of August 1688, Honore Mabil dit Lamontagne rented Pierre a lodging for five years on approximately two acres of land in Neuville. On 20 April 1691, the Lord Nicolas Dupont rented him for 5 years his land which included a mill, for two hundred bales of hay.



Since he preferred working as a farmer rather than a miller, he sublet the mill to Jean Masson.

He died on 17 November 1712 in Neuville. The couple only had two sons to continue their line of Merciers.



This couple is attributed approximately 3 percent of the Merciers in North America.

There was also Catherine Mercier who came from the same village of Saint-Denis-la-Chevasse around 1644 or 1645. She had married Jean Boudart at La Rochelle in 1642 and died in Quebec in 1651. (See *Le Mercien*, Vol. 19, No. 1)

We must also recognize Maurice Arrive, married at Beauport with Jacquette Tourault, on August 25, 1654, and Mathurin Masta married in Montreal with Antoinette Eloy on December 14, 1665. You can see other scenes of Saint-Denis-la-Chevasse, and of other places of origin of other Merciers on a cassette video presentation entitled "L'Arrivée des Mercier en Amérique" in French only, for now, available from AMAN.

Pierre-Paul Mercier

DIAMOND JUBILEE

Charles-Eugene Mercier and his wife, Annette Labbe, celebrated their sixtieth marriage anniversary in Saint-Charles de Bellechasse, on January 2, 2003.

On that occasion, they were joined by their brothers, sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, their eleven children, their sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, twenty-eight grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren.



We all gathered at Carlais to congratulate the happy couple and to enjoy a generous meal, reminisce about happy family souvenirs, sing and enjoy ourselves, just like in the good old days.

Long live our couple !

Enjoy your family members around you.

Lise Mercier Soucy

L'AMAN also congratulates the couple and thank Lise for informing us of this happy family gathering.



THE GREAT RECRUIT

Problems in Ville-Marie becoming increasingly serious Mr de Maisonneuve considered suggestions made to him to return to France and recruit a critical mass of settlers to face adversity and hardship.

Let us listen to historian Faillon :

«objective of Mr de Maisonneuve was to fight off the Iroquois so as to establish the colony of Ville-Marie with young, robust and courageous men, with military training, engaged in trades or professions required in the new settlement and all devout catholics. He also required that they be issue of good families with outstanding morals, so as to not deteriorate the others. Sister Morin is reported that he had achieved his objective.

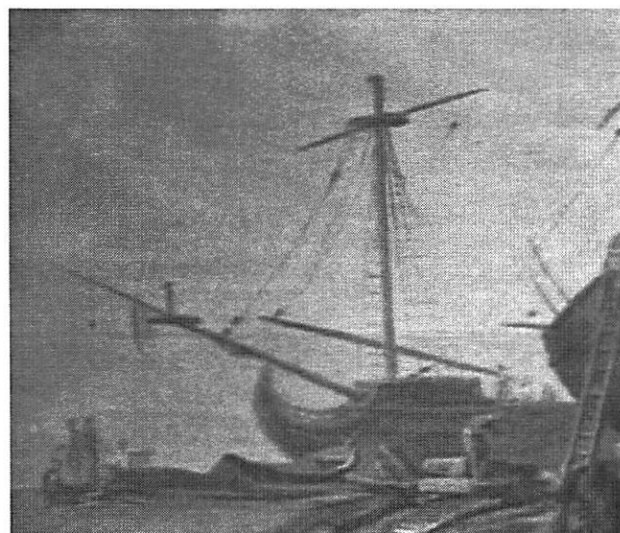
He enlisted the assistance of Mr de la Dauversiere, and they both started recruiting in Picardy, Champagne, Normandy, Ile-de-France, Burgandy, but mainly Maine and Anjou. During the months of March, April and May 1653, those men signed their notorized contracts with the Montreal Society, and they ultimately numbered 118, as evidenced today by notarial documents. Notary Lafousse retained the original records. 36 others also signed similar contracts elsewhere which brought the total to 144 men. However, some changed their minds, while others died during the ocean cross-over. Ultimately, they were 105 to reach Ville-Marie, according to Mr de Beaumont.

The Montreal Society was responsible for transporting the men to the Island of Montreal and had to provide them with food and lodging for a period of five years. It also provided them with tools and other accessories necessary to their trade or profession.

It was not providing them with clothing but gave them a remuneration commensurate with the services rendered. For those who required it, the Society advanced money prior to departure, so that they could obtain items they required, before sailing.

The ship named Saint-Nicholas-de-Nantes under the command of Captain Le Besson sailed on June 20, but soon took water in many places, as it was in a rotten condition. The many passengers assisted the crew in containing the damage and pumping out the water night and day. In spite of all the efforts, the task became impossible. Since there were more than one hundred men on board, in addition to the crew, it was hoped that such a labour force could contain the water. Even if the pumping was done night and day, the task proved impossible and the water quickly reached the provisions and started to damage them. After three hundred and fifty leagues out at sea, the decision was made to turn around and touch land at Saint-Nazaire." "As the ship landed, Sister Marguerite Bourgeoys voiced that without the assistance and the grace of God, we would have perished. I was worried to be in such danger; all the passengers were ill-prepared to die. Mr de Maisonneuve placed the men on an island, so that none of them would flee; otherwise, none would have stayed around. It took a certain time to find another ship, assemble all the provisions required and take care of other necessities, so much so that the ship finally sailed after mass, on July 20, Sainte-Marguerite's day.

Soon after, disease afflicted a large number of passengers." Marguerite Bourgeoys proved to be charitable and very valuable as she dis-



pensed as much care as she could with great devotion and self-denial. She would feed some of the sick out of her own rations and prepared others to die. Eight of the one hundred and thirteen men sponsored by the Company died at sea. Marguerite Bourgoeys never ceased to assist those who had become seasick or suffered other inconvenience.

The great recruit had sailed again after a lay-over of forty days. During that time, the settlers of Quebec city, Trois-Rivieres and Montreal were worried while they continued to suffer relentless attacks by the Iroquois people. They were always hoping for help that never came and they became desperate. In order to revive their hopes, they made several public prayers and paraded the Holy Eucharist for many days at a time, in order to hasten the arrival of support settlers. In the end, God had answered their prayers.

Marguerite Bourgoeys said " we arrived on September 22, Saint-Maurice's day. However, the ship hit a submerged reef just in front of Quebec City. High tide could not float the vessel again and the shipwreck had to be set ablaze, where it had been laying." The arrival warmed the hearts and gave them hope again. Father P. Lemerrier also reports in the Jesuits' Accounts that the extraordinary help that had finally come with the last landing rejoiced the whole colony. Therefore, a solemn Te Deum was celebrated in the Quebec City church in order to thank God gratefully on that occasion.

The degree of happiness spurred that the arrival of the Great Recruit demonstrated the weakness of the colony. The Company had to give better protection consistently to the settlers and they had failed to do so until then.

Mr de Lauzon had made every effort to retain the new recruit in Quebec City and prevent it to continue further. However, Mr de Maisonneuve insisted firmly that he had resolved to bring all his men to Montreal, because Ville-Marie was a dangerous place that needed each and every man that accompanied him so far. Lauzon refused to let him use the boats that he had previously promised. This refusal resulted in long delays, in spite of an appropriate letter sealed by

the King sealed on April 8, 1653 ordering Lauzon to assist Maisonneuve as he required. Still, Maisonneuve could not convince Lauzon to give him the boats he needed and had to find them elsewhere. After wasting a full month, he found some and managed to sail from Quebec City to Ville-Marie towards the end of October. He paraded his men in front of him, to make sure that he could account for everyone of them. Once they reached Ville-Marie, numbering over one hundred, everyone rejoiced and expressed their gratitude to God and to the patron saint of the colony.

All the soldiers brought in by de Maisonneuve had contracted their services to remain in the colony and serve the Compagnie de Montreal for a period of five years only. However, most of



them appreciated their treatment by the governor and were happy to live with such friendly people who were so devoted to establishing a religious community, they ultimately decided to stay and settle in Ville-Marie.

To encourage them to do so, Maisonneuve made two publications in church in December 1653, announcing that he would forgive the amount of advance that each had received before leaving from France and subsequently since their arrival. He offered each of them a one acre piece of land for them to farm within the designated village site and to build their houses. He even offered a certain sum of money to assist them in settling down. However, they would have to reimburse this amount of money, should they decide to leave Ville-Marie for reasons other than force *majeure*.

The first one to accept such conditions was Andre Demers. Therefore, on January 1st 1654, he received 400 pounds and agreed to reimburse, if he ever decided to settle outside of the Island of Montreal.

Two days later, Jean des Carryes and Jean Le Duc received 900 pounds and entered into the same agreement. On the 22nd, Antoine Primot, Jacques Messier and Charles Lemoyne, the chief storekeeper, received 400 pounds. The day after, Jean Lemercher, Mathurin, Ives Bastard, Simon Galbrun, Pierre Vilain, Toussaint Hunault, Jacques Mousseaux, Bertrand de Rennes and Simon Despres all entered into the same kind of agreement and received 500 pounds.

The list went on. Several heads of families received amounts between 500 and 600 pounds each.

Each of them received thirty acres of land in the district of Saint-Louis Heights or Saint-Joseph county, in addition to one or one and a half acre of land within the boundaries of the city, in order to build their houses and live in it.

Peace

A temporary peace was signed in 1655 with the Iroquois, and the settlers could return to their farms quietly.

In 1660, Dollard des Ormeaux and his seventeen companions went up the Outaouais River to prevent further attacks and allowed farmers to resume their occupations more peacefully, but the truce did not last. Maisonneuve set up the Holy Family Militia, and he commissioned it to protect the city.

In September 1665, Maisonneuve was recalled back to France for an indefinite period. The population was sorry to see him leave.

Paris

He lived a peaceful, simple and quiet life. He remained happy at the thought of what he had accomplished in Ville-Marie.

He died in 1676, eleven years after returning to France.

There is a statue of him erected in 1895 at the Place d'Armes in Montreal. It guards the city for which he had fought so much.

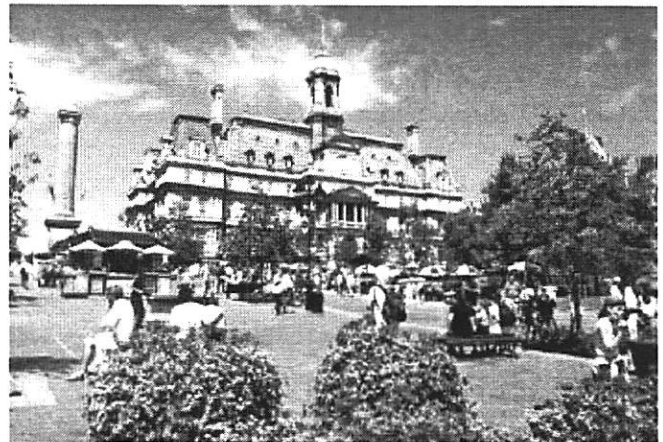
Without the determination, courage and perseverance of Paul Chomedey de Maisonneuve, the small establishment of Ville-Marie, so isolated from the rest of the colony, would have crumbled under the weight of all the obstacles. Instead, standing at the foot of Mount-Royal, there is today the metropolis of Quebec, a dynamic city in North America: Montreal.

We hope to meet with you soon on the occasion of our annual gathering in Montreal.

Jacques Mercier,
Saint-Stanislas de Kostka

Sources:

www.geocities.com, planete.qc.ca/histoire/recrue.asp, www.sgcf.com/recrue 1653.htm.



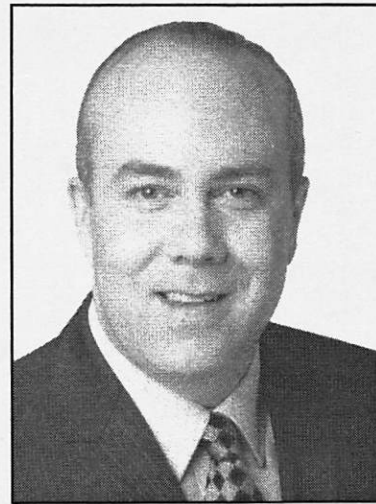
ASCENDANTS

de/of

Eric-R. Mercier

Père/Father	Date et lieu de mariage/Date and place of marriage	Mère/Mother
En France/in France		
<i>Jehan Mercier</i>	1567-06-20, Tourouvre (Perche) France	<i>Thiennette Le Blond</i>
<i>Marin Mercier</i>	Tourouvre (Perche) France	<i>Jehanne Brisson</i>
<i>François Mercier</i>	1605, Tourouvre (Perche) France	<i>Roberde Cornillau</i>
En Amérique du Nord/in North America		
<i>Jullien Mercier</i>	I 1654-01-18, Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, (Québec) Canada	<i>Marie Poulain</i>
<i>Charles Mercier</i>	II 1691-11-08, Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, (Montmorency) Québec	<i>Anne Berthelot</i>
<i>Louis Mercier</i>	III 1745-07-12, Saint-Joseph, (Montmorency) Québec	<i>Catherine Laforest</i>
<i>Jean-Marie Mercier</i>	IV 1780-08-27, Beauport, (La Nativité Notre-Dame) Québec	<i>Catherine Girard</i>
<i>Raphaël Mercier</i>	V 1811-07-30, Québec, (Notre-Dame) Québec	<i>Geneviève Voiselle</i>
<i>Édouard Mercier (2M)</i>	VI 1847-05-18, Donnacona, (Saint-Jean-Baptiste) Québec	<i>Marie-Élizéa Pagé</i>
<i>Joseph-Édouard Mercier</i>	VII 1874-08-26, Québec, (Saint-Jean-Baptiste) Québec	<i>Josephite-Caroline Audet</i>
<i>Joseph-Louis Mercier</i>	VIII 1898-06-06, Lévis (Notre-Dame-des-Victoires) Québec	<i>Edith-Maud Parsons</i>
<i>Harold Mercier</i>	IX 1936-04-14, Québec, (Notre-Dame) Québec	<i>Eileen Dobbins</i>
<i>Ralph Mercier</i>	X 1965-12-27, Québec, (Notre-Dame Jacques-Cartier) Québec	<i>Doris Tweddell</i>
<i>Éric-R. Mercier</i>	XI	

Retraçé par Benoît et Robert Mercier
Québec, le 8 mai 2003



Bravo Éric

Charles-Eugene Mercier and his wife, Annette Labbe, celebrated their sixtieth marriage anniversary in Saint-Charles de Bellechasse, on January 2, 2003.

On that occasion, they were joined by their brothers, sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, their eleven children, their sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, twenty-eight grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren.

We all gathered at Carlais to congratulate the happy couple and to enjoy a generous meal, reminisce about happy family souvenirs, sing and enjoy ourselves, just like in the good old days.

Long live our couple !

Enjoy your family members around you.

Lise Mercier Soucy

L'AMAN also congratulates the couple and thank Lise for informing us of this happy family gathering.

DÉCÈS - DEATHS

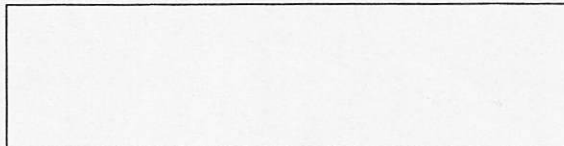
Sincères condoléances aux familles Mercier dont l'un des membres est décédé récemment.
Deepest sympathy to Mercier families that have lost a loved one recently.

Nom - Name	Date	Endroit—Place
Maurice Mercier	2003-03-26	Ste-Foy
Rolande Deblois Mercier	2003-03-26	Rivière-du-Loup
Reine-Marie Bouthillier Mercier	2003-03-19	Farnham
Gisèle Mercier	2003-04-19	Beauport
Anna Lemieux Mercier	2003-04-21	Charlesbourg
Jeanne-D'Arc Mercier Ratté	2003-04-21	Témiscouata
Annette Mercier Blouin	2003-04-21	Charlesbourg
Estelle Cochrane Mercier	2003-05-04	Beauport
Blanche Doyon Mercier	2003-05-02	Sherbrooke
Laurier Mercier	2003-02-20	Charny
Madeleine Mercier Genest	2003-05-28	Saint-Nicolas
Raymonde Mercier Robitaille	2003-06-05	Montréal



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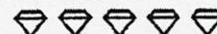
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