

Volume 22

Number 4

Winter 2006



Le Mercien

The Voice of the Merciers of North America



The Mercier Castle

in Sierre, Switzerland

The Newsletter of the Association of the Merciers of North America



Coat of arms of the Merciers of North America registered by Mgr Jean-Paul Gelinas 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

Honour roll - Governors of A.M.A.N.

Name	Occupation	Residence	Admission
Ernest Mercier	Founding President of A.M.A.N.		1999
Pierre-Paul Mercier	Administration	Saint-Lambert, Qué.	2000
Alain Mercier	Communications	Sillery, Qué.	2000
Charles Mercier	Engineering	Québec, Qué.	2000
Christine Mercier	Teaching	Québec, Qué.	2000
Louis Mercier	Actuarial	Saint-Bruno, Qué.	2000
Pierre Mercier	Engineering	Saint-Bruno, Qué.	2000
Suzanne Mercier	Commerce	Montréal, Qué.	2000
Lucienne M-Croteau	Teaching	Bonnyville, Alta	2001

Board of Directors for 2006-2007 and services of AMAN

Executive

President:	Jean-Louis Mercier, (#894) Lévis	Tél.: (418) 837-8410	E-mail: « jeanmon@videotron.ca »
1st V.-Pres:	Pierre-Paul Mercier, (#19) Saint-Lambert	Tél.: (450) 671-9051 Fax: (450) 671-6038	E-mailCourriel: « ppmmercier@videotron.ca »
2nd V.-Pres:	Raynald Mercier, (# 1462) Sainte-Marie de Beauce	Tél.: (418) 806-6006	E-mail: « raynaldmercier@globetrotter.net »
Secretary:	Suzanne Mercier, (#1126) Saint-Damien,	Tél.: (418) 789-2976	E-mail: « geobegin@glogetrotter.net »

Members Directors

Diane Mercier (#1465), Anjou	Tél.: (514) 352-3363	
Dolorès Morin (#1207), St-Étienne	Tél.: (418) 831-2319	
Isabelle Mercier (#269), Sainte-Foy	Tél.: (418) 651-3839	
Jean-Guy Mercier (#1417), Sainte-Foy	Tél.: (418) 650-3874	E-mail: « claudette@fortin.com »
Johanne Mercier (# 1450), Charlesbourg	Tél.: (418) 623-7880	E-mail: « gilbert.gl@videotron.ca »
Lucie Mercier (#819), Plessisville	Tél.: (819) 362-2856	E-mail: « lmerferd@hotmail.com »
Thérèse Mercier (#455), Montmagny	Tél.: (418) 248-4504	

Services

Treasurer:	Jean Mercier (#1), Québec	Tél.: (418) 688-3092	E-mail: « jean_mercier@sympatico.ca »
	Benoît Mercier (#222), Charlesbourg	Tél.: (418) 623-0833	E-mail: « benoitbmercier@hotmail.com »
Records:	André Mercier (#189), Québec	Tél.: (418) 683-3959	E-mail: « and.mercier@videotron.ca »

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.

Governor: \$1,000.

Those amounts are in U.S. currency for U.S. residents and in euros for European residents

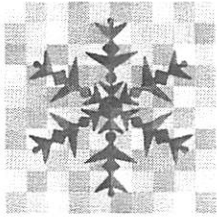
AMAN,

P.O. Box 10090, Sainte-Foy Branch,
Québec, (Québec), Canada, G1V 4C6

Association des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord

Internet: « genealogie.org/famille/mercier »
E-mail: « mercier.aman@hotmail.com »

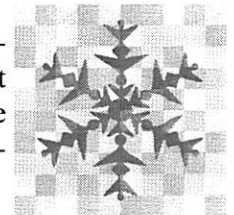
Editor's page



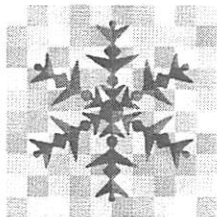
In line with the upcoming festive season, the members of the board of directors and the entire support staff of A.M.A.N. offer every member and their families their best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May 2007 bring you health, happiness and may your deepest dreams come true.

It is with confidence that the association undertakes the new year and hopes to recruit many new members. Please, do not hesitate to talk about A.M.A.N. during your family reunions and to invite your parents and friends to join us; the holiday season is a most appropriate time to spread your message.

We are happy to welcome a new sponsor. The G.M. dealership in Cap-aux-Meules, Québec, is operating under the name of Garage Clarke Inc. Its president is Robert Mercier. We appreciate the support of this new business concern. We encourage all members to encourage our sponsors. They support us, so let us support them.



Changes have taken place within the board of directors as a result of the last annual meeting of the members in August and we have a report on those changes. The newly formed board of directors has not met yet to elect the new executive for the coming year. You will be informed as soon as possible.



We bring you up to date on the matter of the new museum devoted to French Emigration to Canada following its official opening on September 30, 2006.

We introduce you to a most modern technique: "*genetics genealogy*". The utilisation of this state of the art technique to the research of ancestors is its infancy and has resulted in most surprising revelations. This story is to be continued.

We have another portion of the history of Jean-Jacques Mercier, this Swiss businessman who became famous in many ways as a result of his business achievements and for the trail of the many monuments he left behind.

Pierre-Paul Mercier

Table of contents

3- Editor's page	9- Genetics genealogy
4- Report by the president	11- Jean-Jacques Mercier
5- Changes in directors	15- Membership news
6- French Emigration Museum	16- Our sponsors



Report by the president

I wish to thank all the members who joined us for the general annual meeting held in Chambly on August 19. Those in attendance included members from Ontario as well as from the United States. All those present were unanimous about the quality of services at the restaurant and at the Fort of Chambly. I am grateful to all the volunteers who have contributed to the great success of this event organised under the stewardship of Pierre-Paul Mercier of Saint-Lambert.

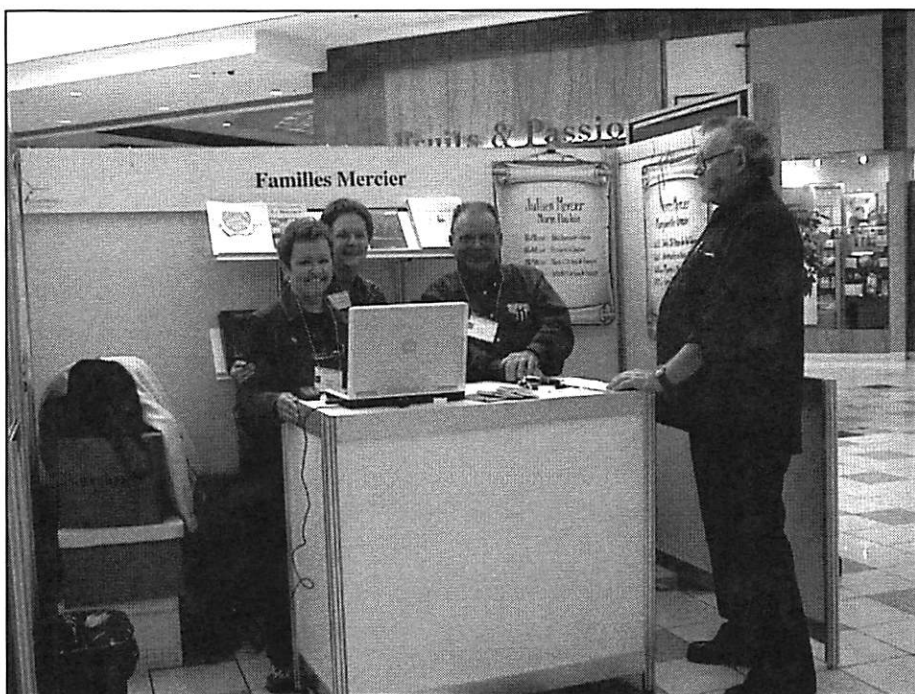
On October 13, 14 and 15, the Federation Family Associations had organised a genealogy fair at the commercial center Carrefour Laval in suburban Montreal. Pierre-Paul had taken charge of our participation and I wish to thank the volunteers who assisted him for this event.

Please accept my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jean-Louis Mercier, president

The Family Fair

A family fair had been organised by the Federation of Family Associations in Laval, North of Montreal and A.M.A.N. was present along with 65 other associations out of some 225 which make up the membership of the federation. It is a good opportunity for us to be better known and meet other Merciers or persons interested in our association. This was a very fruitful event for us. Two new members have registered on right then, one of whom was a British-Columbia resident visiting his family in the area. Two other persons have promised to mail their membership applications.



Robert Mercier of Valleyfield was in attendance for the entire three days with his son-in-law Jacques Gignard. He took this opportunity to complement his data bank of 66,000 names with information gathered from visitors. They both deserve a very special thank.

Dianne of Montreal and Suzanne of Saint-Damien also participated in manning our booth.

Pierre-Paul Mercier

Changes in board membership

The last annual general meeting of the members held on October 19, 2006 has brought about changes in the membership of the board of directors.

Benoît of Charlesbourg has decided not to make himself available to serve on the board for another mandate and he has been replaced by Dolorès Morin of Saint-Étienne.

Benoît has had an important role as a member of the board of directors, since he acted as liaison between the board and the support staff involved in the day to day operations of our association. He also was in regular contact with the federation of family associations, of which he was the treasurer for many years.

Benoît agreed to be responsible for the same functions within our association, but he will no longer be available for discussions on different topics at the board level.

He has been a volunteer since the very beginning of our association and has always been involved in basic functions important for the good delivery of services: accounting, financial management, liaison with the treasurer and the auditor, the follow-up of actions with the F.F.S.Q., the maintenance of our records library, of our web site and of our general correspondence.

In addition, he agreed to take responsibility for the organisation of our 2007 and 2008 annual meetings. He has already scouted for suitable places to hold those events and find out the kind of services that would be available to us..

The 2008 meeting is relatively important, since it coincides with the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the establishment of the first colony in Quebec City.

Dolorès Morin is no stranger to the board of directors. She sat on the board from 1998 to 2000, and she is welcome back.



The Museum of French Emigration to Canada

Between 1634 and 1666, 246 inhabitants of the Perche province left their lands to settle in New France, on the shores of the Saint-Lawrence River. Many of them came from the Tourouvre Parish. They were among the first to build a house and to clear the great lands that would soon become the province of Quebec. Thousands of migrants from all regions of France did the same. This is how the land that Jacques Cartier had referred to as "Canada" during his second expedition in 1535 came to be developed.

The House of French Emigration to Canada replaces the Museum of Perch Emi-

gration, a French and Canadian genealogy and exchange center created in 1997.

The new museum opened its doors in the fall of 2006. It is the product of concerted efforts by the Community of Communes of Haut-Perche, the Orne Department, the Lower Normandy Region, the French Government, the European Union and the Canadian Government in order to perpetuate the memory of a founding epic.

The official opening took place on September 30, 2006, presided over by Mr. Guy Monhé, President of the Community of Communes of Haut-Perche and Mr. Claude Laverdure, Canadian Ambassador



An interpretation center of emigration from France and Perch to Canada, the museum houses scientific knowledge on the phenomenon of French emigration prior to 1760. It is also a meeting place, and a bridge to the future and the development of new relations.

Although it is a place of remembrance, part of the museum's mission is also to develop relations between French people - whichever region they come from - and their North American descendants, through exhibitions, encounters, genealogical exchanges, cultural happenings and activities for the youth. Visitors to the museum will find demographic and genealogical information that leads to a better understanding of the social and individual context of French emigrants who left their country to build a new one.

The museum has solid backing in French and Canadian academic circles. Its data is based on an important scientific research program (PREFEN) which seeks to piece together the circumstances of French emigration in the 17th and 18th centuries. Data from this research will be added to the content presented to the public and will insure the scientific validity of the displays.



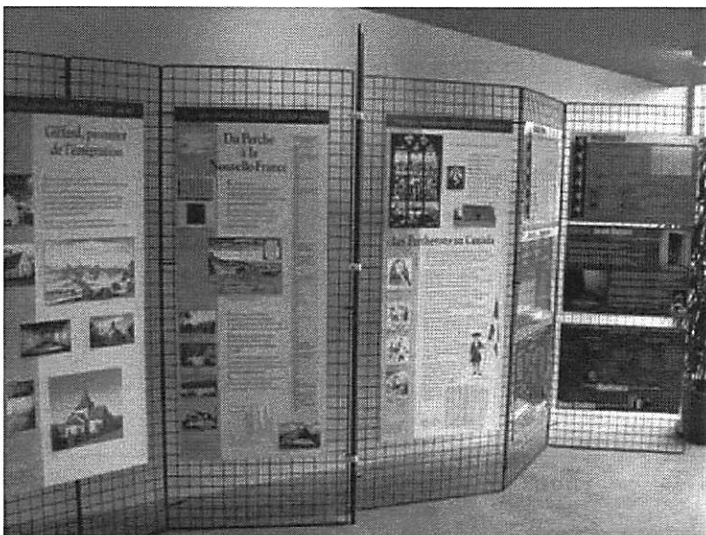
Quebecers, Almost All Cousins!

More than 95% of Quebecers have at least one common ancestor, according to the results of a study headed by Marc Tremblay and H el ene V ezina of the Interdisciplinary Demographic and Epidemiological Genetic Research Group (GRIG) of UQAC, the University of Quebec in Chicoutimi. An article on the subject was published in the May 21, 2002 edition of *Le Devoir*, a Quebec daily newspaper, signed by Pauline Gravel.

The Orne Archives Online in Early 2007

At the Orne Departmental Archives, preparatory work for internet access to the certificates contained in the parish and civil registers is ongoing. Access to the digitized certificates of the Orne Department on the internet should be possible in early 2007.

Several departments have already published their archives online, among them the neighboring Sarthe and the Mayenne departments.



Genealogical Societies - Cooperation Agreement Between Normandy and Quebec

As we await the great gathering of 2008 in Quebec City that will bring together hundreds of specialists from some thirty countries, the Quebec City Genealogical Society has signed a cooperation accord with the Union of Genealogical and Heraldic Circles of Normandy.

At a meeting in Rouen in mid-October, the respective presidents of the associations, Mariette Parent and Jean-Pierre Raux, have established strong ties leading to future exchanges of genealogical and historical information. The expanded territory of present-day Normandy supplied the greater share of emigrants to New France. We know that several hundreds of them laid their roots down and largely populated this country and the continent.

The Normandy Union brings together nearly 5000 genealogists from Calvados, Eure, Orne, Perche, Manche, Seine-Maritime and Paris.

Both partners want to continue exchanging their respective journals: the Normandy Genealogical

Review and the Ancestor. They are also considering creating a question and answer column in the journals once they have agreed on a general framework. Other elements of the agreement seek to favor the publication of articles deemed most relevant and to facilitate visits of their respective members to France and Quebec.

Let's take a moment to remind our readers that Quebec City will host the 28th International Convention of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences in 2008. The event will take place June 23-28 under the theme A Meeting of Two Worlds: Quest or Conquest.

It is only the second time the event is held in America. The first time was in Ottawa, in 1996. The convention takes place every two years.

Delegates should feel at home here. There are 47 genealogical societies in the province. The Quebec City Genealogical Society has had nearly 6000 members since it was founded in 1961. There are presently 1700 active members.

(The source of this material is an article written by L.G. Lemieux and published in the daily Le Soleil of Quebec City on November 10, 2005. The adaptation to English is by Marie-Claude Mercier.)

They Were Only a Handful...

They have become innumerable. 1955 men and 1425 women, 3380 persons in all who settled during the 17th century are considered to form the stock of the Canadian population.

Starting in 1634, the small province of Perche seems to have provided 146 adults, according to current research. Ongoing academic studies should allow us to confirm that number which seems rather modest. However, direct descendants from these pioneers are estimated to be about one and a half million in Canada. This number does not take into account scattering across North America, nor people who bear today a different family name, as a great majority of Canadians do today.

The explanation for this genealogical presence comes from the fact that emigrants from Perche were among the first to settle in the province and on the shores of the Saint-Lawrence River.

(Most of the material for the preceding three pages were taken from websites on the following organizations or were created by them: the Tourouvre Museums, the Haut-Perche region, Perche-Canada, Perche-Quebec, the Museum of French Emigration to Canada)

Genetics genealogy

An article published on October 2nd in the French Montreal daily La Presse written by Mathieu Perreault, we learn that genetics is used more and more in genealogy research.

For some time now, North-American retirees have begun to research their ancestral roots, it appears that genetic testing is used more often to determine the origin of our ancestors.

According to Perreault, a simple test costing a few hundred dollars and a small sample mucus from your mouth can determine the continental origin of your ancestors. Quebecers can even go as far as determining the very region of France where their ancestors came from.

However, the search of ancestors based on the genetic pattern can lead to many surprises. One could even find out that he is not the son of his mother. A few years ago, a prominent member of a Quebec family association decided to be tested genetically and was really shocked at the results: he had none of the genes normally identified in the population having his surname. He was told such a situation could prove that genealogy research is sometimes carried out by people whose methods are not always reliable. It could also mean that there might have been an adoption along the line or a false paternity.

According to Mathieu Perreault, genetics genealogy

has been around for decades, but it really took off in the last five years. At the beginning, testing was very expensive, but they have come down gradually. Currently they might run between \$100. and \$700. in the United-States.

Quebecers are not so inclined to consider genetics genealogy for the time being, because they pretend to be familiar with their ancestral roots, since their families have been settled and developed locally for many generations.

However, in other parts of Canada and in the United-States, there have often been migrations. It is not uncommon for some couples to have their children scattered to the four corners of the United-States. Genealogical research is then much more difficult and people have the impression of having severed from their family roots. At least it is the opinion of Mr Jacques Beaugard who has done extensive work on genetics when he was teaching at the Quebec University Montreal and who has been consulted by Mathieu Perreault for the purpose of his article.

The French ADN project assists participants in tracing their ancestors born in France on the basis of different genetic patterns. However the French project is very complicated because of the French legislation which forbids genetic testing not sanctioned by a research organisation or approved by a judge. According to Mr Beaugard, there is a legal loophole in France, because paternity tests



are forbidden so as to prevent adopted children from tracing their biological parents and also to allow women to give birth without having to name the newborn's father.

The lack of territorial accuracy also hinders certain users of genetical genealogy testing when they attempt to establish their aboriginal roots. Certain aboriginal groups distribute part of the profits generated by their casino operations on Indian reserves; in order to qualify, recipients have to demonstrate that their great-grand-parents were of aboriginal descend. However, having an aboriginal DNA pattern does not relate to a particular tribe.

However, having aboriginal blood is one of the most current surprises found in genetics genealogy. According to Mr Beauregard, this happens very frequently in Quebec as well as in the rest of North-America. In the United-States, many black Americans discover that some of their ancestors were white. In fact, because of genetics genealogy,

it could be ascertained that Thomas Jefferson had a child with a black slave.

Genetics genealogy also has a much wider scope. Some research lead to the identification of a "Mitochondrial Eve", a woman who has lived in East Africa some 150,000 to 200,000 years ago who would be the ancestor of all human beings on this planet today. Also, some extraordinary harems have been identified. A man who lived in the XIIIth century, probably Gengis Khan, would be the ancestor of 8% of the people living today in the territory of the former Mongol empire. Also, a man who lived in Ireland in the Vth century, probably King Niall, would be the ancestor of 9% of the Irish people.

(The preceding text is the English adaptation of a French article written by Mathieu Perreault and published in the Montreal La Presse on October 2, 2006.)

On the same topic . . .

Through an article published in The New-York Times last February, we learn that there are a dozen companies offering home testing kits at prices from \$100. to \$900. They include Family Tree DNA of Houston, Relative Genetics of Salt Lake City and African Ancestry of Washington.

Family Tree DNA have tested 20,000 people last year and generated revenues of \$5 Million.

In a future issue, we will come back on this topic which generates much interest on the part of those who search for their ancestors and do not have access to documentary evidence



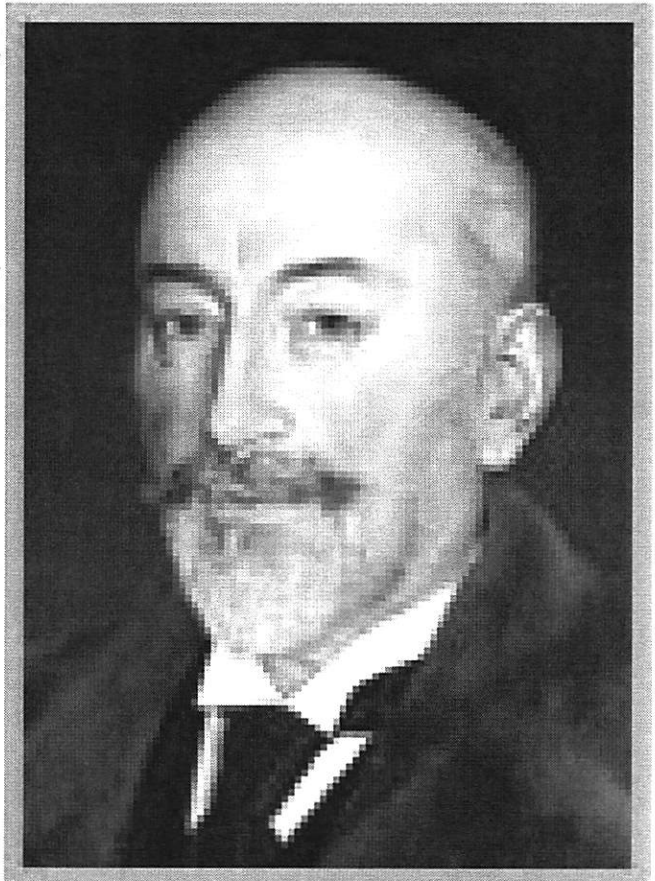
The Mercier Castle

Pradegg Castle was built between 1906 and 1908 on the heights of the city of Sierre. It is known today as "Château Mercier", bearing the name of an illustrious family of Lausanne tanners.

It was built at the request of Jean-Jacques and Marie Mercier de Molin for the needs of their family. They entrusted the architect Chabloz with the project, inspired by the valdotain style, while Marie Mercier de Molin herself designed the surrounding gardens.

For more than half a century, Château Mercier was their summer residence and that of their descendants.

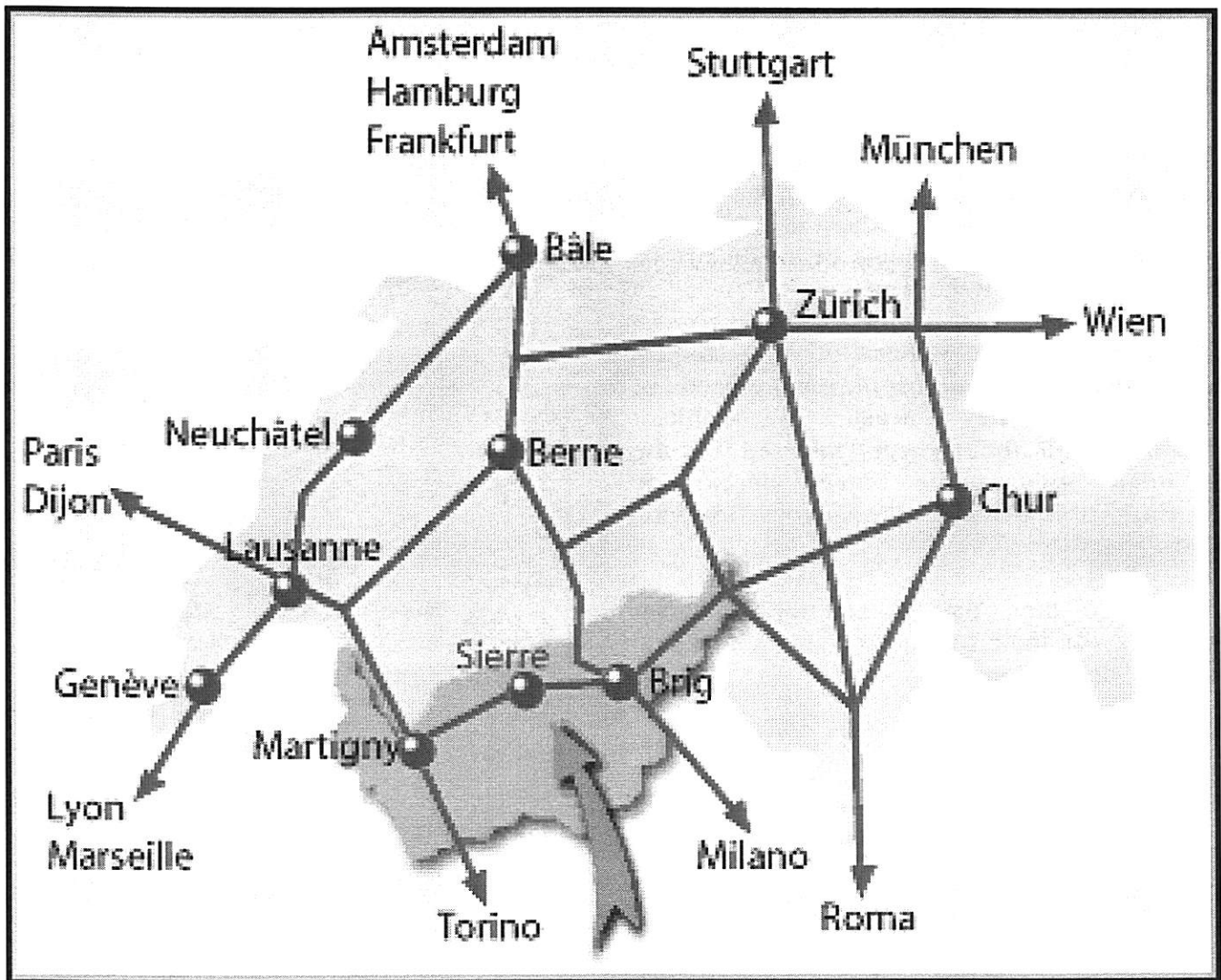
In an agreement dated January 27, 1970, the Jean-Jacques Mercier de Molin family foundation promised to hand over to the Valais



authorities the domain of 37126 square meters, on which was erected the château itself, as well as three houses and some smaller buildings (barns, stables, etc.), all integrated in a prestigious park overlooking the city of Sierre.

The transfer was effective on January 1st, 1991. The contract includes the obligation of leaving the gardens open to the public, and to favor activities related to culture, the arts, and public relations. Artwork, objects and furniture of value, including paintings by E. Bieler and L. Rivier, which will remain in the château until the year 2020, are also part of the deal.

To uphold the conditions of the contract, the State Council has decided to use the premises for cultural and social activities and to



house a meeting place open to the public at large to host discussion forums and civic receptions.

The State entrusted the management of the château to a foundation created on January 20, 1992 by the Valais Canton, the Commune of Sierre and the J.J. Mercier de Molin family foundation.

The Château Mercier foundation has undertaken conservation and renovation works of the château and the park with the support of the State of Valais and the Commune of Sierre.

The domain now offers meeting rooms for groups of up to 40 people, in a magnificent setting just outside Sierre. Facilities also include lodging and food accommodations.

We remind our readers that this Mercier family originally was from Aveyron in France and fled to Lausanne around 1740 where they founded a prosperous tannery. In the 19th century, the renown of the industry was such as to contribute to forging the economic prosperity of Switzerland and the reputation of its products spread as far as America (see our article in the last Mercien).



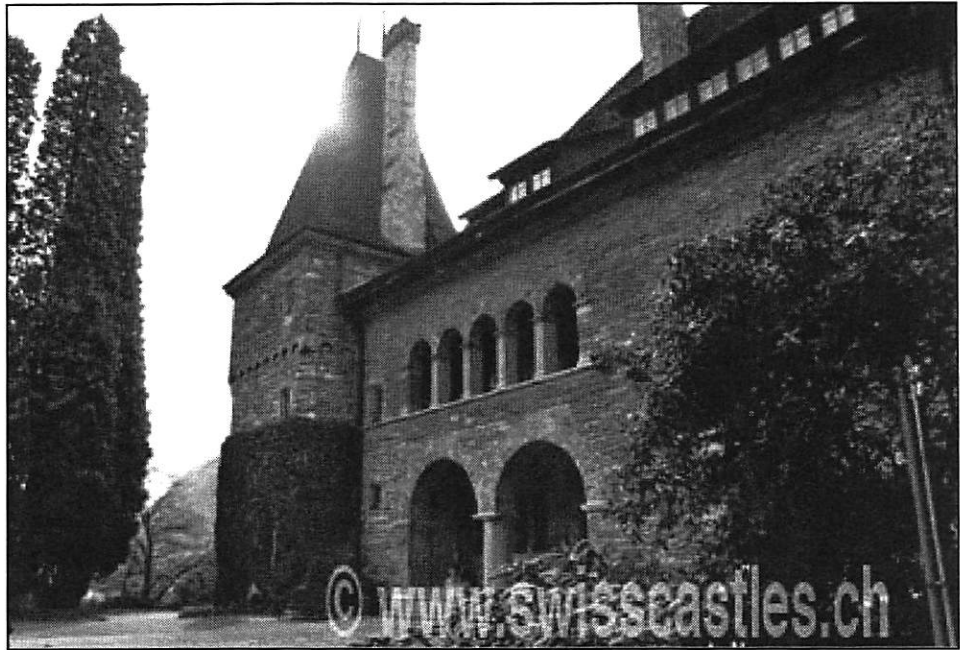
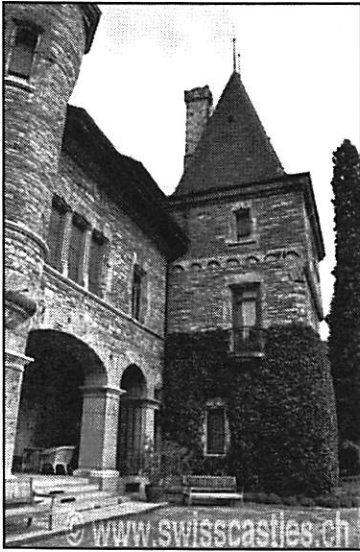
We may compare the Mercier of Lausanne to other indus-



trial dynasties such as the Sandoz or Suchard.

(Text and illustrations for this article came from websites devoted to Swiss castles, particularly www.swisscastles.ch/valais and www.chateaumercier.ch/lafamille.

The adaptation from French to English was done by Marie-Claude Mercier)



A.M.A.N.'s President in mourning

Last minute information tells us that Jean-Louis Mercier of Lévis lost his mother. Mrs Jeannette Sanschagrín-Mercier died on October 27 in Lévis, at the age of ninety, following a lengthy illness. In addition to Jean-Louis, Mrs Mercier leaves three other children and many grand-children. She was the grand-mother of Raynald Mercier of Sainte-Marie-de-Beauce and of Johanne Mercier of Charlesbourg and she was also an aunt of Jean-Guy of Sainte-Foy; all three of them are also members of the board of directors of A.M.A.N.

A.M.A.N. offers its deepest condolences to the whole family.

Le Mercier

Sincere condolences to the families concerned

Thérèse Mercier-Veilleux	Saint-Georges-de-Beauce	15 August 2006
Estelle Mercier-Trottier	Beauharnois, Qué.	27 August 2006
Jean-Luc Mercier	Beauport, Qué.	17 September 2006
Béatrice Mercier-Côté	Montmagny, Qué.	19 September 2006
Guy Mercier	Rivière-du-Loup	23 September 2006
Ulio Laferrière-Mercier	Saint-Nérée de Bellechasse	29 September 2006
Olivier Fournier-Mercier	Mont-Saint-Pierre, Qué.	30 September 2006
Simone Mercier	Cap-Saint-Ignace, Qué.	15 October 2006
Jean Mercier	Longueuil, Qué.	19 October 2006
Yvonne Mercier-Bernard	Montréal, Qué.	20 October 2006
Jeannette Sanschagrín-Mercier	Lévis, Qué.	27 October 2006

Welcome to our new members

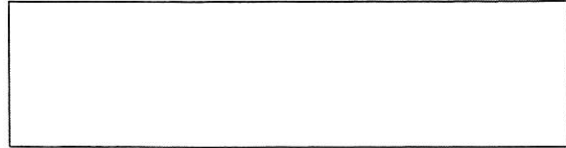
Martin Noël	of Montreal-North, Qué.	(N0. 1481)
Madeline Ernest	of Warren, R.I., U.S.A.	(No. 1482)
Réal Mercier	of Saint-Eustache, Qué.	(N0. 1483)
Édouard Mercier	of Narata, Brit. Col.	(N0. 1484)

Thank you for your confidence and support of A.M.A.N.



Postes Canada
 Numéro de la convention 40069967
 de la Poste-publication
 Retourner les blocs adresses à l'adresse suivante :
 Fédération des familles-souches du Québec
 C. P. 10090, Succ. Sainte-Foy
 Québec (Québec) G1V 4C6

PRIÈRE DE LIVRER À -
PLEASE DELIVER TO :



**GESTION
 IMMOBILIÈRE
 PRÉVILLE INC.**

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

252, du Dauphiné,
 St-Lambert, Qué. J4S 1N5

Tél. : 671-9051
 Fax : 671-6038

JOAILLERIE



MERCIER



Vicky Mercier, prop.
 Pierre Mercier, M.H.B., joaillier-prop.

418-847-1482 • 418-834-1977
 Fax: 418-834-1978

4605, Boul. de l'Auvergne
 Neufchatel (QC) G2C 1E7
 Centre Commercial
 CARREFOUR NEUFCHATEL
 Tél. : (418) 847-1482

837, Rne Commerciale
 St-Jean Chrysostome (QC) G6Z 2E1
 Tél. : (418) 834-1977
 Fax : (418) 834-1978



TRANSPORT GEO INC.

77, Commerciale
 Saint-Damien, Bell., Qc
 G0R 2Y0

Tél.: (418) 789-2976
 Fax: (418) 789-3067

**Transport général
 General Transport
 Qc, Ont, U.S.**

Prop.: Georges Bégin

Adm.: Suzanne Mercier



**LÉVIS
 mazda**

DENIS MERCIER
 Directeur des ventes

5095, Louis-H.-Lafontaine, Lévis (Québec) G6V 8X4
 Tél. : (418) 837-8897 Sans frais : 1 (866) 337-8897
 levismazda@oricom.ca Téléc. : (418) 833-9660

Bur: 418 986-2486
 Fax: 418 986-6974
 Res: 418 986-3367



GARAGE CLARKE INC.

Robert Mercier
 Président

177 rue Principal
 Cap-aux-Meules
 (Québec) G4T 1C4

Let's encourage our sponsors