



Le Mercien

Voice of the Mercier of North America

At the Board of Directors meeting held on October 3 last, Benoît agreed to serve as President and Germain Nappert as Vice-President.

Benoît really doesn't need an introduction but it might be of interest to some to refer to the article titled "**Board changes**" by Pierre-Paul in our winter 2006 newsletter (volume 24-#2) to get a better idea of the wide recognition he has earned. Let's wish him many successes and above all give him all the support we can offer. On the other hand, Germain Nappert (# 1420) is probably lesser known to the membership. You will find on page 9 a few biographic notes on him.

In the article *Merciars of all kinds* the question arises as to who is this Esther. She is a writer and a teacher who has earned considerable recognition, and her full name is Esther Mercier-Croft.

As is fitting, we are printing the warm and well deserved tribute given by one of her daughters for Mrs Marcelle Normand (the wife of Ernest, the founder of AMAN) who died last July 8.

Benoît, our President and a jack of all trades, tells us that the return coming to AMAN from the subscriptions of members to *Lotomatique* represents 13% of our revenue, and so much more if one of you becomes a millionaire! You will receive an annual reminder with your Autumn Newsletter, due to cancellation of the mailed annual renewal notice to the full membership.



Various dates to put to your agenda:

- The *Salon de généalogie* takes place as usual at the Laurier Shopping Center on March 6,7 and 8, 2009.
- The visit to the Sugar Shack is set for April 10, 2009.

Enjoy the newsletter reading!



Happy Holidays



Armoiries des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord déposés par Mgr Jean-Paul Gélinas en 1986.



Armoiries d'un Mercier d'Angleterre au 15^e siècle répertoriées dans Burke Armorial de Londres.



Armoiries d'Ernest Mercier déposées par l'Institut Généalogique Drouin en 1954.

Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord (AMAN) inc.

Case postale 10090, succ. Sainte-Foy, Québec (QC)
G1V 4C6 CANADA

www.genealogie.org/famille/mercier
Courriel : mercier.aman@hotmail.com

The Association was incorporated by letters patent April 19, 1985 and registered the same day in Volume 1194, 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 l' A.M.A.N.		1999
Pierre-Paul Mercier	Administration	Saint-Lambert, QC	2000
Alain Mercier	Communications	Sillery, QC	2000
Charles Mercier	Engineering	Québec City, QC	2000
Christine Mercier	Teaching	Québec City, QC	2000
Louis Mercier	Actuary	Saint-Bruno, QC	2000
Pierre Mercier	Engineering	Saint-Bruno, QC	2000
Suzanne Mercier	Commerce	Montréal, QC	2000
Lucienne M.-Croteau	Teaching	Bonnyville, AB	2001

Board of Directors for 2007-2008 and services of AMAN

Executive

President:	Benoît Mercier (#222), Charlesbourg	Tel.: (418) 623-0833	Email : « benoitmercier@hotmail.com »
Vice-Pres:	Germain Napert (#1480), Boisbriand	Tel.: (450) 437-1220	Email : « nappert@videotron.ca »
Secretary:	Suzanne Mercier, (#1126) Saint-Damien,	Tel.: (418) 789-2976	Email : « geobegin@globetrotter.net »
Treasurer:	Jean Mercier (#1), Québec	Tel.: (418) 688-3092	Email : « jean_mercier@sympatico.ca »

Members

Administrators

Dolorès Morin (#1207), St-Étienne	Tel.: (418) 831-2319	Email : « morindodo@hotmail.com »
Lucie Mercier (#819), Plessisville	Tel.: (819) 362-2856	Email : « lmerferd@hotmail.com »
Pierre-Paul Mercier (#19), Saint-Lambert	Tel.: (450) 671-9051	Email : « ppmercier@videotron.ca »

Services

Archives:	André Mercier (#189), Québec	Tel.: (418) 683-3959	Email : « and.mercier@videotron.ca »
Accounting:	Benoît Mercier (#222), Charlesbourg	Tel.: (418) 623-0833	Email : « benoitmercier@hotmail.com »
Necrology:	Isabelle Mercier (#269)		

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.

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**

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President's Message

I want first of all to congratulate those who agreed to represent our Association at the Board and to welcome Germain Nappert which joins us and accepted the post of vice-president and Suzanne who accepted to continue as secretary as well as John who continue to act as treasurer.

I also want to thank those Council members who trust me to chair the Association for the next year.

Without forgetting that John has offered to take over and edit our newsletter *The Mercien* in addition to the post of treasurer. To me, publishing a newsletter is one of the most important functions within a family association, since the newsletter is the best way liaison between members and management.

Among my desires or wishes for this year is the recruitment of new members, renewal of the membership present and past, and that the involvement of everyone, not just members of the Council but that of all.

If you have any suggestions, or a new special request, please contact us.

The period of Christmas and New Year 2009 is approaching fast, allow me to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and the best years for 2009.

Benoît

Development Fund

The creation of this fund was announced in the winter 2003 issue. The reasons for the fund were explained and a list of projects to be pursued was established as follows:

An introductory video on the arrival of the Merciers in America

- A genealogical index
- A consolidated index of *LE MERCIEN*
- A review of the past 20 years
- A monument at **La Grandinière**

Even though each of these topics has been discussed to some extent, to date three of them have been developed somewhat more.

The video presentation is partially completed but it is difficult at this time to forecast when it will be finalized;

Data continues to accumulate towards the publication of a genealogical index. This is the most demanding project; Benoît, Claudine and Robert are the members in charge of it. Harmonization of data collected and their distribution are yet to be finalized. This will be on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

The index of *Le Mercien* has been finalized, printed and is ready to sell. The intention to offer it for free to members has regrettably not been approved as yet. This will also be on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

The past 20 years review and the monument are currently on hold.

It is important to note that none of those projects has required any monies from the fund, which has total receipts to date of \$ 9 027,56.

A list of the generous donors is as follows:

Donators

AMAN Regional Committee Bois-francs

Beauchesne, Huguette M. (196)

Cady, Harriet (1364)

Laliberté, Rosélia M. (261)

Laurence, George S. (1430)

Marsall, George (1029)

Mercier, Béatrice (458)

Mercier, Benoît (222)

Mercier, Claudine (35)

Mercier, collaboration de Eric R. député

Mercier, Gaétan (679)

Mercier, Georges (945)

Mercier, Gérald (1423)

Mercier-Cartier, Germaine (1245)

Mercier, Guy (41)

Mercier, Guy (321)

Mercier, héritiers d'Ernest

Mercier, Jean-Charles (1391)

Mercier, Laurent (21)

Mercier, Léo (1476)

Mercier, Léonce (1385)

Mercier, les amis d'Antoine

Mercier, Lucie (126)

Mercier, Marius (489)

Noël, Martin (1481)

Mercier, Monique (49)

Mercier, Napoléon (156)

Mercier, Noëlla (1199)

Mercier, Olivier (504)

St-Louis, Pauline (231)

Mercier, Pierre-Paul (19)

Mercier, Raymond (1469)

Mercier, Sylvie (1461)

Mercier, Ubald (949)

Mercier-Campbell, Lucie (1374)

Photocomposition le Mercien

by Mercier, Pierre-Paul

Mercier, Maurice (473)

Mercier, Dary (625)



Merciers of all kinds

In this issue, two presentations,

The first one, its Rénald Mercier who propose this reading via Internet, of one of is writing about the life of minors in is part of the country.

The second, is a chronical of Anne-Marie Voisard, lightly introspective, on Esther Mercier, who became Croft with time, at the occasion of her novel *Des belles paroles*

RENALD MERCIER

From Val d'Or, Renald Mercier suggests a reading.

Here is a message he passes on to each of us:

Good day to you all:

*I visit our site often. This note is to advise you that my new book entitled **Les hommes des ténèbres** is now available for reading completely free of charge (ebook). Perhaps, slipping in a word on the site. The subject, rarely dealt with, is unique in its genre... and surely will be of interest to a good number of readers. Just ask on the WEB « Les écrits vibrations »*

Sincerely: Renald Mercier, Val d'Or

* * * * *

ESTHER MERCIER

DE BELLES PAROLES

Esther Croft. The name seems to perfectly suit this artist who weighs words and scrutinizes them to get their hidden meaning, because words can be misleading.

This is the name of a tragedian who defines herself in the books she writes. The last one is entitled *De belle paroles*.

But life is full of paradoxes; so, don't think you would be uncomfortable in her presence. At her home, on **rue des Érables**, one feels at ease. In the living room adjoining the dining room, where we are now, outside light abounds. Here and there impressive sculptures created by her daughter, Edith, catch your eye. In a corner, sitting on a pedestal, a large book also draws your attention

«*Brouillons d'écrivains*». It is a gift from her husband Ghislain, who acquired it from the *Très grande Bibliothèque de France*.

Esther Croft loves words. «Surely, words are the raw material of writing». Her novel, however, speaks of silence. Where does one start? Where do we find the words? More importantly, how do we use them with confidence? Starting on the first page, she asks herself how do we clean up silence?

How many times does that word turn up in the conversation... it's like a chorus, impossible to miss. When you ask her about it, she says « It took me a long time to master the language. I was a child of silence ».

A FIRST NOVEL

She has really caught up since then. She speaks slowly, quietly and it gives way to reflection. But once started, Esther can tell her life story as easily as the genesis of her novel. Up to the present, she has only published short stories, all well received by the critics. One of her books, «*Au commencement était le froid*», earned her the Adrienne Choquette prize. «This time again, I had started to write a short story ».

The character of Catherine, a wife who has been cheated on, and who worked with aphasic people, was then created. « From there, it took a bigger dimension. I realized that I needed to dig deeper. Why aphasia? ». Thus, a short story turned into a novel.

Along the way, Esther realized that she was beginning to develop a theory that had long been on her mind « *the paradoxical power of words* ».

Catherine had been hurt by words, those of Marc-André Ladouceur, an unforgettable name when you consider his initials, M.A.L (which means EVIL). It was a reader who pointed out the coincidence of the word, the initials spelled out. Coincidence never occurs once. She came across a quote of Roland Barthe whose teachings she followed in Paris just before his sudden death in 1980: «*Language as soon as it is spoken becomes a powerful tool*». If she had known it, she would have put it as an epigraph to her book, because « that's really the subject matter of my book ».

A PUSH ON A SWING

Esther Croft grew up in Quebec City on rue Crémazie, then in Sillery. She went to good schools: Mérici, Institut Maria and College Notre-Dame de Bellevue, before studying teaching at Laval University where she received a diploma in theology. « My parents really believed in the education system, even for girls ». Her older sister, Lise, studied Social Service. You may remember a Carnival Queen named Lise Mercier. That's her. Her eldest brother, Jean-François, is a well known producer, and an associate of Lise Payette on *Point de mire*

She lived a worry free childhood, raised in a neighbourhood where culture was valued. Her grandfather, J.-B. Mercier, was a business man in men's clothing. His store was in St-Roch, as is the case today too for Esther Croft's daughter, Marie-Chantal, and her partner, Éric Pelletier, who have their architects' office around there.

World travellers in an age when it took 13 hours to cross the Atlantic, the parents of the novelist gave her the taste to look elsewhere. The 16mm films of their trips gave her a sense of already knowing Mount St-Michel, Paris, etc. So when her husband Ghislain, a senior civil servant at the Ministry of International Relations, was for the first time invited to work at the Quebec Delegation on rue Pergolèse, in Paris, she didn't hesitate to accompany him with their children. That was in 1973. They stayed there for five years. It was during a second stay that she studied with Roland Barthes and Hélène Cixous. She also attended for two years the writing workshops of Élisabeth Bing. On her return home, she was ready to expand her experience. Word of mouth did the rest.

Esther Croft currently directs four workshops. To her it's like « pushing a swing ». She suggests a subject, a writing way, but doesn't impose her thoughts, allowing everyone to express their own feelings. It also became a life style in the same way, she says, as writing and

teaching are, much as she did in creative literature or dramatic writing at Laval University.

We always get back to the words, to their importance... or to the unspoken... the family secrets. « I certainly had learned, says Catherine, that we must not try to look behind appearances, that silence is golden, and that what we don't know won't hurt us ». That is all wrong. Quebec keeps uncovering horrors: incest, child abuse cases. « When truth is hidden, notes the author, it's our perception of reality that is left in doubt ». And we are all the more vulnerable when we have every confidence in someone.

Esther Croft unveils all that in *De belles paroles* published at XYZ



*Since the publication of this article, Esther Mercier has published short stories in 2007 **Le reste du temps**. For this latest work she has earned the prize for Creative literature recognized jointly by the City of Quebec and the International Book Salon of Quebec.*

Esther Mercier is the daughter of Charles-Henri Mercier and Fleurette Larochelle. She is the sister of Lise, one of the first Quebec winter carnival Queens, and of Jean-François, television producer.

Charles-Henri is the cousin of Father Bernard Mercier, redeemptorist (179), and Jean Mercier (1)

A Tribute to Marcelle Normand Mercier

Born Nov. 12, 1917 Deceased July 8, 2008-11-30

Dear Parents and family friends

I welcome you on behalf of my brothers and sisters. Also of Ernest, surely busy doing something useful up above, and of course of Marcelle who would want this day to be a happy occasion.

There are those people who radiate grace, elegance and dignity. We see them in the theatre, imagine them in our dreams and mythology wallow in them. Marcelle was one of these without the celebrity status

Ernest was quickly enamoured by these elegant brunette who visited the college where he studied agriculture. She; amazed that he noticed her. I was not there, but I expect she watched him from a distance, always flashing her irresistible smile. A marriage and 6 children later, there she was immersed in the realities of daily life where each chore was done with grace and elegance

Many of you will remember a special that Marcelle planned for hours and then prepared methodically with great care and... just in time. There was a specific knife for each function. The carrots were cut at angle, or cross cut or length***, onions were finely_sliced or chopped, and the broccoli was always served in a cluster. The recipe and proportion are essential to a princely welcome. When she served up an exceptional dish such as her

meringue, she usually saved a serving for someone missing. She had the gift to make everyone feel comfortable and realize that whatever they may have to say was important to her. She easily found in others what was attractive to her presence, Charm, reserve and kindness touched their hearth. Even that of the King of Morocco who tried to charm her all evening



Even the during the painful hours of her last days, Marcelle exuded her grace and dignity to those who tended to her . We have seen the hospital staff, where she was confined to bed,, step by and greet our mother even though she was not part of their duty care. She was in a way their princess, as they like to say

We have a fond memory of those last times with our mother- Right to the end she kept the same smile, same pleasant welcome and the same grace, qualities that we found in grand mother Normand and ahead were prominent among their descendants.

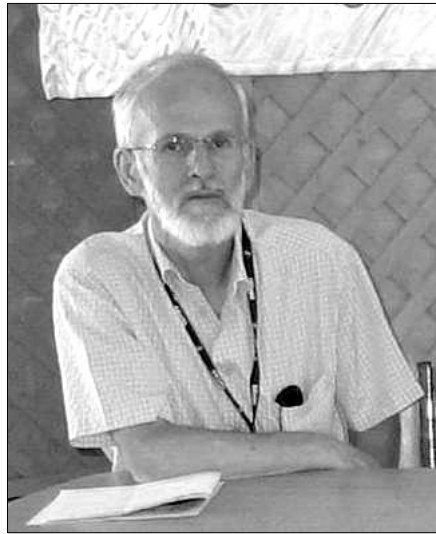
So goes life

On behalf of the family, thank you for being here for this last memorial to Marcelle.

Germain Nappert

He was born on February 1st, 1942 in Saint-Sylvestre, Lotbinière. He is the son of Lucien and Germaine Gingras. He is related to the Mercier by his maternal grandmother, Marie Mercier,

He married Leonor Medeiros de Gusmao in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu on 25 March 1974. Three children: Emmanuelle, Frederic and Mireille. A two years old girl : Mathilde.



His career was never far from aeronautics. He was attached to aviation as military police and clerical Registrar and to the airports of Dorval and Mirabel

as customs. His property income has occupied is time for 20 years.

He worked within the movement Desjardins, mainly to the Credit Union Boisbriand, he is active in genealogy and paleography, and mounted a collection of about 3,000 names related to Mercier.

In conclusion, Germain Nappert meets a sum of experience and qualities which will be immensely relevant to the function of Vice-President. We thank you for your

dedication and wish you good luck.

Lotomatique

AMAN is a non-profit organization and subscriptions to *Loto-Québec* allow its members to earn money and AMAN to benefit from part of it.

Whether or not it is done through direct solicitation amongst the members, including those who have no interest in lottery games, no one is obligated to subscribe to *Lotomatic*.

The direction of AMAN has decided to include a subscription form in some of its mailings in much the same way as you might receive one in a *Publi-Sac* without asking for it.

The main advantage for AMAN is the return of around 14% of all subscription monies which accounted for 13% of our income for the year ending June 30, 2008. This is a substantial income, regardless of the reluctance some people might have towards games of chance.

Subscribing to *Lotomatic* has several advantages to those who subscribe on a regular basis to *Loto 6/49*, *Québec 49*, *Super 7*, including the *EXTRA*.

Under the *Lotomatic* banner, checking the winning numbers and payment to winners is done automatically; for those participating in groups, *Lotomatic* divides up the payment between group members.

The application is easy to complete by simply following the various steps, and a pre-addressed stamped envelope is included.

Many thanks to all the subscribers. Good luck to all who participate!

Benoît Mercier





FÉDÉRATION DES
FAMILLES SOUCHES
DU QUÉBEC



Subscribe to the Portal of the *Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques* and a get a chance to win the *Francothèque culturelle*.

The *Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques* wish to focus on strengthening and enhancement of relations between Francophone and Francophiles across the Americas, including the creation of its portal.

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to join our new portal, a collaborative virtual community that will allow French and Francophiles of various communities of the Americas to exchange between them and forge a lasting relationship.

Register before **October 15**, and a chance to win the *Francothèque culturelle* worth \$ 1000 *, a range of books, DVDs and CDs of artists and authors French-speaking Americas.

To register, fill out your form to:
<http://inscription.francophoniedesameriques.com/>

Francophones of the Americas are invited, both individually and name of a association or organization to join as a participant in Portal Center. Our new portal will be online on 18 October 2008.

To transform this new virtual community of French-language true place Gathering on the Web, send this email invitation to your colleagues, friends and relatives in large numbers. Join the influence of the French language!

The portal of the *Centre de la Francophonie* is...

- francophone community consisting of individuals, businesses, organizations and classrooms across the Americas;
- variety of resources to learn more about the reality in the francophone Americas;
- A calendar of activities organized by participants in the community as well as the different actors of francophonia of the Americas.

The *Fédération des familles souches du Québec* is proud to be partner of the *Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques*

(* details of the Francothèque on the registration form online)

New Members

- | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| 1523 | André F. Mercier | Québec |
| 1524 | Jean Mercier | St-Jérôme |
| 1525 | Nicole Mercier | St-Eustache |



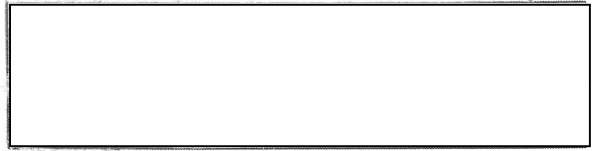


Thanks to all those who have renewed their membership

The following list contains the names and numbers of those who, between October 2008 and December 2008, have renewed their membership to the AMAN for the period of June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009. The members who have previously taken advantage of multi-year rates, the life members and the commanders do not appear on the list.

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 3 | Noël Mercier | 894 | Jean-Louis Mercier |
| 5 | François Mercier | 1108 | Ellis Elmer Mercier |
| 9 | Madeleine Talbot | 1236 | Luc Mercier |
| 13 | Cécile M. Fortin | 1260 | Jacques Mercier |
| 29 | Jean-Rock Mercier | 1271 | Carmelle Mercier |
| 35 | Claudine Mercier | 1417 | Jean-Guy Mercier |
| 120 | Réal Mercier | 1427 | Denis Mercier |
| 195 | Claude Mercier | 1441 | Estelle Mercier |
| 458 | Béatrice Mercier | 1500 | Andrée Mercier |
| 473 | Maurice Mercier | 1501 | Hélène Lamontagne |
| 625 | Dary Mercier | 1509 | Clair Theresa Mercier |
| 843 | Fernand Mercier | | |

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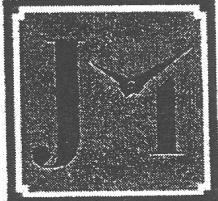




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 President

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