

Volume 23

Number 4

Winter 2007



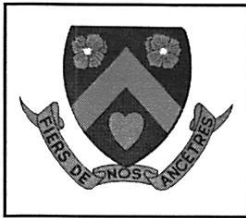
# *Le Mercien*

*The Voice of the Merciers of North America*



**Louis Mercier - Lajoie  
and Adèle Audet - Lapointe**

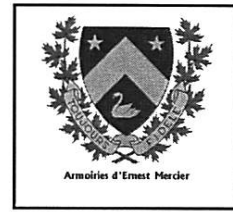
The Newsletter of the Association of the Merciers of North America



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

**Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord (AMAN) INC.**  
 Post Office Box 10090, Sainte-Foy Branch,  
 Québec City, QC, Canada, G1V 4C6

<http://www.genealogie.org/famille/mercier>  
 E-mail: [mercier@hotmail.com](mailto:mercier@hotmail.com)

The association was incorporated by letters patent dated April 19, 1985 and registered the same day in Volume 1184, folio 160, in accordance with Part III of the Quebec Companies Act (R.S.Q. Chap. C-38, s. 218).

The objects of the association are as follows:



1. To organize Mercier gatherings in North America and especially in the Province of Quebec.
2. To publish regularly in Quebec, in the form of a newsletter, information on Mercier families of North America and Europe.
3. To collect and disseminate information on the accomplishments of those who have brought recognition to the Mercier name throughout the world.
4. To promote the identification, restoration and preservation of buildings and objects of value that belonged to Merciers, who have left their mark in North America and in Europe.
5. To get the Merciers of the world to become concerned about the preservation of their heritage, to become interested in genealogical studies and in stories about those who will not make it into the history books.
6. To create and develop a non-profit foundation whose purpose would be to achieve the objects mentioned above.
7. The objects will not, however, permit donors or their beneficiaries to recover in any way the funds which will have been given to the corporation



## 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	Actuary	Saint-Bruno, Qué.	2000
Pierre Mercier	Engineering	Saint-Bruno, Qué.	2000
Suzanne Mercier	Commerce	Montréal, Qué.	2000
Lucienne M-Croteau	Teaching	Bonnyville, Alta	2001

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<b>Secretary:</b>	Suzanne Mercier, (#1126) Saint-Damien,	Tel.: (418) 789-2976	E-mail: « geobegin@glogetrotter.net »
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Jean Mercier (#1), Québec	Tel.: (418) 688-3092	E-mail: « jean_mercier@sympatico.ca »

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### Services

<b>Records:</b>	André Mercier (#189), Québec	Tel.: (418) 683-3959	E-mail: « and.mercier@videotron.ca »
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## Membership dues

<b>Annually:</b>	<b>\$25.</b>	<b>Those amounts are in U.S. currency for U.S. residents and in euros for European residents</b>
<b>Life membership, 65 years and older:</b>	<b>\$250.</b>	
<b>Life membership, less than 65 years of age:</b>	<b>\$400.</b>	
<b>Governor:</b>	<b>\$1,000.</b>	

This newsletter is named after the **kingdom of Mercia** which existed from the 7th to the 10th centuries. 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.

A.M.A.N. is a member of the Québec Federation of First Families



## Editor's page

**T**here are two important rendez-vous for AMAN and its members coming soon.

On **February 22,23 and 24**, we will be present at the Founding Family Fair held annually at the Laurier Commercial Centre located in Sainte-Foy, Quebec.

The fair is organized by the Federation of Founding Families Federation of Quebec and the occasion for some sixty family associations to meet their constituents as well as the whole public in general.

The second rendez-vous is the annual sugar party to be held this myear on **Saturday April 12**, at the Real Bruneau sugerbush reception hall in Saint-Henri-de-Levis. Details are published on page 15 of the current issue. This is our major gathering second to the annual general meeting of the members. Both adult and young participants are satisfied with the events of the day.

AMAN always require volunteers to assist in the organisation of different activities, and the founding family fair and the sugar party are good occasions.

Do not hesitate to get involved.

We hope to hear from you.

Le Mercien

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## Emotional return to his roots

Ralph Mercier looks at the house of his ancestor, Julien Mercier, one of the pioneers of New-France, and tears come to his eyes. “It is really awesome” he says, choking back his emotions.

The owner of this historic property, Henri Theillard, standing at his side, explains the many renovations made to the house over a period of the last thirty-five years. He is used to it: sometimes visitors come by the busload in front of his compound.

There is not much left of the original house, other than the shell and bucolic scenery of the surrounding countryside. But the feeling remains the same. “it is astounding to think that my ancestor has stepped on the soil as I do.”, says Mr Mercier who did not even know about the existence of this property before his trip.

Some time earlier, the assistant to the mayor was part of a delegation visiting the church of Tourouvre, which has a stained glass window depicting his ancestor, Honoré Mercier. The former Quebec premier had visited Tourouvre in 1891, and his visit has been immortalized with this work of art. Again emotions were tangible. Mr Mercier can hardly leave the place and talks endlessly with the parish priest in the village of 1500 people, Edward Leger.

“Mr Mercier is not alone to become emotional when touring the area. Often, visitors cry when they discover where they come from and as they discover the property of their ancestor”, according to the director of the Maison de l’Emigration museum in Tourouvre, Mrs Anne Griot.

In Tourouvre, there are many houses built by ancestral families of New-France which have been preserved from destruction, such as that of the Gagnons, the Chauvins, the Tremblays, the Pelletiers, the Richards, the Merciers.

We owe this article to Julie Lemieux which was published by Le Soleil daily newspaper of Quebec City, in its October 12, 2007 edition.

## Captain Louis Mercier, also known as Lajoie

In our last issue, we talked about Louis Mercier, also known as Lajoie, on the occasion of the unveiling of a monument to his memory and that of his wife Adèle Audet, also known as Lapointe, in the parish cemetery of Ste-Justine of Dorchester, on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007. We promised you a write-up about that ancestor and we are pleased to provide you with a text written by Claudine Mercier of Ste-Foy. This text is based on a document published for Guilmond Mercier of Ste-Foy, a descendant of Louis Mercier, that was issued at the time of the unveiling of the monument, last year. The Spring 2004 issue (Vol. 20, No. 1) of *Le Mercien* included an article on the origin of Charles Mercier, also known as Lajoie, and how he came to settle in America.

Private Charles Mercier, also known as Lajoie, and the ancestor of that Mercier branch, arrived in 1757 as part of the Berry Regiment, an elite troupe that came to the colony to defend it against the invaders, the English. As part of Generals Montcalm, Lévis and Bourlamaque's army, Charles Mercier fought in several campaigns that preceded the conquest by the British in 1759.

Charles Mercier does not seem to have fought in the battle of the Plains of Abraham, because his regiment was positioned at Cap Rouge. The French army had withdrawn to Montreal, after the defeat. Following the capitulation, the soldiers had the choice between going back to France or settling in the St. Lawrence valley. At that time, the soldiers were billeted in the Terrebonne area.

Soon after Charles Mercier's demobilization, he married Marianne Lahaie at L'Assomption, on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1761. The couple settled on a plot of land in Lachenaie and they had five children. Their descendants

have been traced in St-Roch-l=Achigan, in Montreal and in the United States.

The most famous descendant of that couple is Captain Louis Mercier, husband of Adèle Audet-Lapointe, and son of Jean-Louis Mercier and Calixte Larrivée. Louis purchased some land west of the village of Ste-Justine of Dorchester, where his children were baptized and raised.



Captain Louis Mercier was a well-built man, imposing in stature, soundness of mind and good judgement. He even used his talents as a healer. He held several public positions and was a farmer, peace officer, municipal secretary, and more.

The Dorchester and Beauce Regiment was formed in 1900 as the amalgamation of the two individual Dorchester and Beauce Regiments, that had both been founded in 1869, and Captain Mercier was one of the founding officers of the Dorchester Regiment. Louis died on

April 26<sup>th</sup>, 1907 in Ste-Justine, at the age of 59. Of all the positions and titles that he held, the title of Captain was most dear to Louis. He did, however, settle relatively far inland from the St. Lawrence River, and he was never known for his feats at sea. He held that title in the Dorchester and Beauce Regiment in which he was recognized as a founding officer. That is where the source of his pride lay.



Captain Louis Mercier - Lajoie and his wife, Adèle Audet—Lapointe

Document produced in French by Claudine Mercier of Sainte-Foy, Quebec, inspired from a brochure produced by Gilmond Mercier in July 2007.

*Translated into English and adapted by Lucie Mercier and Ian Campbell of Ottawa.*



Captain Louis Mercier is the third from the right



## Napoléon Mercier, his wife Maria and his father Eusèbe Suite

Here the continuation of an article about Napoléon Mercier and his wife Maria published in our last issue.

It is the result of research work undertaken by Guy Labrecque of Cap-Rouge, a member of AMAN. We encourage our members to share their family histories with us.

### Napoléon Mercier

Napoléon Mercier was considered a trader who came from Berthier. The first trader, F. Marquis, arrived on the coast on February 20, 1900. On November 25, 1907 Captains Blais, Gaumond and Mercier left for Quebec City with their crews on board the King Edward, with Mercier having left his schooner at La Romaine, Gaumond having left his schooner at Washtawoka, and Blais having left his at La Pointe. Such a thing was unheard of among traders on the coast.

Their explanations were that contrary winds and bad weather made this necessary, but there could be other reasons that we are not aware of.

On November 18, 1909 Blais, Gaumond and Mercier, boarded the General Wolfe for Quebec City. Gaumond left his schooner at St. Charles Island and the others left theirs at their home ports. The General Wolfe went back to La Pointe on both March 28th, and June 7th, 1910 (there is no information about the return of the schooners' owners). On November 4, 1910 the three Canadian schooners owned by Blais, Gaumond and Mercier, were seen sailing upstream.

They were heading directly towards Quebec City. They did not leave their schooners in their winter berths as they had been used to doing over the last few years, and they followed the same practice in 1911.

In 1912 and 1913, the Mary M. Romkey, one of Mercier's schooners, wintered at La Pointe. In 1914, the Hilda M. Backman, the other of Mercier's schooners, also wintered at La Pointe. In the winter of 1919, the Hilda M. Backman wintered again at La Pointe. The Mary M. Romkey had been bought the previous year by the late M. H. Foley and wintered at Rivière-au-Tonnerre.

On April 28, 1919 the M. Tremblay was the first boat to arrive from Quebec City. In the previous year that same company had been awarded the mail contract. Captain Mercier came down on that boat to get his own schooner, that had wintered at La Pointe.

### Napoléon's Schooners -

The Mary M. Romkey and the Hilda M. Backman - Alcohol Smuggling

In May 1865, two schooners (the Marie-Anne and the St. Anne) owned by Turgeon and Coriveau were seized at Havre-St. Pierre for alcohol smuggling out of St. Pierre, and the owners had to pay \$400 to recover their boats. In April 1891, Captain T. Bouchard managed to elude customs officers out to seize his schooner and its cargo of contraband alcohol.

In May 1892, Captain George May assumed command of the Constance, which had been outfitted to cruise the gulf to intercept those who





Map extracted from Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia

smuggled alcohol from St. Pierre and Miquelon. In April 1895, Captain May arrived at La Pointe on board the *Constance* to try to find the caches of contraband alcohol in the Mingan Archipelago.

In April 1897, Placide Vigneau writes: "For a number of years some sailors on the St. Lawrence River, notably from Île-aux-Coudres and Île d'Orléans (Napoléon was a member of the St-Laurent I.O. - yacht club), went to St. Pierre and Miquelon, where they took a load of alcohol that they imported illegally into Canada, and to avoid getting caught, they would hide it all along the coast and get others to retrieve it.

However, several of them did get caught."

**Reference:**

"Un Pied d'Ancre" - Placide Vigneau's Journal (1842 - 1926)  
 Gabrielle Roy Library (Quebec City)  
 971.82V682U

**The Galibois Cup**

On Sunday August 24, 1913, Napoléon Mercier and his sailboat, the *St. Vallier*, competed in the St. Laurent - Île d'Orléans regatta, and won the Galibois Cup. The regatta included 11 race categories: sailboat, gas-powered boat, 4 canoe categories, 3 row boat categories, tub racing, and swimming.

In 1912, Quebec City's yacht clubs got together to form the Association des clubs nautiques de Québec. The member clubs were the following: Quebec City, Lac St. Joseph, Lac Sergent and St-Laurent I.O..

The first regatta was then held on July 13 and 14, 1912 on the St. Charles River. The man in charge of the regatta was J. Eugène Galibois. The following year, regattas were held at Lac St. Joseph, at Lac Sergent, on the St. Charles River and at St-Laurent I.O..

At the 1913 regatta at St-Laurent I.O., the Galibois Cup was awarded to the winner of the first race, which was the sailboat race. That race was called a "cruise".



The starting point was the buoy marking the Pointe-à-Carcy breakwater and the finish line was at the St. Laurent Wharf. In 1914, the activities in the immediate Quebec City area took place as scheduled, but the St-Laurent I.O. competition was cancelled because of the military commitments of the people in charge. Whether the events were held again in subsequent years was not checked.

**References:**

Archives of the Quebec National Assembly;  
Le Soleil, August 4, 1913 and June 27, 1912;  
L'Événement, August 25, 1913

**Maria Nadeau and No. 180 Holland Ave. (today No. 990 Holland Ave.)**

On May 13, 1922 Maria Nadeau acquired from the V. Châteauvert estate, at a cost of \$1,900, lot # 50-50-1 (today lot # 1736909) in the Notre-Dame-de-Quebec parish (suburb). It is not known whether there was already a house on that lot. The first address for that lot, 180 Holland Avenue, appears in 1923 and it is already listed under Maria Nadeau's name. She lived there until her death on January 9, 1931.

On April 4, 1931 the property was bequeathed to R. Napoléan Paul Mercier (son of Maria and Napoléon). On March 8, 1940 the owner sold the property to Raoul H. Rondeau (husband of Thérèse Mercier). Then on March 20, 1950 Raoul sold it to Napoléon Thibault. The property is now occupied by the Chambre Immobilière de Québec.

**Reference:**



Quebec Land Registry: (418) 643-3582 - [www.registrefoncier.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.registrefoncier.gouv.qc.ca) acte #226077

**Napoléon Mercier and Maria Nadeau's Wills and Testaments**

On March 7, 1918 both Napoléon Mercier and Maria Nadeau bequeathed to each other all their possessions, in wills made before J. Philius Cantin, Notary. On October 5, 1920 Maria made a second will before J. Philius Cantin, Notary, in favour of her children Léopold, Marie-Antoinette, Marie-Jeanne, François, Thérèse, Jules, and Andrée. In that will, she left all her possessions to her children and appointed her brother, Joseph Nadeau as well as his son Régis Napoléon, as executors with full powers of attorney. It is the only time Maria made any mention of her brother Joseph. He probably died soon after that.

On June 21, 1923 Maria made a third will before Arthur Duval, Notary. In that will, she left



to her children all her personal and real property, to be divided into equal shares. Her jewellery and personal effects were to be divided in equal shares between her daughters and at the discretion of the executor. Paul Mercier was named as executor with all the powers attached to that function, and at the same time provision was made that he could not obtain a share, because he had already received his inheritance.

**Reference:** Quebec Courthouse, Records Room SS32

### Expressions of Sympathy from an Unidentified Friend upon Napoléon's Death

Last Thursday at noon, after only a few hours of illness, one of the best known and most respected citizens of Faubourg St. Jean Baptiste in Quebec City, perhaps even in the whole city, Mr. Napoléon Mercier passed away at the age of 54 years and 9 months.

This premature, one could even say sudden, death, was such a surprise for everyone, that we are still wondering if it really happened or if it is just a dream. Alas, it is not a dream. It is indeed this charitable man par excellence, the man whose merit is matched only by his big heart, that death took away from the love of his bereaved wife, from the profound attachment of his grateful children, and from the esteem

and high consideration of his numerous relatives and friends. In this grave that was just opened, let us lay some flowers on the casket, and let us speak softly about the generosity of the man who is resting there.

And when we have finished filling this freshly dug grave, let us plant the eternal, the purest, the most beautiful, the most fragrant flower that can bloom on this earth, the flower of gratefulness, sympathy and remembrance.—  
An intimate friend.

**Reference:** L'Événement, September 14, 1920; L'Action Catholique, September 13, 1920.

### A Note Concerning Maria's Death

On the epitaph at the cemetery, the date of death indicated for Maria is January 9, 1931. But Notary Duval, on the day of the reading of the will, wrote that Maria died on January 13th. In its January 21 edition, L'Action Catholique also mentions that she died on January 13th. Judging from the people who attended her funeral (L'Action Catholique, January 21, 1931), and from the information given by Conrad Bélanger, a Saint-Sacrement priest, who was the community's archivist and was then in charge of the parish, Maria seems to have been involved in parish volunteer work (in the sewing room and for church services).

Guy Labrecque,  
Cap Rouge, Québec (#1479)



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Translated and adapted from  
French by Lucie Mercier and Ian  
Campbell of Ottawa

## The Franco-Americans

Emigration to the United States was the major happening in French Canadian history in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. From 1840 to 1930, around 900,000 Quebecers left the province for the American Republic and two thirds of them went to New England. As early as 1865, little Canadas multiplied in the States of Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut. Around the turn of the century, the cities of Lewiston,

Manchester, Nashua, Fall River, Lowell, Holyoke, Worcester, New Bedford, Lawrence, and Woonsocket, had as many French speaking citizens as most medium sized cities in Quebec. Those Francophones were aware that they formed a nation, that they were part of a community with its own language, religion, mores, and customs, and in the United States as well as in Quebec fought against the Anglo Saxons for the survival of the French fact.

### Distribution of French Canadians in New-England

	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900
Maine	3680	7490	15100	29000	52000	77000
New-Hampshire	250	1780	7300	26200	49000	76000
Vermont	12070	16580	29000	33500	38000	45000
Massachusset	2830	7780	34600	81000	162000	275000
Rhode Island	300	1810	8900	19800	36000	61000
Connecticut	250	1980	8600	18500	28000	39000

The French-Canadian emigrant remained in the United States because he could earn a living more easily there than in Canada. American employers sent recruiting agents to Quebec and they praised French Canadians for their docility, their zeal for work, their sobriety, and their frugality. They said they preferred them to European immigrants for whom a strike was as natural as observing Sunday as a day of rest.

A first group of French-Canadian immigrants, living near the factories where they worked, asked the bishop of their diocese for their own parish, headed by a French-Canadian priest. As soon as he was appointed, the priest set about building a church, a school, a presbytery

and a convent. By 1900, the French Canadians of New England had about 100 churches, some resembling Cathedrals, and almost as many schools. Those buildings showed the faith of the parishioners as well as the skill of the clergy in getting them to be generous.

Almost a quarter of the Canadian population in New England changed every year. That constant renewal of the population was not really a cause of concern, because those who arrived belonged to the same group as those who left. A major proportion of those migrants were only Abirds of passage@. They did not see the need to learn English or to get their children to learn it. Upon their arrival in the United States, relatives or friends would

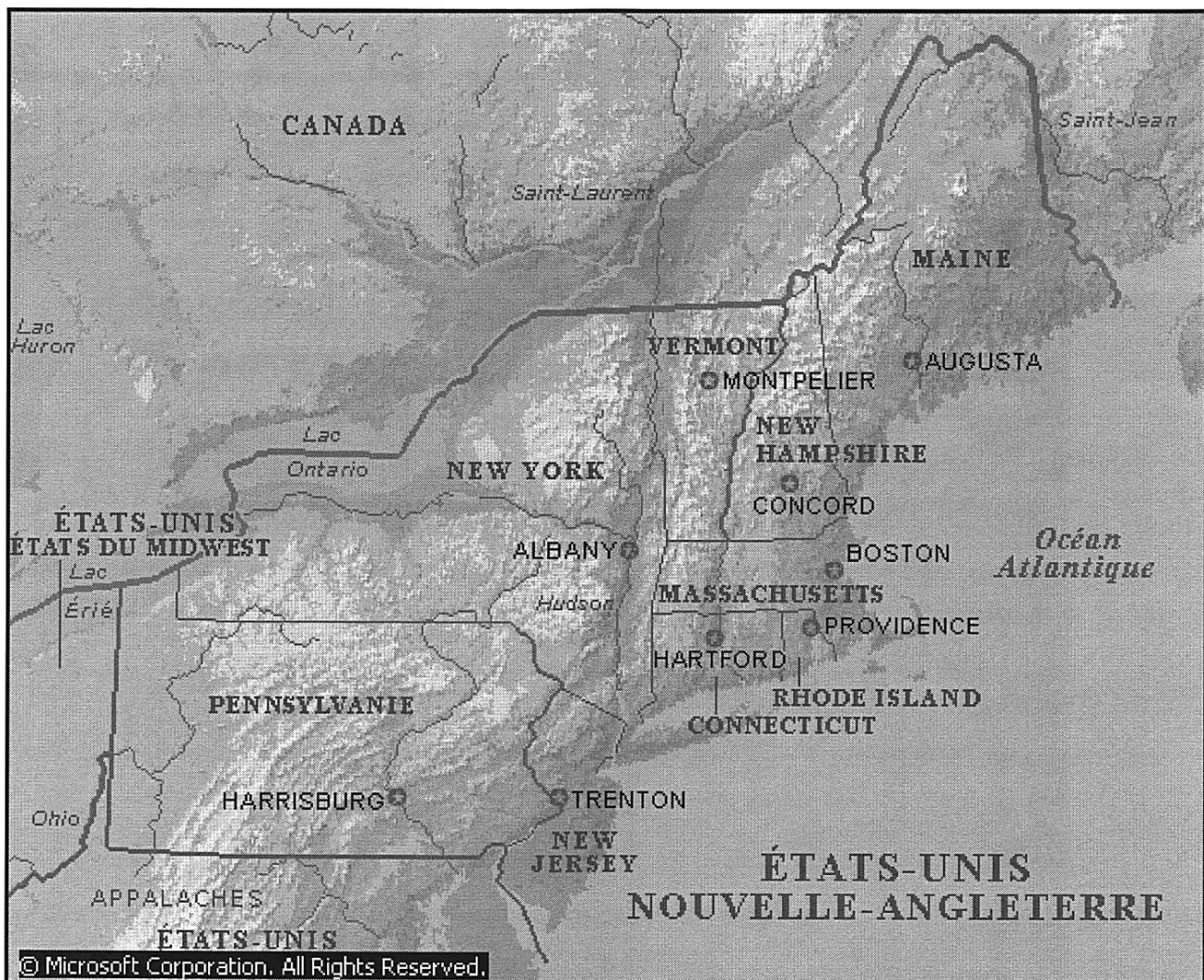
welcome them, introduce them to their employers, find housing for them and often take charge of them for a while. In their own parish, everything was done in French. It was only at their place of work that they would have to learn a few words of English so as to get along with their supervisors.

Who does not have in their own family, cousins who left Canada during those years, when poverty was common in Canadian parishes. Some came back, while others were assimilated to the extent of losing track of their origins.

Document produced in French by Claudine Mercier of Sainte-Foy, Quebec, inspired from:

*Les Franco-Américains de la Nouvelle-Angleterre - Septentrion - Yves Roby*

*Translated into English and adapted by Lucie Mercier and Ian Campbell of Ottawa.*



## Welcome to our new members

Léo Mercier # 1510 Sainte-Thérèse de Gaspé  
Jacques Mercier # 1511 Sainte-Hélène de Kamouraska

## Sincere condolences to their families

Clément Mercier	19 sept. 2007	Sherbrooke, Qc.
Marcel A. Mercier	1er nov. 2007	Montréal, Qué.
Madeleine Mercier	3 nov. 2007	Québec, Qué.
Yvette Mercier	4 nov. 2007	Montréal, Qué.
Maurice Mercier	4 nov. 2007	Pont-Rouge, Qué.
Gaston Mercier	5 nov. 2007	Québec, Qué.
Daniel Mercier	23 nov. 2007	Ste-Catherine, J.-Cartier, Qué.
Yvonne Mercier Boutin	15 déc. 2007	St-Nérée, Qué.
Solange Mercier	18 déc. 2007	Lévis, Qué.
Alfréda Couillard Mercier	21 déc. 2007	St-Marcel, L'Islet, Qué.
Paul Cauchon Mercier	21 déc. 2007	Québec, Qué.
Fleurette Mercier Lavertu	4 jan. 2008	Lévis, Qué.
Thérèse Mercier Gosselin	3 jan. 2008	St-Vallier, Qué.
Paul-Aimé Mercier	10 jan 2008	Lévis, Qué.
Amabilis Mercier	20 jan. 2008	Montréal, Qué.

## Honour the original faith of our families Pilgrimage of ancestral families in old Quebec City

Do you know those pioneers of the XVIIth and XIXth centuries named **François de Laval, Marie de l'Incarnation, Marie-Catherine de Saint-Augustin, Marcelle Mallet and Marie-Josephite Fitzbach**? They are all founders of parishes, schools, hospitals and other social institutions that developed during the 400 years of history of the city of Quebec..

In the Spring and Fall of 2008, on two and a half consecutive days, in the morning and afternoon, between Monday and Friday, you are invited to learn about their lives, their faith and their committment. Come and learn how our ancestral families were formed, educated, cared for, helped, conforted and evangelized. It might a new spiritual experience.

**Registration:** Federation des Familles-Souches du Quebec (FFSQ) Tel.: (418) 653-2137 #226  
**Information** for transportation, lodging, meals, locations and cost.

Everyone, wether a member or not of a family association may participate and register for this pilgrimage; please inquire.

# UNE INVITATION À LA CABANE À SUCRE

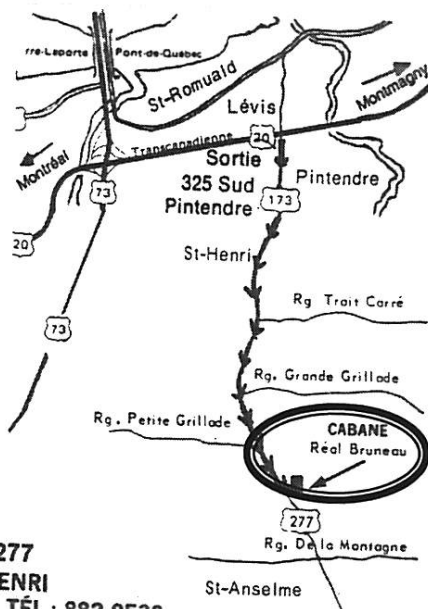
**Saturday April 14, 2008**

**from 10 AM to 4 PM**

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- 11 ans et plus : 18:50 \$

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**À : JEAN-GUY MERCIER - Tél : (418) 650-3874**

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ou la route 277 suivre les enseignes bleues



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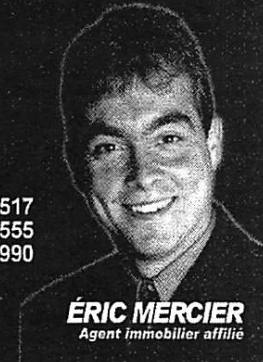
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