

Volume 20

Number 4

Winter 2004



Le Mercien

The voice of the Merciers of North America

Eugene A. N. Mercier
of Somers, Ct., U.S.A.



French Elk of the Year 2004

Read our story on page 7

The Newsletter of the Association of the Merciers of North America

Info-AMAN

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and services of AMAN**

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

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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

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 Isabelle Mercier, Sainte-Foy (Events) (450) 651-3839



This newsletter is named after the kingdom of Mercia which existed from the 7th to the 10th century. It was one of the seven original kingdoms constituting England. The inhabitants of that territory must have been called Mercians (or Mercien in French). We are proud to perpetuate that name today

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 current issue marks the end of the twentieth volume of our quarterly bulletin.

Since the first issue published by Ernest Mercier, our founding president, in May of 1985, *Le Mercien* has changed, but it has remained faithful to its mission to gathering Mercier families around information drawn from the public and less official history of interest to the members of AMAN.

It has maintained its same name, even if its content has evolved. From five pages at its origin, it has reached sixteen pages, and its material has gradually been enriched with articles of a real historical value written by many members, as a result of their research.

Ernest has always believed in the organisation that he has spearheaded, and he also remained the soul of the bulletin for most of the first twenty years. At times, he stretched himself thin doing it. His successors had to take over and continued to improve *Le Mercien* from where Ernest left off. We have

now a full English version for the benefit of our members in the western part of Canada and in the United States.

AMAN is about to celebrate its twenty years of existence, in August 2005, in Quebec City, and *Le Mercien* will be presented as one of the major achievements of that period. A cumulative index of the material published in the first twenty volumes is under preparation and will be available at that time. It will highlight what the Mercier men and women and their relatives have accomplished during those twenty years. It will honour once more those who made the headlines at one time or another.

With the holiday season already upon us, I extend my best wishes and those of the members of your board of directors, for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May peace and happiness be in your families throughout the year.

Pierre-Paul Mercier



Money in New France

Benoit Mercier, Mississauga, Ont.

When one thinks of our ancestors' everyday life, one can imagine shopping at the baker's, the butcher's or the green grocer's, in a similar way that we do today in a supermarket. We can imagine exchanging coins for a loaf of bread, a chicken or other food items. It wasn't quite like that, however, since coins were scarce at that time.

This was a common occurrence in New France, in New England and in the other French and English colonies and islands at that time. Coins circulated freely in the homelands (France and England), but were barely available in the colonies. People had to barter, or use other objects such as beaver skins, sugar or nails as currency. It was therefore challenging to trade since one had to know the value of what one wanted to purchase against the value of other exchangeable goods. For example, would you know how many nails would be required to buy a shovel? This was a daily problem for our ancestors.

The monetary system used at that time was known as "LSD", and used "livre", "sol" and "denier" as coins. These were known in English as pound, shilling and pence. A more detailed explanation of this monetary system is given later in this article.

During that time period in New France, one notices in the legal contracts and leases that wheat, beans and barley were commonly used for contracting debts or to determine the value of a transaction. Living animals such as cattle, sheep, chickens, salmon or eels, as well as the skins of some animals such as beavers, moose, bears, otters, raccoons, wolves and foxes, were also used as currency. At the end of the 17th century and at the beginning of the 18th century, beaver skins had an estimated value of 4 pounds per pound of skin; moose skin was worth approximately 3 pounds; a bushel of wheat was 4 pounds; bear skin was 5 pounds; wolf skin

was 2 pounds and fox skin was 35 shillings. The cost of a cow was around 50 pounds, and a medium-sized pig fetched 15 pounds. One also used labor (days of work) and cords of wood as payment methods.

Did you know..

When Jullien Mercier transacted with Noël Juchereau sieur Deschatelets to go to the New World in 1647, the contract stated the sum of 75 *livres tournois* (pounds tournois) annually. That term, *livres tournois*, deserves to be looked at more closely. In France at that time, there were many *hôtels de monnaies*, minting establishments that produced coins according to royal decrees or edicts. Since the weight measurement units could vary from one province to another, there coexisted two coins systems: *tournois* currency issued by the mint in Tours, and *parisis* currency, issued by the mint in Paris. The currency from Tours was apparently only worth four fifths of the Paris currency. This duality in the currency persisted until the Paris currency was abolished by Louis XIV.

The daily salary of a laborer was between 30 and 40 shillings (between 1.5 and 2 pounds) for jobs of short duration. For seasonal work, the salary was 12 to 15 pounds per month. One must keep in mind that seasonal work was limited to five months per year because of the severity of winter, and that a laborer must earn enough money during that time to last through the other seven months. Tradesmen earned according to their particular trade. It is estimated that a woodworker earned about 100 pounds annually; a carpenter between 75 and 100 pounds; a mason 80 pounds; a locksmith 75 pounds; and that a tailor and a shoemaker earned around 60 pounds each annually.

It is interesting to know that butter sold for between 10 and 15 shillings, that a soldier's daily bread ration cost about 4 shillings, and that the rent for a room with a fireplace in the city went for between 50 and 70 pounds annually.

The LSD monetary system

We are not talking about an illegal substance here, but rather about the monetary system which has been in use for the longest period of time by a great number of empires, countries and colonies. The LSD designation is an acronym derived from the Latin names of the coins: *libra*, *solidus*, *denarius*. The English names were pound, shilling, and pence; as a matter of fact, the symbol for the pound sterling, £, comes from a stylized version of the first letter of *libra*. The French names were *livre*, *sol* and *denier*, and it is interesting to note that *sol* was often pronounced "sou" in French, a practice still in effect in Québec today for pennies or coins in general.

The origin of the LSD system can be traced back to Roman times, where the *denarius* (pence) was introduced as a silver coin in the 3rd century BC. The Roman Emperor Constantine 1st issued a gold coin, the *solidus* (shilling), in the 4th century AD. We have to thank Charlemagne for the creation of the *libra*, or pound, and for making all coins from silver henceforth. Twelve pence are needed to make one shilling, and 20 shillings make one pound. Charlemagne imposed this system uniformly throughout his empire in the 8th century, with the purpose of unifying his empire and to facilitate commercial trading. Countries began to abandon the LSD system with the American and French revolutions in the 18th century, but it survived in Great Britain until 1971.

In the monetary system in use at the time of the colonization of New France, there were two other coins, the *écu* and the *Louis d'or*,

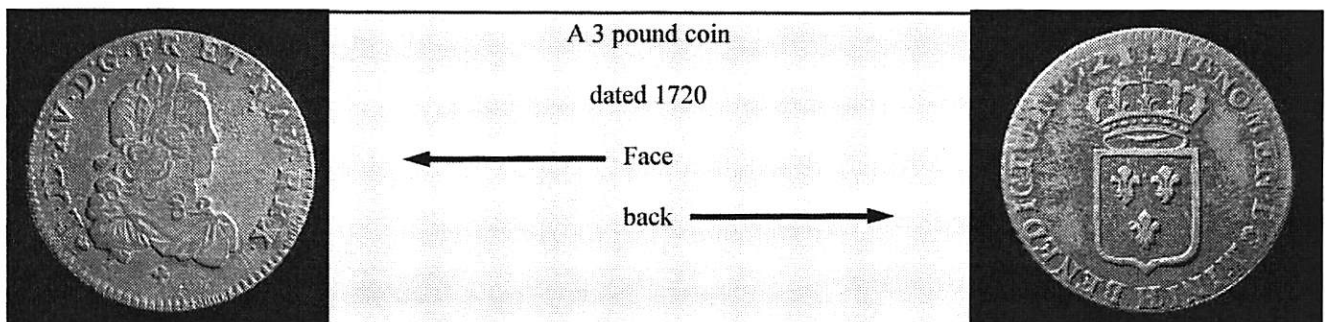
which was named in honor of King Louis XIII. It is therefore not surprising that the French revolutionaries wanted to change the currency! The French monetary system was therefore:

- 12 *deniers* = 1 *sol* (sou)
- 20 *sols* = 1 *livre*
- 6 *livres* = 1 *écu*
- 4 *écus* = 1 *Louis d'or*

The remnants of the LSD system can still be felt nowadays, since many countries still use:

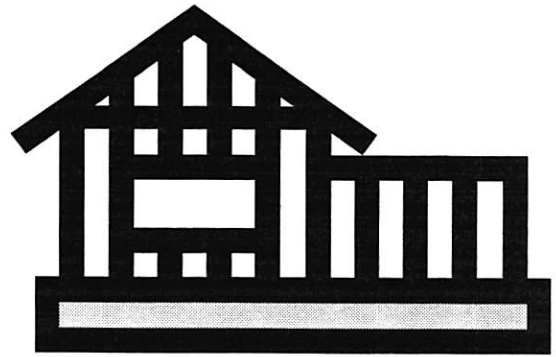
- The pound (*livre*)
 - o Great Britain, Cyprus, Egypt, the Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Lebanon, Malta, Sudan, St-Helena, Syria
 - o Australia and New Zealand had the pound until 1966 and 1967 respectively
 - o Italy, Turkey and Israel have or had the pound (lira)
- The shilling (*sol*)
 - o Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda
 - o Peru has the Sol
 - o Austria had the schilling
- The pence (*dinar*, *denier*)
 - o Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Macedonia, Sudan, Tunisia, Yugoslavia
 - o Bosnia and Croatia had the dinar

The next issue will include an article which deals with the scarcity of currency and the creation of the now famous playing card money.



**How can I
help AMAN ...**

secure its future



The Memory of the Past

For several years now, an interest in genealogy has been growing in the province. This thirst for knowledge of its origins is a sign of vitality for a nation. Respect for one's heritage is rooted in cultivating the memory of the past. As for a plant, roots are the source of life.

Egyptians and Greeks engraved their cultures in stone. These works have become an inspiration for humanity.

What is true for a people is also true for our great families. It is in their interest to preserve the memory of their past. It is due to the work of our ancestors, their motivations, the abilities they developed, the initiatives they took, the accomplishments they left behind, that one encounters our family name here and there, associated with so many realities in our country.

Our Association has created a special fund to act as custodian of this memory. We must not let forgetfulness bury what can enrich our history.

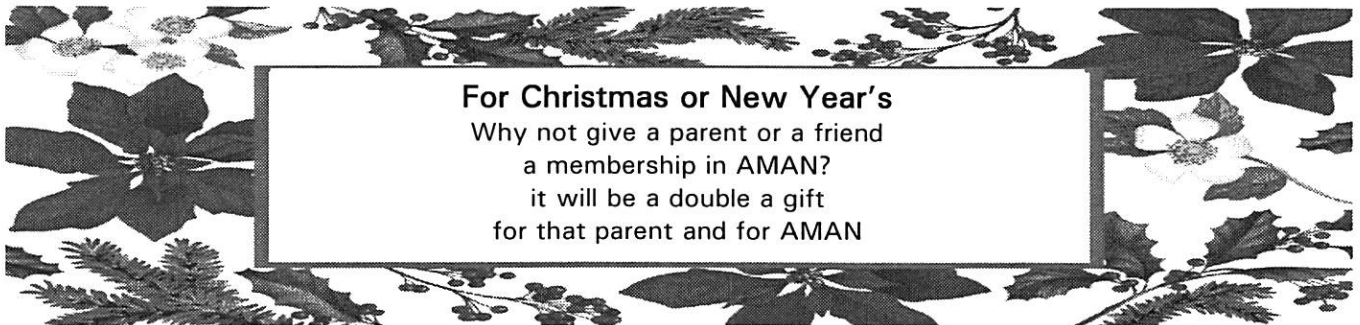
Mr. Ernest Mercier was very sensitive to this duty of acknowledgement and he masterfully uncovered our family history. In the pursuit of this thrust, our Association has created a special fund.

A project is already in the works: a commemorative plaque to be installed on the house where the ancestor Julien lived, in Tourouvre, Perche.

The Association is more than a social club that convenes its members on occasion. It wants to be the warden of the memories of our family. A nation is enriched by the values of each of its members. It is in their individual excellence and in how they complete each other that a nation becomes strong and great. The Association gives our family a voice and the possibility of knowing ourselves better. We must support its initiatives.

Bernard Mercier, C.Sc.R.
Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré

Translation by Marie-Claude Mercier, Montreal



For Christmas or New Year's

Why not give a parent or a friend
a membership in AMAN?
it will be a double a gift
for that parent and for AMAN

Eugene A.N. Mercier, a life member of AMAN
was recently honored as **the French Elk of the year for 2004.**

The Elks are an American charitable non-profit organization dedicated to the welfare of military veterans of all wars and to the support of youth programs which promote good citizenship. A French nite diner was held at which Eugene Mercier was presented with awards from the office of the Governor of Massachusetts, Mitt Romney, the State Senator Brian Lees, the Massachusetts House of Representatives and the Springfield, Massachusetts City Council. The following brief biography of Mr. Mercier was read following the diner in his honor and the awards were presented.

Brief Profile of
EUGENE A. N. MERCIER "GENE"
FRENCH ELK OF THE YEAR 2004

Gene resides in Somers, Ct. However he hails from Springfield, Ma. and attended local French school at St. Joseph Church. He played football briefly at Cathedral High School and that's where he met a cheerleader who later became his wife. Summer times in high school he worked at a lumber yard unloading bags of cement from railroad cars. Gene used to like to keep in shape so his Dad wouldn't get after him. Gene's father who was also a life member of our Lodge, was very well known in Springfield athletics, because he was the New England Heavyweight Wrestling Champion in 1934, before television made professional wrestling a spectacle.

After high school, Gene went to Georgetown University for one semester then the military caught up with him and he went into the Marine Corps until after the end of the Korean War. When released from active duty, he went back to college and earned a Bachelors of Science degree in Engineering and then matriculated in a M.B.A. program. While in college he married his sweetheart cheerleader Dolly who was then a RMS (Registered Medical Secretary).

After college he was hired by United Technologies Corporation (UTC) and worked in several Divisions including Corporate Headquarters in Hartford, Ct. and most often as a manager in International Marketing/Sales. At one time or another Gene has had responsibility for France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Western Africa, Central and South America and Indonesia. Also, the Phillipines, Malaysia/Singapore, Hong Kong, Korea and other countries too numerous to mention. He

is completely fluent in French and had a working knowledge of German and Spanish which he used at work. He retired from UTC in 1992 after 30 years and then formed his own company as a International Business Consultant.

Now fully retired Gene keeps busy as a member of the Board of Johnson Memorial Hospital in Stafford, Ct. He also serves that board on the Community Relations sub committee. He is also on the Board of Directors for the Somers Public Library and serves that board as chairman of the Expansion sub committee.

Gene and Dolly's family consists of a son, Doctor Charles E. Mercier, his wife, Doctor Pamala Jackson and their four children and a daughter, Lynn Ann, a children's teacher and her husband Doctor Christopher Culp and their two children.

Here at the Springfield Lodge of Elks Gene tries to play racquetball to keep in shape and has been chairman of the French Committee. He also serves on the Irish Committee, the German Committee, the Polish Committee and the Candidate Interview Committee.

Gene has been a member of this Lodge of Elks for Forty-Seven years and is a life member as were his father and his uncle. The Officers and Trustees of this lodge are proud to honor Gene Mercier as French Elk of the year and present to you these awards from the Governor of Massachusetts Mitt Romney, the Massachusetts State House of Representatives and the Springfield, Massachusetts City Council.

Congratulations Gene



Testimonies

The grand children remember grand father Onésiphore Mercier

Normand Gosselin (Adelina's son)

"When I was small, during the trip to Rouyn with my parents, I remember a grand father already very old but who imposed by his aura and his presence; it was for a little guy like me very captivating and at the same time filled with admiration for him. I remember that he ate rhubarb jam awfully unsweetened that he put with the tip of his knife over a piece of bread with a good cup of tea."

"He came often to the house at Ste-Rose, "occasionally" or by foot; the distance was of 56 km, leaving early in the morning to arrive at the end of the afternoon. Often the people of the village told my father: "your father-in-law is coming, we saw him" they said, he refused to get in with them saying: "I'm almost there" walking in a very rhythmic way; a big step with one leg and a small one from the other. I don't know how those two legs always arrived at the same time."

"When the evening arrived during those visits, with my father the big conversations started: they got along very well and they exchanged firmly, often very late at night. He lit a good pipeful of tobacco with a red brand that he took with his bare hand inside the wood stove. During those conversations, they settle the destiny of the world, the war, life in general, but specially the federal and provincial politics. Politicians of that time were sifted: the Caouette, Duplessis, St-Laurent, Danny Boy and others."

"During the first years that I worked in Montreal, I often made the trip to Montreal-Rouyn and Rouyn-Montreal; at various occasions between 1958 and 1962, he got in with me to go at Gerard's or Lucien's at Laval-des-Rapides or to get back to Rouyn. Those were big moments; always well seated, straight as a poker, he examined the landscape with much interest to be able to see everything and not to miss a thing. One particular night during the month of May; when the moose were particularly numerous because of the spring flies who made them go out from the forest, I had to turn back and cast the headlights of the car to see from behind the moose going into the woods: he was happy and I was privileged to live moments of his last years."

Hélène Bourque (Marie-Anne's daughter)

My grand father Onésiphore Mercier

"He spread peace in the house. He had a worthy bearing, he was tall, good and generous."

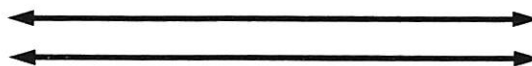
Some memories

"With a big feeling of well-being, during the morning, around 11 o'clock, sitting on his knees, inside his room downstairs beside the kitchen, we listen to *Les belles Histoires des Pays d'en Haut*. He smoked his pipe. Later, after his death, his room became mine. I still remember the odor, where there was a bed, the night table, etc."

"One Sunday, when mom, dad and the little ones left to Ste-Rose, grand father baby-sits me, I'm about 8 or 9 years old. I make my own supper of scrambled eggs; he shows me how to do it."

"We go to the market together. That market is further than St-Michel's church. There, he seems to know everyone. We just bought a new TV: it's Monday night and we're looking together at *les belles histoires des pays d'en haut*."

"The picture of grand father with my sister Danielle and me beside him appears in the *Journal de Rouyn*. He might be the eldest of the city (92 or 93 years old) I still have that picture."



The two documents above have been obtained by Father Antoine Mercier, Holy Spirit Father, of Montreal. He is the son of Onésiphore. These two testimonies follow an article written by Father Antoine and published in the last issue of *Le Mercien*, in which he described affectionately his family, and especially his father.

Le Mercien is pleased honour another great Mercier family and to give our readers the opportunity to know them better.

Le Mercien

The Academician

As a recognized academician who played an important role in his field, history hardly recognizes Louis-Sebastien Mercier (1740-1814) for his role in politics and as a writer. We should at least recognize him as part of our extended Mercier family.

This Parisian, the son of a craftsman, completed high school and received instructions in languages. Following several periods in England, he translated English authors. He supported the French monarchy but later when he criticized the monarchy, he left France to exile himself in Switzerland where he knew and admired a philosopher named Jean-Jaques Rousseau (1712-1778) who was a pioneer of the French Revolution.

Returning to France as a deputy to the Convention (In the USA today he would have been a State Representative) he aligned himself with an ideology of a centrist bourgeoisie group and opposed the death penalty for King Louis 16th (1795-1797). After having spent time in prison Louis-Sebastien Mercier was released from prison and given a seat as a councilman in the "Council of Five Hundred" (1795-1797). This was a legislative body established by the "Constitution 111" of 1795.

He began writing poetry but soon changed his mind and wrote prose thinking that those

who wrote prose were the real poets. He was thought of as a romantic and wrote fiction as well as non-fiction. He also wrote theater and various other works such as, "A New Look At Art"(1773), "Literature and Writers", "A Wheelbarrow of Vinegar", "The savage Man", "A Look at Paris", and "Portraits of French Kings".

In his fiction-science book, "The year 2004", (1771), he makes predictions of all imaginable changes in our world from the time of the destruction of the Judicial Royal High Court to the adaptation of a completely free society with freedom of the press, unheard of at that time, plus many other controversial subjects. He was ahead of his time as an advocate of the following;

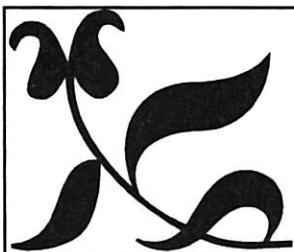
"Freedom of the press is a true measure of civil liberties. Sooner or later truth must prevail in the minds of the most ardent skeptics."

His active and public life did not satisfy Louis-Sebastien Mercier as he wished to have written on his tombstone the following epitaph;

"Here lies Louis-Sebastien Mercier
An Academician and yet nothing".

Written by Luc Mercier.

Translation by Eugene A.N. Mercier



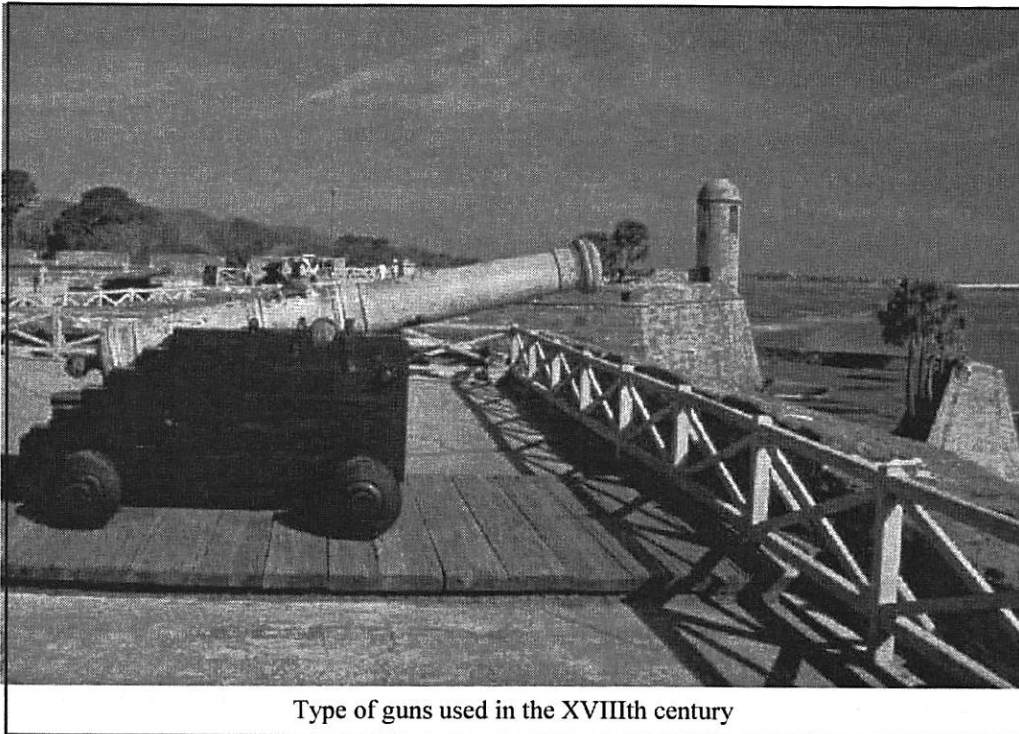
Welcome to a new member

1472 Alain L. Mercier, Orleans, Ont.



Le Mercier (Mercier), François-Marc-Antoine

FRANÇOIS-MARC-ANTOINE LE MERCIER (Mercier), artillery officer; b. 29 Dec. 1722 at Caudebec, France, son of Nicolas-François Le Mercier, lieutenant-colonel of infantry in the Régiment d'Agenois, and Charlotte Le Rebours; m. Françoise Boucher de La Bruère (La Bruyère) at Sainte-Foy, near Quebec, on 15 Nov. 1757, three days after he was baptized by Bishop Pontbriand [Dubreil*] in Notre-Dame in Quebec; d. c. 1798 in the region of Lisieux, France.



Type of guns used in the XVIIIth century

In 1734 François-Marc-Antoine Le Mercier was a militia lieutenant, and the following year he joined the Régiment d'Agenois at Philippsburg (Federal Republic of Germany) with the rank of second lieutenant. At the end of the War of the Polish Succession he was put on half pay and shortly after left the army to study mathematics at Strasbourg and La Fère in France. He arrived in Canada in 1740 as a cadet in the colonial regular troops. Serious and ambitious, Le Mercier began to study engineering and gunnery; in 1743 he was appointed second ensign and was attached to the service of the commissary of artillery, Jean-Baptiste Dupin de Belugard.

When the War of the Austrian Succession spread to America in 1744, Le Mercier found himself in sole charge of the artillery at Quebec. He supervised 500 workmen, having batteries built, setting up defence lines near the Rivière Saint-Charles, and repairing a barrack block. The following year he served as an engineer and artillery officer in the Acadian campaign under Paul Marin* de La Malgue. After the surrender of Louisbourg, Île Royale (Cape Breton Island) in June 1745, he proceeded to Beaubassin (near Amherst, N.S.), which was being used as a rallying point; on the way there he sank a privateering sloop. He then returned to Quebec. At the beginning of 1746 he was ordered by Governor Charles de Beauharnois* to go to Fort Saint-Frédéric (near Crown Point, N.Y.) to help in readying its defences and to take an inventory of its munitions and supplies. During his stay

at the fort he discovered the Lac Saint-Sacrement (Lake George) portage and went as far as Fort Lydius (also called Fort Edward; now Fort Edward, N.Y.). He was recalled to Quebec after the spring thaw and left immediately for Acadia with the force that Jean-Baptiste-Nicolas-Roch de RAMEZAY was leading to meet the Duc d'Anville [La Rochefoucauld*]. At the beginning of the following winter he was at Beaubassin, and in February 1747 was one of 300 Canadians and Indians commanded by Nicolas-Antoine Coulon* de Villiers who, in extremely cold weather and after a forced march, successfully attacked a detachment of New England-

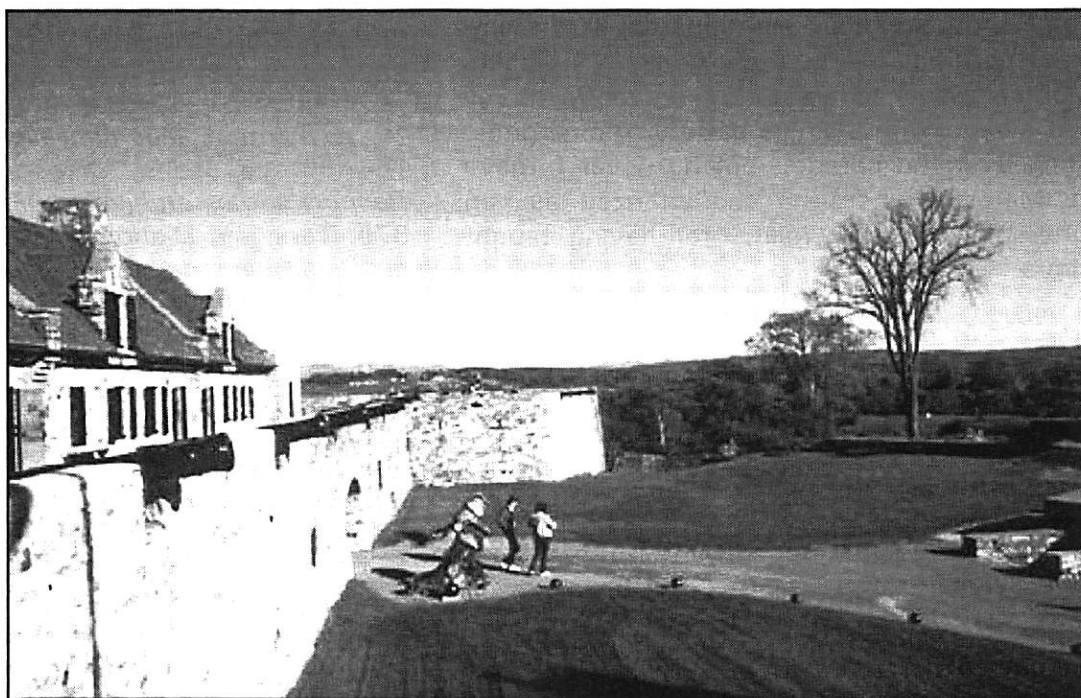
ers led by Arthur Noble* at Grand Pré, Nova Scotia.

In 1748 Le Mercier was appointed artillery aide. When the war ended, he was sent to France specifically to study artillery drill, the manufacture and casting of artillery pieces, and the basic concepts of defence works, and he subsequently sat an examination. He stayed in several towns and to acquire experience visited some ironworks, including those at Rancogne (dept of Charente) where cannons were cast. At the beginning of 1750 he was promoted lieutenant and put in command of an artillery company, the first such unit to be sent to Canada. From Rochefort he went to the Île de Ré, where he trained his artillery recruits. When he was back in Canada with his company, he made a strong impression on Governor La Jonquière [Taffanel*] because of the discipline he maintained among his gunners and the care he took of the artillery. In 1751 Le Mercier supervised the casting of some 100 guns and a dozen mortars at the Saint-Maurice ironworks at Trois-Rivières, but apparently Intendant BIGOT put an end to the arms production at the ironworks after 1752, for a number of reasons including the lack of specialized master founders.

In 1753 the new governor of the colony, Duquesne, who was determined to ensure French supremacy in the Ohio region, organized a major campaign [see Paul Marin de La Malgue]. Le Mercier took part in it as an engineer; he

was also made responsible for the transport of rations. In April he left Montreal with a small detachment and headed towards Fort Niagara (near Youngstown, N.Y.). During the summer he helped build Fort de la Presqu'île (Erie, Pa) and Fort de la Rivière au Bœuf (Waterford, Pa), which were erected to undercut British claims to the Ohio valley. That year he was promoted captain, but he was not given the cross of the order of Saint-Louis which Duquesne had sought for him. The governor did, however, entrust him with command of engineering and artillery forces in the colony.

The following spring Le Mercier returned to Fort de la Rivière au Bœuf with a force of 360 soldiers and militiamen. He was immediately ordered by Claude-Pierre Pécaudy de Contrecoeur to dislodge the British who had begun building a fort on the Ohio River. He was successful, and he continued construction of the fort under the name of Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh, Pa). In early summer an expedition was organized to avenge the death of Joseph Coulon* de Villiers de Jumonville, killed on 28 May 1754 in an ambush set by George Washington. Louis Cou-



Fort Carillon built on Lake Champlain in 1755 (From Encarta Encyclopedia of Microsoft 2001 ed.)

Ion* de Villiers, Jumonville's brother, led the 500 men, and Le Mercier was made his second in command. They forced Washington and his detachment out of Fort Necessity (near Farmington, Pa), where they had taken refuge, and returned to Fort Duquesne. In the autumn Le Mercier was sent to France to give an account of the operations in which he had participated during the last two campaigns in America. On 15 October he sailed on board the *Parfaite Union*, in company with Bigot, Michel-Jean-Hugues Péan, and Péan's wife, Angélique Renaud d'Avène Des Méloizes.

Le Mercier returned to Quebec in the spring of 1755. In September he took part in the battle at Lac Saint-Sacrement, in the course of which he probably served as adviser to Dieskau* – Montcalm*, who had not witnessed the event, later ventured to say that Le Mercier had "caused M. de Dieskau's defeat and capture." During the French army's retreat Le Mercier had the rear-guard, and with his ten men succeeded in getting out of an ambush laid by 250 British soldiers. The following summer Le Mercier commanded the artillery at the capture of Oswego (Chouaguen), Montcalm's first military operation in New France, and his intrepidity overcame the general's hesitations about the emplacement and laying of the guns. In six hours Montcalm succeeded in bringing about the fall of Oswego with a single battery of nine guns, firing over the parapet, but he never forgave Le Mercier, whom he characterized as "an ignorant and weak man," for having taught him a lesson.

In 1757 the artillery in the colony counted eight officers including Louis-Thomas JACAU de Fiedmont and 180 gunners; Le Mercier was still only a captain, but he received a brevet as artillery commander and a pension of 400 *livres*. That year the king bestowed upon him the cross of the order of Saint-Louis.

JEAN PARISEAU

(To be continued)

This document will be continued in the next issue of *Le Mercien*. The idea originates from Claudine Mercier of Sainte-Foy who conducted the research.

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A Grandmother Seen Through the Eyes of an Eight Year Old

A grandmother is a woman with no child of her own.

This is why she loves other people's children.

Grandmothers don't need to do anything, they just have to be there.

When they take us for a walk, they pass slowly by beautiful leaves and caterpillars; they never say: « walk more quickly, hurry up ».

In general, they are fat, but not so much as to be unable to tie our shoes.

They always know we need a second piece of cake, or bigger ones.

A grandmother never hits a child, she gets angry by laughing.

Grandmothers wear glasses, and sometimes they can even remove their teeth.

They can be deaf at need, so as to not embarrass us when we're clumsy.

When they read us stories, they never skip a section; they're not opposed to our requesting the same story several times.

Grandmothers are the only adults who have time.

They know how to make us feel good when we're hurt.

Grandmothers are not as fragile as they say, although they die more often than we do.

Everyone should try to have a grandmother, especially if they don't have Nintendo.

Translation by Marie-Claude Mercier, Montreal
of a French text originating from Entre-Nous, September 1996 issue,
a quarterly bulletin published by Le Club de Genealogie de Longueuil

Mercier Families Among the First Settlers in the Beauce

Mercier families settled in the Beauce region in general and in Sainte-Marie, in particular, well over two centuries ago.

The first recorded event dates back to February 15, 1767, which is barely twenty years after the founding of the parish. It is the christening of Marie-Magdeleine, daughter of Pierre Mercier and of Marie-Anne Fontaine. The couple had been married on October 10, 1763 in Lauzon, County of Levis. He was reported to be a mill operator in Sainte-Croix.

Other christenings followed:

- 1810, Françoise Mercier,
- 1815, Julie Mercier,
- 1819, Marie Germaine Mercier
- 1820, Marie Mercier.

The first recorded marriage uniting two families of Sainte-Marie took place in 1833. On February 11 of that year, Jean-Baptiste Mercier, the son of Joachim and of Marie-Françoise Patry married Marie-Genevieve Gagnon, the daughter of Jean-Baptiste et of Marguerite Boulay.

The following year, on January 28, 1834, Louis Mercier, the son of Louis and of Marie-Rose Gagnon married Marie-Anne Gagne-

Bellavance, the daughter of Germain and of Angelique Carrier, all of Sainte-Marie.

On October 11, 1836, Julien Mercier, the son of Guillaume and of Judith Fortier, married Anastasie Gagne, the daughter of Germain and of Rosalie Langlois, all from Sainte-Marie. In the case of those three marriages, the husbands were all descendants of Julien Mercier, who had arrived from France in 1647 and had settled in Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupre. However, they came from three different sons of Julien: Pascal, Jean and Pierre.

Many public personalities came from the Beauce region bearing names such as: Taschereau, Barbeau, Chapman, Vachon, to name just a few.

There were also Merciers born in Beauce who became famous, one of them is Luc Mercier, a retired judge, born in Saint-Joseph, currently living in Longueuil and pursuing his prolific writing career.

AMAN is proud to honour those Merciers who became famous as pioneers and influential in many ways.

Pierre-Paul Mercier



Family Reunion in Villeroy

At the invitation of Georgette, many Mercier were gathered in Villeroy, on Saturday May 29, to get acquainted or renew old ties. Festivities began with a 4PM mass followed by dinner and an evening of fun and games. Many had brought family pictures and we were stunned to note the resemblance between second cousins. Many Mercier who attended came from Florida, Washington, New York and Vermont. Many of them are AMAN members and often participate in our activities.

1857); and three daughters: Philomène, Julie and Obéline. Théodore and Siméon left Ste-Agathe to live in Ste-Anne-du-Sault (Daveluyville) near Villeroy, Nazaire emigrated to the United States (2), Charles, Zéphirin and Anselme (who is my great-grandfather) settled in Ste-Agathe. Of Napoléon, I know that he was married in 1865 in Notre-Dame-de-Lévis and Louis' marriage took place in Ste-Agathe in 1875. I've never known where they lived and have never met any of their descendants.



Georgette had invited my sister and myself, because we had met many of her family during Mercier reunions. I thank her sincerely for her invitation and congratulate her on the organization of the event.

As for our branch of the family tree, we come from the line of Jean, son of Julien. Our great-great-grandfather Henri (Henry) married Julie Carrier dit Lebrun in St-Henri-de-Lévis on October 11, 1831. The couple settled in St-Anselme, a neighboring parish and lived there for twenty years, after which they moved to Ste-Agathe-de-Lotbinière (1). The couple had several children including many sons: Théodore, Siméon, Charles, Zéphirin, Henri, Napoléon, Nazaire, Anselme and Louis (who was the only one born in Ste-Agathe in

- 1) From Le Mercien, January 1993.
- 2) Family History by Marie-Reine
- 3) Le Mercier, Fall 2002. Childhood Memories by Harriette E. Cady

Lucie Mercier,
Plessisville

(Translation by Marie-Claude of Montreal)

Your New Board of Directors

On October 23, your new board of directors met for the first times and elected its officers for the coming year. The opposite picture was taken on that occasion.

From left to right: Pierre-Paul of Saint-Lambert, president, Jean-Guy de Quebec, Suzanne de Saint-Damien of Bellechasse, newly elected to the board at the August members' meeting, Jean-Louis of Levis, Benoît of Charlesbourg, vice-president, Joanne of Charlesbourg, Therese of Montmagny, Jacques of Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka, secretary, Lucie of Plessisville and Raynald of Sainte-Marie de Beauce, vice-president. Lucie of Saint-Lambert was absent from the meeting. Jean of Quebec was elected treasurer, however he does not sit on the board.



Sincere Condolences to their Families

Lise Tremblay Mercier	September 27, 2004	Quebec City
Marcel Mercier	September 28, 2004	Quebec City
Rosa Mercier Belisle	October 1, 2004	Montréal
Marguerite Mercier Robert	October 3, 2004	Montreal
Marguerite Chabot Mercier	October 11, 2004	Ile d'Orleans
Jacques Mercier	October 15, 2004	Beauport
Serge Mercier	October 15, 2004	Montréal
Pierrette Mercier	October 22, 2004	Saint-Roch des Aulnaies
Juliette Mercier Landry	October 25, 2004	Levis



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