

Le Mercien

The voice of the Merciers of North America



Family picture around 1910

Standing: Amerilda, Leonard, Leda, Odilon et Marie-Anne Mercier;
Seated: Lucienne, Adjutor, Anaïse et Antoinette Mercier;
In front: Andre-Marie Mercier.

(See our article on page 6)

Info-AMAN

Board of Directors and services of AMAN

Exécutif:

Pierre-Paul Mercier, President Tel.: (450) 671-1455
 Saint-Lambert Fax: (450) 671-6038
 Jacques Mercier, secretary Tel.: (450) 370-1122
 Saint-Stanislas de Kostka

Membres:

Jean-Guy Mercier, director Tel.: (418) 650-3874
 Sainte-Foy Fax: (418) 650-5041
 Therese Mercier, director Tel.: (418) 248-4504
 Montmagny
 Lucie Mercier, director Tel.: (819) 362-2856
 Plessisville
 Lucie Mercier, director Tel.: (450) 465-9211
 Saint-Lambert Fax: (450) 923-0152
 Jean-Louis Mercier, director Tel.: (418) 837-8410
 Lévis

Benoît Mercier, accounting Tel.: (418) 623-0833
 Charlesbourg
 Johanne Mercier, director Tel.: (418) 623-7880
 Charlesbourg
 Raynald Mercier, director Tel.: (418) 261-6010
 Quebec
 Claude Mercier, director Tel.: (450) 656-1980
 Brossard

Services:

Jean Mercier, treasurer Tel.: (418) 623-0439
 Charlesbourg

Le Mercien – Deadline

No.	Season	Date
1	Spring	February 1 st
2	Summer	May 1 st
3	Fall	August 1 st
4	Winter	November 1 st

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HONOUR ROLL COMMANDERS OF AMAN



Coat of arms of the Merciers of North America registered by Mgr Jean-Paul Gelinus in 1986



Coat of arms of the Merciers of England in the 15th century published in the Burke Armorial of London



Coat of arms of Ernest Mercier registered by the Drouin Genealogical Institute in 1954

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

The newsletter committee

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

Messages

In order to hasten communication with management, please contact directly the person in charge.

■■■■■■■■■■

We invite your comments and suggestions. Please forward them to us at the addresses indicated below.

■■■■■■■■■■

If you plan to move, please inform the treasurer as soon as possible.

■■■■■■■■■■

Membership dues

Annually: \$25.

Life membership, 65 years and older: \$250.

Life membership, less than 65 years of age : \$400.

Commander: \$1,000.

Those amounts are in U.S. currency for U.S. residents

AMAN,
 P.O. Box 6700, Sillery Branch,
 Sainte-Foy, Québec, Canada, G1T 2W2

Association des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord
 Internet: « genealogie.org/famille/mercier »
 Email: « aman@videotron.ca »

EDITOR'S PAGE

The nineteenth annual meeting of the members of our association took place in the historic and picturesque scenery of Saint-Helen's Island facing Montreal.

The weather cooperated to make the event most pleasurable for all the participants.

Our friend, former Judge Luc Mercier attended the meeting and offered three of his novels as door prizes. He ended up dedicating many of his books, since many took the opportunity of his presence to purchase the novel published by Luc: "Le Temple du Bonheur", on sale by AMAN at the price of \$20. It is available in French only.

During the afternoon, the participants were treated to the military manoeuvres of the French Navy Company, and were given the opportunity to see the 78th Highlanders performing Scottish dances.

We had free access to the two exhibitions offered to the public by the Old Fort Museum. One of them presents the history of the founding of New-France, with an emphasis on the founding of Ville-Marie which subsequently became Montreal. The second portion featured a world exhibition devoted to Josephine, the wife of Napoleon, which was in Montreal for the Summer.

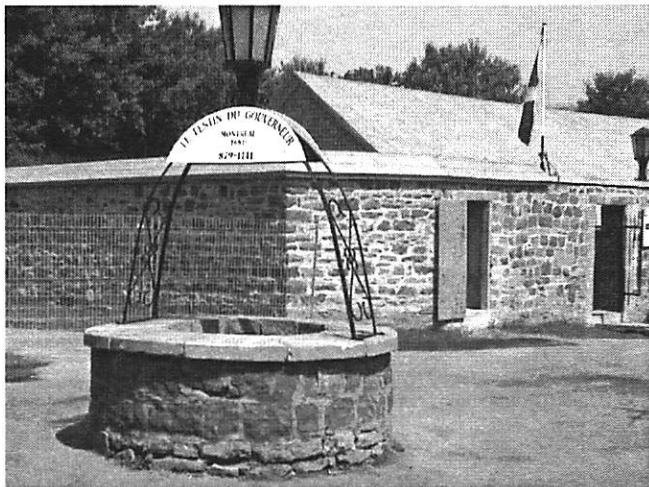
The highlight of the first day was the "Governor's Feast" taking place in the barracks of the old fort. The menu for this banquet is a reminder of past centuries celebrations, served by a staff dressed according to customs and providing continuous entertainment throughout the evening.



For the occasion, AMAN had to appoint a Governor and his spouse to preside over the different events of the evening. Benoit of Mississauga, Ontario and Claire of Terrebonne, Quebec agreed to perform the official functions dressed according to fashion prevailing in those days.

Sunday's program was no less spectacular

First, the visit of the Pointe-à-Callière Museum in old Montreal gave everyone the opportunity to explore the foundations of the first build-





It is important to plan for activities spanning two days for the benefit of our members outside of Quebec. This is easier in larger cities such as Montreal and Quebec City and requires a more elaborate organisation plan. However, AMAN must also hold events throughout Quebec, and it is not always feasible to have a two-day program in smaller communities.

Our next annual meeting is scheduled to be held on **Au-**

ings erected in Montreal and to see the Dead Sea scrolls which were exhibited for the first time outside of Israel.

gust 28 2004, in Sainte-Marie-de-Beauce, Quebec. The organizers are already working to plan a very interesting program and are expecting a good turn-out



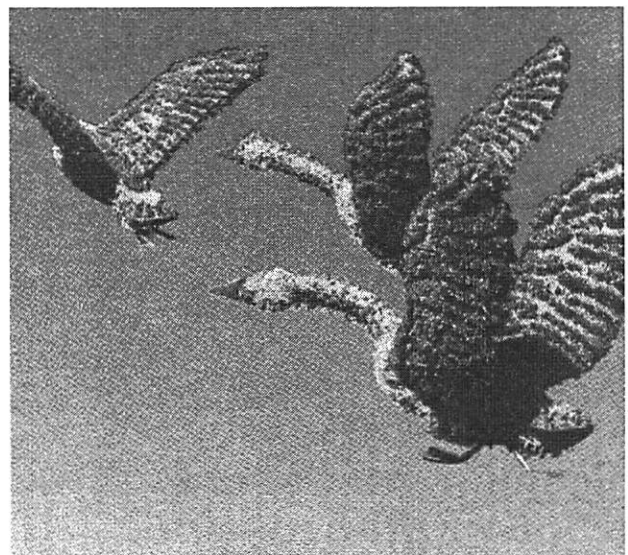
In the mean time, we have another rendez-vous on April 17, 2004, for a sugaring off party in Plessisville. Lucie who lives in this area has already reserved your place; do not disappoint her. The Sucrerie d'Antan is one of the best ten rated establishments in Quebec.

Please, be with us.

Le Mercien

To close the event, the visit of the International Mosaïcultures Exhibition of Montreal amazed several visitors. It is an international competition featuring exhibits sponsored by 35 countries with the theme: Myths and Legends of the World. Montreal is hosting this exhibition for the second time, but it will then be presented in other countries for the next five years.

Some of our members came from Ontario and the United States and were delighted to be with us on this occasion.



NEWS FROM THE BOARD

During the last annual meeting in August, the members elected a full slate of board members for the coming year. There will then be eleven members sitting, a situation not seen in the last few years.

We have lost the services of our vice-president, Claudine of Sainte-Foy, who chose not to run for re-election for personal reasons.

Claudine has been involved with AMAN since the very beginning, and has worked at the organisation of many gatherings, has sat on several committees and has contributed to the progress of many projects.

I have always called on her good judgment at difficult times, and she never let me down. She contributed to our genealogical data base and to Le Mercien, and I hope that AMAN will be able to enlist her support again occasionally.

She has started researching her ancestral history, and devotes a lot of time and effort to the subject. She has already shared with us the results of her work.

Good luck in your endeavours, Claudine, and thank you for your valuable services. We hope to see you sitting again on the board of directors.

Three new members have joined the board of directors: Johanne of Charlesbourg, Raynald of Quebec City and Claude of Brossard.

Johanne was born in 1962 in Lauzon Que., the daughter of Jean-Louis Mercier and Mariette Paquette, who now live in Levis.

After college, Johanne undertook a career in administration, and joined the Quebec Health and Work Safety Commission in 1986. She is currently responsible for administrative procedures.

Raynald was born in 1964 in Lauzon, the son of Jean-Louis Mercier and of Mariette Paquette. He is Johanne's brother.

He studied at Sainte-Foy College where he developed a taste for music. He registered in music at Laval University, but abandoned the program to join the work force.

Raynald has been working as a welder for the last fifteen years and currently live in Quebec City.

Jean-Louis, the father of Johanne and Raynald, has already been a member of the board of directors for a year and a half. He has instilled to his children a remarkable family spirit as well as a definite interest for the affairs of AMAN. Congratulations and thank you, Jean-Louis.

The third new member is Claude Mercier, currently residing in Brossard, on the South Shore of Montreal.

He was born in Quebec City in 1923, the son of Victor Mercier and of Yvonne Blouin. Following his secondary education at Academie de Quebec, he entered Laval University to obtain a bachelor's degree in Commerce.

Upon graduation, he entered B. Houde et Grothe Ltee in Quebec City in 1946 as the plant personnel director. He then went to work for Imperial tobacco in Montreal, where he moved up to the position of Vice-President, personnel, and a member of the board of directors in 1973.

He is now retired in Brossard with his wife, Claire Sicard, who gave him two children.

Thank and best wishes to these new directors.

Le Mercien



FRÉDÉRIC MERCIER

1815-1899

Frédéric Mercier is the son of Guillaume Mercier and of Angélique Fortier. He is a sixth generation descendant of Julien Mercier and of Marie Poulin.



Frédéric and Julie gave birth to 3 children in Ste-Marie and 3 others in St-Bernard de Dorchester. Subsequently, Frédéric acquired a plot of land in Ste-Julie de Somerset (Laurierville), even before the erection of the parish. For that reason, four of the children were baptized in St-Calixte de Somerset (Plessisville). Other children were born in Ste-Julie de Somerset.

He built his residence on Dubé Street in Laurierville, which became the ancestral home.

The land that he cultivated was located at the rear of that house. He kept working on it until Zéphirin succeeded him.

He was the mayor of his village from 1858 to 1860.

His wife, Julie, died on 13-08-1884 at the age of 63 and Frédéric survived until 06-11-1899. He was then 85 years old.

He was a pioneer of Ste-Julie de Somerset and left a large number of descendants.

Frédéric Mercier is my great grandfather and all his descendants are proud of him. He will be honoured as part of the 150th anniversary of Laurierville in 2004.

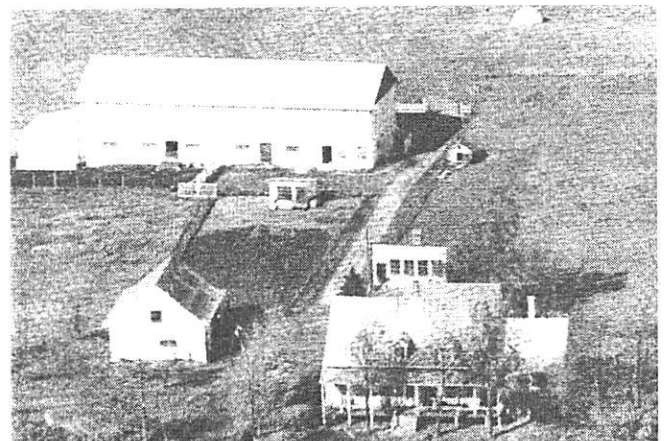
Claudine Mercier,
Sainte-Foy

(Translated by Le Mercien)

He was born in St-Henri de Lauzon on 02-06-1815. His father lived all his life in that community.

In 1840, he lived in Ste-Marie de la Nouvelle-Beauce was married there on 15-09-1840 with Julie Baillargeon.

His wife was the daughter of Louis Baillargeon and of Marguerite Chartier of Ste-Marie. She was born on 16-11-1820 in St-Henri de Lauzon.



The children of Frédéric Mercier and of Julie Baillargeon

Julie

Naissance: 23-06-1841 à Ste-Marie de la Nouvelle Beauce -- Baptême: 23-06-1841 à Ste-Marie -- Mariage: 12-02-1877 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Époux: Flavien Bilodeau veuf de Délima Martineau. Ils ont habité Ste-Sophie. Flavien était père de 5 enfants lors de son mariage avec Julie Mercier

Frédéric Jr.

Naissance: 01-10-1842 à Ste-Marie de la Nouvelle Beauce -- Baptême: 02-10-1842 à Ste-Marie -- Mariage: 15-02-1870 à Ste-Julie de Somerset. Épouse: Marie Poirier.

Sophonie

Naissance: 07-01-1844 à Ste-Marie de la Nouvelle Beauce -- Baptême: 10-01-1844 à St-Isidore de Lauzon -- Mariage: 11-02-1862 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Décès: 24-11-1935 à Québec -- Époux: Edmond Demers.

Tréflé

Naissance: 09-05-1845 à St-Bernard de Dorchester -- Baptême: 09-05-1845 à St-Bernard -- Mariage: 16 - 01-1866 à St-Henri de Lauzon -- Décès: 11-12-1902 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Épouse: Adèle Caron.

Zéphirin

Naissance: 25-11-1846 à St-Bernard de Dorchester -- Baptême: 25-11-1846 à St-Bernard -- Mariage: 13-01-1874 à St-Isidore de Lauzon -- Décès: 23-06-1921 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Épouse: Henrizia Roy

Élisabeth

Naissance: 26-12-1847 à St-Bernard de Dorchester -- Baptême: 27-12-1847 à St-Bernard de Dorchester -- autres renseignements: inconnus

Adeline

Naissance: 13-02-1849 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Baptême: 18-02-1849 à St-Calixte de Somerset -- Mariage: 23-07-1872 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Décès: inconnu -- Époux: Napoléon Demers

Cyrial

Naissance: 26-06-1850 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Baptême: 26-06-1850 à St-Calixte de Somerset -- Mariage: 01-09-1874 à Inverness -- Décès: 01-09-1910 à -- Épouse: Odile Charest

Amélie

Naissance: 31-03-1852 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Baptême: 31-03-1852 à St-Calixte de Somerset -- Mariage: (1): 20-01-1874 à Ste-Julie -- Mariage (2): 25-05-1891 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Décès: inconnu -- Époux: (1) Philias Gagné -- Époux (2): Napoléon Mercier.

Louis

Naissance: 02-09-1853 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Baptême: 03-09-1853 à St-Calixte de Somerset -- Décès : 19-08-1858 à Ste-Julie de Somerset.

Prosper

Naissance: 26-11-1854 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Baptême: 26-11-1854 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Mariage (1): 19-07-1875 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Mariage (2): date inconnue à Holyoke, Mass -- Décès: date inconnue à Holyoke, Mass. -- Épouse (1): Philomène Raymond -- Épouse (2): Mary Labonté.

Azeline

Naissance: 07-04-1856 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Baptême: 08-04-1856 à St-Calixte de Somerset -- Décès: 09-04-1856 à Ste-Julie de Somerset.

Delrose

Naissance : 27-05-1857 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Baptême : 28-05-1857 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Décès : 13-08-1857.

Léonidas

Naissance: 12-08-1858 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Baptême: 13-08-1858 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- autres renseignements : inconnus.

Philias

Naissance: 08-03-1860 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Baptême: 08-03-1860 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Mariage (1): 06-09-1881 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Mariage (2): 07-05-1900 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Décès: date inconnue à Leominster, Mass. -- Épouse (1): Virginie Dion -- Épouse (2): Marie Martineau.

Adjutor

Naissance: 31-07-1861 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Baptême: 31-07-1861 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Mariage: 26-09-1882 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Décès: 26-12-1936 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Épouse: Anaïse Bergeron.

Louis Onézime

Naissance: 13-02-1863 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Baptême: 13-02-1863 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Décès: 25-02-1863 à Ste-Julie de Somerset.

Arcadius

Naissance: 15-07-1864 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Baptême: 15-07-1864 à Ste-Julie de Somerset -- Mariage (1): Date inconnue à Sommersworth, N.H. -- Mariage (2): 21-08-1893 à St-Pierre Baptiste -- Décès: inconnu -- Épouse (1): Clara Chassé -- Épouse (2): Alphonsine Dubois.



Ascendance

Première Génération

Julien Mercier

18 janvier 1654
N.D. de Québec

Marie Poulin

Deuxième Génération

Jean Mercier

25 février 1691
Ste-Anne de Beaupré

Barbe Montmagnier

Troisième Génération

Julien Mercier

20 mai 1718

Agnès Meunier

Quatrième Génération

Julien Mercier

11 novembre 1755
St-Vallier

Marthe Roy

Cinquième Génération

Guillaume Mercier

17 novembre 1793
St-Henri

Angélique Fortier

Sixième Génération

Frédéric Mercier

15 septembre 1840
Ste-Marie

Julie Baillargeon

Septième Génération

Adjutor Mercier

26 septembre 1882
Laurierville

Anaïse Bergeron

Huitième Génération

André-M. Mercier

9 octobre 1929
St-Pierre-Baptiste

Antoinette Martel

Neuvième Génération

Claudine Mercier

.....

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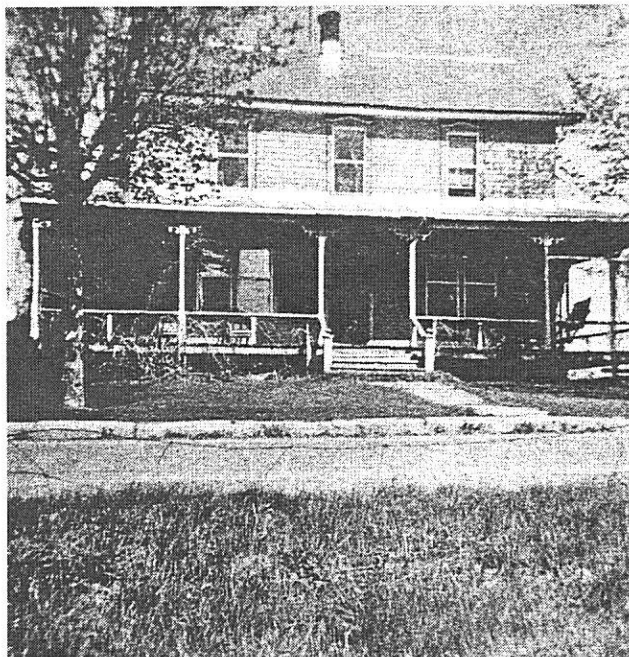
ADJUTOR MERCIER 1861 - 1936

Adjutor was born in Ste-Julie de Somerset (Laurierville) on 31 July 1861. He the son of Frédéric Mercier and of Julie Baillargeon.



He married Anaïse Bergeron on September 26 1882 in Laurierville. He died in Laurierville on September 26 1936, at the age of 75.

He first farmed a land on Country Road no. 2 in St-Pierre Baptiste, next to his brothers. After a transaction with his father-in-law, he moved to a property located at the rear of the church, 147 Dubé Street in Laurierville.



Eight of his children lived to adulthood. He was the mayor of Laurierville from 1907 to 1910.

His wife, Anaïse, passed away on December 31, 1938 at the age of 80.



Claudine Mercier,
Sainte-Foy
Translation be Le Mercien

Adjutor and Anaïse, circa 1882,
The year of their marriage

REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT

We have come to the end of another year during which your board members have been busy promoting in many ways the interests of the association.

Efforts in promoting pride for the name of Mercier were concentrated on two fronts: to improve Le Mercien and to participate in different public events, such as the genealogy showroom in Sainte-Foy in February and a similar event scheduled for October in Montreal.

This is our best opportunity to make ourselves known and to recruit new members. Jean-Guy of Sainte-Foy has been the coordinator on that event for three years and he does it expertly.

Congratulations and thank you to Jean-Guy.

A similar showroom will take place at Complexe Desjardins in Montreal, on October 18 and 19. Come and see us; tell your friends and parents about it.

We have used Le Mercien to promote pride in the name Mercier, because it is a privileged link with our members.

We have published a certain number of articles on the history of certain families and on Mercier ancestors who came from France to settle and raise a family. We have already published about two of them, and articles are underway about the others.

We have initiated features such as "We have read for you" and "The Reader's corner". We

know that those changes have been well received, because you have told us so., and this is encouraging.

In an effort to reduce our expenses, we have managed to put out Le Mercien at a much reduced cost, thanks to the cooperation of different members including Claudine, our vice-president, for the transcription of texts and for the liaison with F.F.S.Q., our printers, the translation services of Eugene Mercier of Somers, Ct. and the better presentation created by F.F.S.Q.

We are always looking out for new sponsors, and Jean-Guy of Sainte-Foy has been our faithful representative to solicit new opportunities.

The strength of our association rests on the recruitment of new members.

Our Web site gives a great visibility, but nothing compares with the person to person approach with members of our families. AMAN needs you to be better known.

Here is my main message to you.

I thank the members of the board who have supported me throughout the year, and we all thank you for your confidence.

As for myself, I enjoyed working for you.

Pierre-Paul Mercier,
Président

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

No	Name	Address
1459	Claude Mercier	Montreal, Que.
1460	Gisele Mercier	Anjou, Que.
1461	Sylvie Mercier	Saint-Damien, Bellechasse, Que.
1462	Raynald Mercier	Québec, Que.
1463	Charles Mercier	Montréal, Que.
1464	Marie Mercier	Longueuil, Que.



Association des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord Inc. (AMAN)

Financial Statements

INCOME

	June 30 2003	June 30 2002
Membership fees	3 796 \$	4 229 \$
Exchange on foreign currency	214	
Grants and gifts	93	200
Lotomatic (Loto-Québec)	390	349
Advertising	100	50
Genealogical income	140	-
Annual meeting	-	311
Bank interest	124	534
Profit from the sale of souvenirs	82	381
Total of incomes	4 939 \$	6 054 \$

EXPENSES

Liability insurance	72 \$	290 \$
F.F.S.Q. - Services fees	362	268
Internet	35	35
Memorials		546
Le Mercien	3 020	3 658
Advertising - promotion	330	130
Write-off of souvenirs	390	
Rent	120	120
Office expenses	681	1 809
Total of expenses	5 010 \$	6 856 \$

Surplus (deficit) for the period

(71) \$ (802) \$

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

	June 30 2 003	June 30 2002
Cash on hand	2 519 \$	2 661 \$
Advance to F.F.S.Q.	-	500
Inventory of souvenirs (at cost)	668	854
Term deposit	8 142	6 864
Furniture	404	404
Total of assets	11 733 \$	11 283 \$

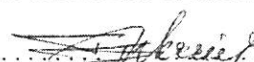
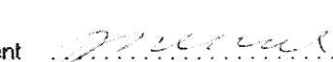
LIABILITIES

Payables	211 \$	290 \$
Advance by the directors	2 019	2 019
Total of liabilities	2 230 \$	2 309 \$

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

At the beginning	(5 726) \$	(4 924) \$
Surplus (deficit) for the period	(71)	(802)
At the end of the period	(5 797) \$	(5 726) \$
Reserve- Life membership	7 500 \$	6 900 \$
Reserve- Commandor memberhip	7 800	7 800
Surplus (deficit) at the end	9 503 \$	8 974 \$
Total liabilities and accumulated funds	11 733 \$	11 283 \$

For the Board of directors

 president
  treasurer
 Pierre-Paul Mercier Jean Mercier

I have examined the statements of revenues and expenses as well as the balance sheet as at June 30th 2003. In my opinion these statements represent accurately the financial position of AMAN according to accounting procedures generally recognized and applied in the same ways as they were in the previous years.


 Lauréat Mercier c. r. a



JEAN MERCIER AND LOUISIANA

The last of the Merciers who came from France before 1770 to settle in New-France and raise a family was Jean, a native of the Bordeaux area.

Before examining the circumstances of his settlement, lets explore literally the case of Louisiana.

In 1682, Cavalier de Lasalle discovered the Mississippi River, heading South from the Great Lakes to its discharge into the Gulf of Mexico.

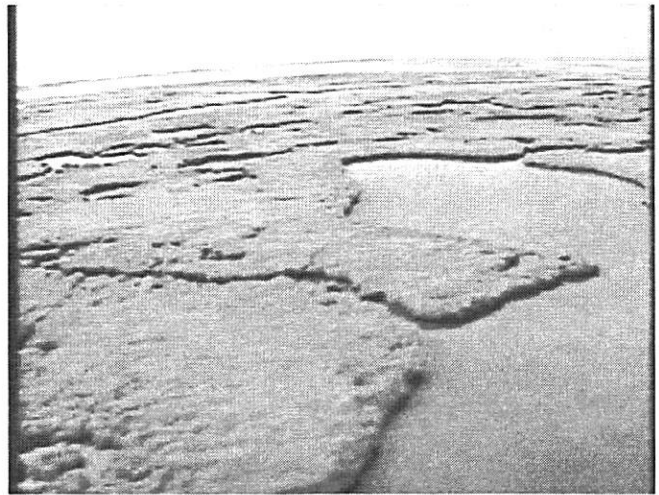


He took possession of this huge territory and named it Louisiana, after the King of France at that time. By virtue of international laws, explorers could thus take possession of territories which did not belong to a recognized catholic power.

Three years later, he came back accompanied by 180 men, with the mission of establishing a colony, but he took the route of the Atlantic Ocean and of the Gulf of Mexico.

For a period of two years, he navigated the waters on the Gulf without being able to locate the discharge of the Mississippi River, because of the configuration of the shores.

There were no navy maps of the area at the time. The shores have plenty of swamps and



there are numerous inlets leading nowhere. He was finally assassinated by his troops and they subsequently returned to Montreal.

The dream of establishing a settlement in Louisiana was then abandoned, only to be revived fifteen years later by Pierre Lemoyne, Lord of Iberville.

He was given the mission of establishing a fur trading post, of building small forts and making alliances with aboriginal tribes.

He needed women to develop a permanent settlement, and he sent a contingent reminiscent of the King's Daughters. By 1704, there were some 80 families already on site.

In spite of such efforts, Louisiana was a lower priority for the Governor of New-France and even for the French government.

For many years, Louisiana was neglected by France and suffered sacking repeatedly at the hands of Spanish pirates hiding in the Caribbean Islands.

In 1716, John Law, a Scottish banker living in France, had close relations with the Duke of Orleans and managed to obtain exclusive rights for the development of the Louisiana resources.

In return, he had to increase the population and develop commercial trade with Europe.

He committed himself to bring 6,000 European settlers and 3,000 slaves. During a period of three years, from 1717 and 1721, he exceeded those targets, since there were more than 7,000 French nationals who settled in Louisiana.

In 1762, soon after the defeat of New-France by British forces, France disposed of Louisiana in favour of Spain, in order to avoid it taken over by England, thus reducing British influence on American soil.

This land transfer was recognized by the British crown at the signing of the treaty of Paris in 1763, as a result of the downfall of Quebec in 1759.



This represents the equivalent of 45 ships, which far exceeds the volume of settlers who came in the Saint-Lawrence River valley in such a period of time.

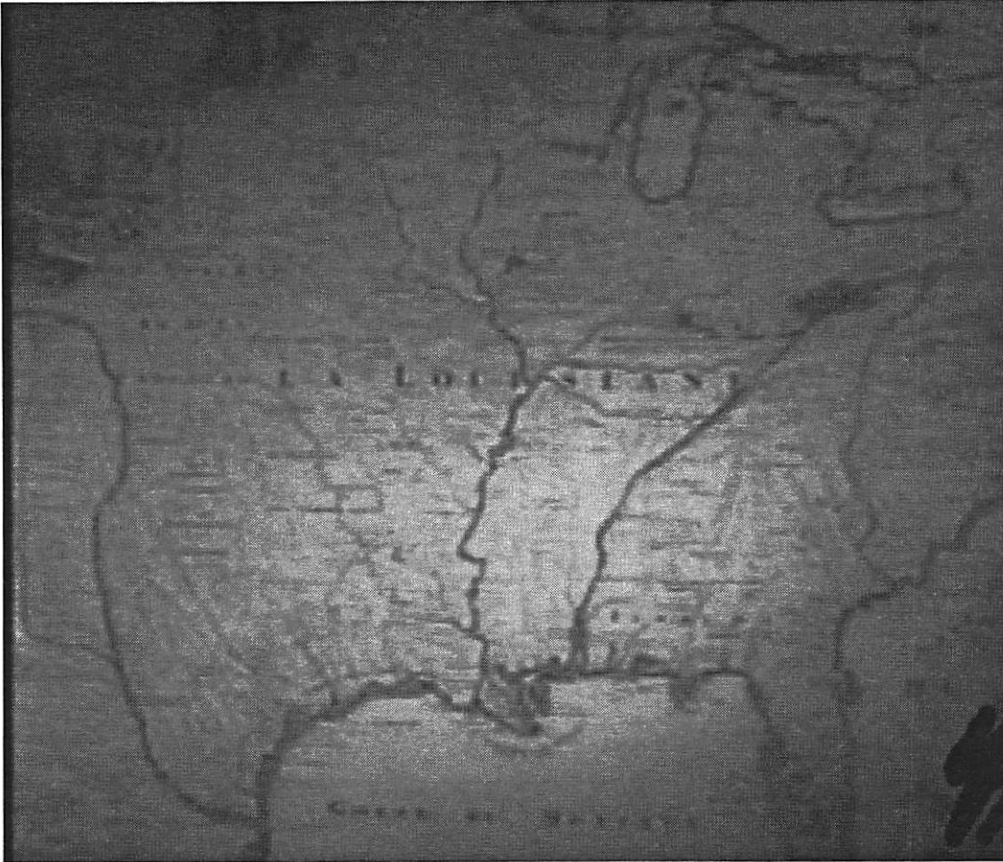
There were also 3,000 slaves, 2,000 Germans, Scandinavian and Swiss people, in addition to Spanish nationals who settle nearby, in the Pensacola area.

Some also came from Montreal, in an effort to leave behind them the harsh Winter conditions of Quebec. However, they traded those condition for mosquitoes, alligators and tropical diseases in the swampy shores of New-Orleans.

Montcalm had been defeated on the plains of Abraham by General Wolfe in 1759, but the French had continued fighting again the British and Montreal surrendered only in 1760. General Levis had not accepted the Governor Vaudreuil's order to surrender, and had retreated to Saint-Helen's Island with his troops. That is where he burnt the French standards on September the 8th, rather than surrendering them to British troops. This was the site of AMAN's meeting on August 23, 2003.

By the year 1800, commercial trade between France and Louisiana in general and New-Orleans in particular, had become very impor-





funds which he needed badly to continue his war against England, realizing that he might have lost that territory anyway, if he had lost the war against the British.

Ironically, President Jefferson had solicited the assistance of British and Dutch bankers to finance the transaction.

The territory was the size of the whole of Europe and covered in full or in part, 15 American states as we know them today.

tant. Napoleon, then the Emperor of France, contemplated the possibility of regaining control of Louisiana, since it had acquired a strategic importance.

His ambition of spreading the French empire in Asia had failed, and he then considered the Caribbean area in his development strategy.

He negotiated with Spain the return of the Louisiana territory to France and concluded a secret treaty to that effect.

However, Thomas Jefferson, then the President of the United States, heard of such a treaty and feared a new war between French and British forces on American soil.

He convinced Napoleon to sell Louisiana for the sum of \$15 millions.

For Napoleon, it was the occasion to receive

The price amounted to \$.04 per acre.

The United States wanted at the time to limit the British influence on the American territory.

During the year 2003, the United States will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the purchase of Louisiana.

Events have begun to take place and will continue until December, the actual anniversary of the transaction.

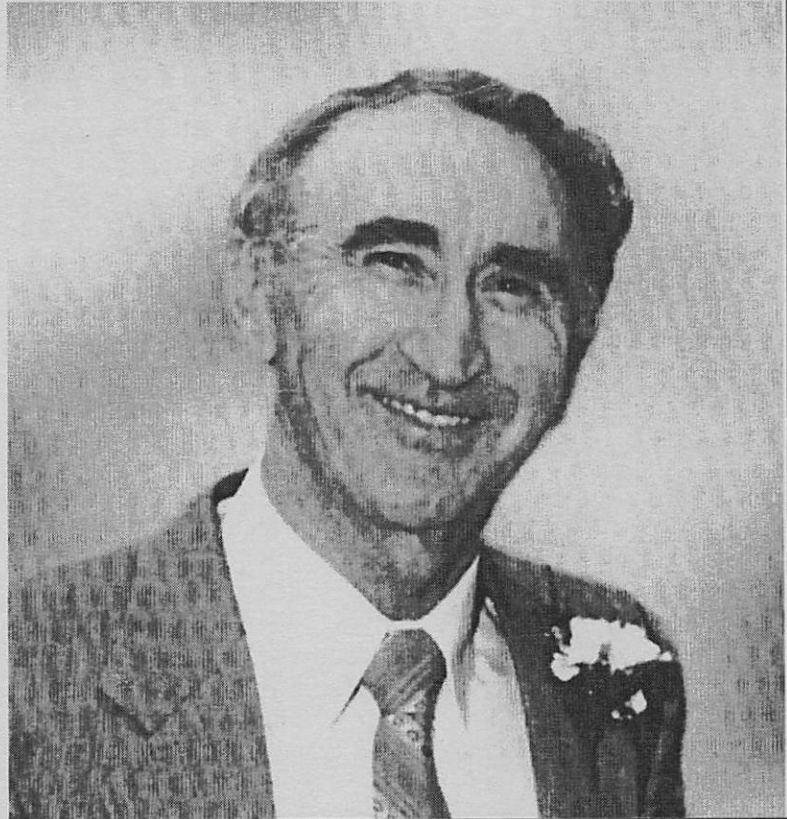
For further information on these celebrations, please visit the web site « <http://www.louisianapurchase2003.com> ».

In a coming article, we will talk about Jean Mercier who came from France to settle in Louisiana during the 1760s.

Pierre-Paul Mercier

ROLAND JEAN MERCIER

Roland Jean Mercier passed away on October 17, 2002. He is the son of the late Onesiphore Mercier and of the late Adela Dussault. He was married to Denyse Côté. He will be sadly missed by his wife, his beloved children Alain (Louise Hurley), Denis (Joanne Charon) and Sylvie (Claude Malette), as well as his seven grandchildren : Isabelle, Jean-Michel, Caroline, Anick, Éric, Mathieu et Vincent, his sisters : Marguerite, Jeanne d'Arc s.c.s.l., his brothers: Georges (Anita Boisvert), Antoine, c.s.s.p., as well as many sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews, cousins and friends. A funeral service was held at the Sainte-Anne church in Ottawa, on Saturday, November 2, 2002.



Le Mercien

DEATHS

Sinceres condolences to Mercier families
who lost a loved one recently

Name	Date	Place
Estelle Mercier Proulx	June 25, 2003	Montreal
Emile Mercier	June 26, 2003	Montreal
Jeanne d'Arc Mercier Santerre	July 21, 2003	Sainte-Foy
Donatien Mercier	July 24, 2003	Charlesbourg
Georgette Mercier Gagnon	August 1, 2003	Sainte-Foy
Adrien Mercier	August 3, 2003	Saint Augustin de Desmaures
Rita Mercier Picard	July 17, 2003	Montreal
Maurice Mercier	August 10, 2003	Montreal
Jean Mercier	August 12, 2003	Quebec
Joseph Mercier	August 31, 2003	Beaumont
Ghislaine Charbonneau Mercier	September 5, 2003	Laval
Jeanne Mercier Leclerc	September 9, 2003	Granby

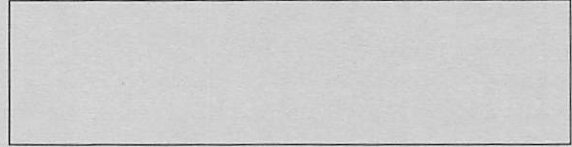
JUST A REMINDER

- We have on sale: books (French only), laminated mosaics, association pins;
- There is a sugaringoff party on April 17, 2004, in Plessisville;
- Our next annual meeting is in Sainte-Marie-de-Beauce, Que., on August 28, 2004;
- Keep us informed about your family reunions, anniversaries and histories;
- We always like to hear from you.



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