## **VOLUME 33**

## NUMBER 3

FALL 2017

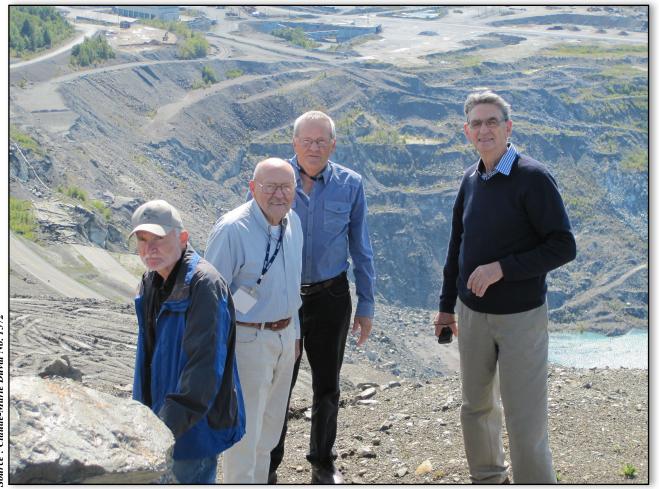




The Voice of the Merciers of North America



Best wishes for your health and happiness in the New Year!



Visit to the Open Pit Lac d'amiante Mine in Thetford Mines, September 10, 2017. Jean No. 1630 from New Richmond, Maurice No. 1563 from New Hampshire, Camille No. 1629 from Lorrainville and Gilmond No. 28 from Sainte-Sabine.

#### HONOUR ROLL - GOVERNORS OF THE MERCIER ASSOCIATION

Name	Member No.	Occupation	Residence	Admission
Ernest Mercier *	32	Founding President of the (A.M.A.N. 1985)	Québec, QC	1997
Pierre-Paul Mercier *	19	Administration	St-Lambert, QC	2000
Louis Mercier	52	Actuary	St-Bruno-de-Montarville, QC	2000
Pierre Mercier	73	Engineering	St-Bruno-de-Montarville, QC	2000
Suzanne Mercier	74	Commerce	Montréal, QC	2000
Christine Mercier	75	Teaching	Québec, QC	2000
Charles Mercier	76	Engineering	Québec, QC	2000
Alain Mercier *	77	Communications	Québec, QC	2000
Lucienne Mercier-Croteau *	988	Teaching	Bonnyville, AB	2001
Ralph Mercier	1151	Administration	Québec (Charlesbourg), QC	2012
				(*) deceased

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2017-2018 AND SERVICES OF THE MERCIER ASSOCIATION**

<b>Board Members</b>	Name	Member no.	Residence	Telephone	Email
President:	Jacques Mercier	341	St-Georges	(418) 228-5426	studiocimai@gmail.com
Vice-President:	Germain Nappert	1480	Boisbriand	(450) 437-1220	nappert@videotron.ca
Secretary:	Aurèle Mercier	1573	Ste-Marie	(418) 387-5079	andreegm007@outlook.com
Treasurer:	Lise St-André	1572	Ste-Madeleine	(450) 795-3853	famillesmercier1985@gmail.com
Administrators	Gilmond Mercier	28	Ste-Sabine	(418) 383-3441	gilmondm@sogetel.net
	Jean Mercier	1524	St-Jérôme	(450) 432-3223	jean.mercier6@videotron.ca
	Mario Mercier	1544	Québec	(418) 903-4752	mario.mercier@bell.net
Services:					
Archives and Facel	book:	28	Gilmond Mercier	(418) 383-3441	gilmondm@sogetel.net
Webmaster:		1568	Pascal Mercier	(418) 221-7688	pmercier@ubeo.ca
Newsletter Le Mer	cien: Search	28	Gilmond Mercier	(418) 383-3441	gilmondm@sogetel.net
Newsletter Le Mercien: Layout		1572	Lise St-André	(450) 795-3853	famillesmercier1985@gmail.com
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Genealogy:		1520	Laurent Mercier	(450) 678-5094	laurentmercier@ymail.com
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Audit:		210	Denise Mercier		denisemercier@videotron.qc.ca

#### MEMBERSHIP FEES 2017-2018

#### Annual fees are due before May 31st of each year

Annually :	\$35/1 year \$65/2 years
Annually + spouse(s) :	\$40/1year \$75/2 years
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 Mercien. We are proud to perpetuate that name today.

Legal deposit - 2017 Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec - BAnQ Library and Archives Canada - LAC

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Opinions expressed in the published articles belong exclusively to their authors. The fact that they are published in this newsletter does not mean that the Association agrees with or supports them.

Email : famillesmercier1985@gmail.com - Website : www.famillesmercier.org L'Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord is a member of the Fédération Histoire Québec

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Greetings to all!

Following the annual gathering, it is my great pleasure to thank the 50 or so participants who faithfully attend this get together year after year. Indeed, whatever location is chosen, our members enthusiastically attend. We enjoy more and more our get togethers. Once again this year, people from various regions of Quebec, Canada and the United States, proud of their roots, took part in our gathering.

Let us thank our 2016-2017 Board Members for their confidence throughout the preparations for this event. It was the fifth time since the great gathering of 1987, that we met over a two-day period. Comments were positive. On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, at its first meeting since the annual gathering, the new Board did a postmortem of the event and took note of improvements to be made for our next annual general meeting. We are looking at several places in Quebec where we could meet next year. I won't hesitate to tell you that we are interested in extending our reach to more remote regions. We are indeed



looking for a way to reach that goal. If you have any suggestions, and you are willing to help in preparing the next gathering, please let us know. It will be a pleasure for us to cooperate with you.

I mentioned at the annual general meeting that improving our "Website" was a priority for us so as to achieve our goal of reaching out to as many Merciers as possible. The work is underway and 2018 should be a "pivotal" year in that regard.

Since the Christmas and New Year season is approaching, I want to take this opportunity, both for myself and on behalf of all of the Board members, to extend to you all our best wishes for good health, happiness and prosperity.



Join us on 🛛 🛉

REMINDER : Do not forget to renew your annual membership for 2017-18.

# THE GATHERING AT THETFORD MINES IN PICTURES



Source : Claude-Marie Duval No. 1572

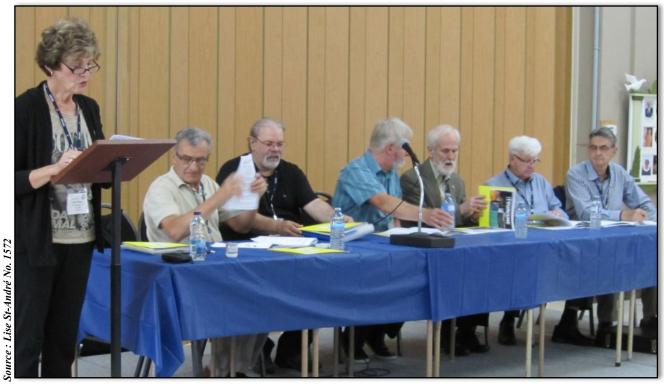
Monique No. 1524 and Carole No. 341 Roger No. 1623 and Jean No. 1524.



*The Mercier brothers : Maurice No. 1563 from New Hampshire, Jean No. 1629 from New Richmond, Camille No. 1630 from Lorrainville and Ronald No. 1636 from Connecticut.* 



Picture taken at the unveiling of a plaque honouring the first Merciers to have come to the Asbestos region and to have contributed to its development.

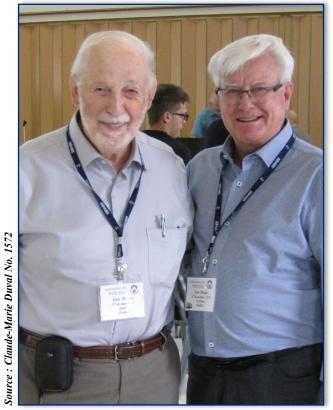




Visit to the Musée minéralogique et minier of Thetford Mines. Its collections and exhibits are mostly related to geology and other earth sciences.



*Mrs. Thérèse Deslongchamps-Mercier, mayor of Thetford Mines from 1978-1982 and Mr. Marc-André Brosseau, the present mayor, unveiling a plaque honouring the Merciers*.



Jean No. 1 and Jean No. 1524, president from 2011 to 2015.



Claudine Mercier No. 35, was a great help to Ernest Mercier at the time he was writing his book "Mercier depuis des siècles".



Mrs. Thérèse Deslongchamps-Mercier, mayor from 1978-1982 and her son Gaétan No. 881.



Germain Nappert No. 1480, Vice-President and Andrée Gagné, wife of Aurèle No. 1573.

Source : Claude-Marie Duval No. 1572

















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Le Mercien

**PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION** showing historical events of the region presented by Jacques No. 341

Claudine Mercier No. 35.

CIER

**PROMOTIONAL ITEMS** 

Germain Nappert No. 1480, André Gagné No. 1573, Roger Mercier No. 1623, Sylvie Mercier No. 1560, Chantal Mercier No. 713 and Henri-Paul Tremblay.



**GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH** *Lucie Mercier No. 337, Ian Campbell and Benoît No. 222.* 



### **FRIENDLY CHATS**

From left to right, Marielle Mercier n°1506, Pauline Roll n°495 Gaétane Chabot n°615 and Jane Buskirk # 605

Newsletter of the Merciers of North America



## **GUIDED TOUR OF THE HUGE MINING PARK**

Surrounded by turquoise waters, huge mounds of residue, mine headframes and other mining structures, we were allowed to pick up and take back with us samples of minerals typical of the region.



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## **HISTORIC KING MINE CENTRE (KB3 TOWER)**



Newsletter of the Merciers of North America

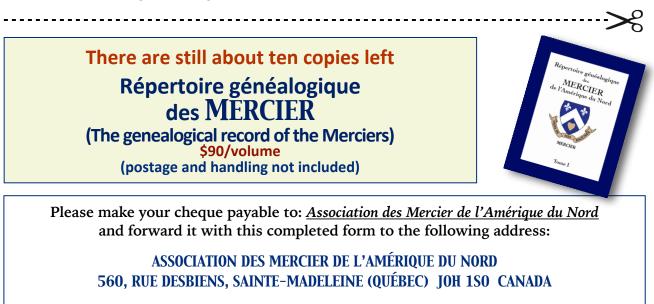
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Member no.	Name	City - Province/State	Fees Donations	Expiry Date May 31
35	Claudine Mercier	Québec, QC	One year exemption	2019
75	Christine Mercier	Québec, QC	75 \$ 25 \$	*2019
207	Gérard Mercier	Thetford Mines, QC	35 \$	2019
210	Denise Mercier	Saint-Lin-Laurentides, QC	65 \$	2019
284	Louisette Mercier	Québec, QC	35 \$	2018
495	Léo Mercier	Sainte-Sabine, Qc	35 \$	2018
587	Lorraine Mercier	Sainte-Sabine, Qc	35 \$	2018
1094	Ralph J. Mercier & Helen Mercier	Michigan, USA	75 \$	2019
1126	Suzanne Mercier	Saint-Damien, QC	65 \$	2019
1342	Cécilia Mercier & Roland Chabot	Lac-Beauport, QC	40 \$	*2019
1490	Renée Laurent-Mercier	Montréal, QC	65 \$ 35 \$	2019
1491	Claude Mercier	Mont-St-Pierre, QC	35 \$	2019
1506	Marielle Mercier	Sainte-Sabine, Qc	35 \$	2018
1580	Éric Mercier & Rachel Cavanagh	Mirabel, QC	40 \$	2918
1621	Claudine Mercier	Nice, France	65 \$	2019
1625	Françoise Mercier	Québec, QC	35 \$	2018
1633	Ronald Mercier & Julie Chaloux	Vermont, USA	40 \$	2019
1634	Robin M. Najduch	Connecticut, USA	34 \$	2019
1635	Diane Mercier	Granby, QC	One year exemption	2019
1637	Carmelle Mercier	Victoriaville, QC	35 \$	2019

#### Renewal of membership fees - Donations [as of December 15, 2017]

## Thank you for your support!

\* Life Member special contribution



Name:	First name				
Address: _	Phone:				
City:	Province/State: Postal code:				
Email:	Membership N°:				
Tome 1 🗍 Tome 2 🗍					



Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord 560, rue Desbiens, Sainte-Madeleine (Québec) JOH 1S0 - tél.: 450-795-3853

Email : famillesmercier1985@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM							
For all members, annual fees are due on May 31 of each year.							
Regular fee as an i	ndividual:		Ş	35 / 1 Year	or	\$ 65 / 2 Years	
Regular fee with spouse:			Ş	5 40 / 1 Year	or	\$ 75 / 2 Years	
						~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	
For al	l members, annual fees	are due on	Ma	ny 31 of ea	ch ye	ear.	
Please make your cheque payable to: <u>Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord</u> and forward it with this completed form to the following address:							
ASSOCIATION DES MERCIER DE L'AMÉRIQUE DU NORD 560, RUE DESBIENS, SAINTE-MADELEINE (QUÉBEC) JOH 1SO CANADA							
* Date of birth:							
FIRST AND LAST NAME				* Date of birth:			
F	IRST AND LAST NAME OF SPOU	JSE					
Address:	dress:			Telephone:			
City:	Province/State:			Postal (Zip) code:			
Email:				_ Member	Nº: _	·····	
Renewal	New member	<b>–</b> v	′olur	ntary contrib	ution	\$	
I enclose my fee as a	n individual:	\$35/1 Year		\$ 65/2 Yea	rs 🗖	\$	
I enclose my fee as a	member with spouse:	\$40/1 Year		\$ 75/2 Yea	rs 🗖	\$	
I wish to receive the	newsletter " <i>Le Mercien</i> ":	by mail		by Ema	ail 🗖	I	
Signature:	re: Date:						
* To improve our gener							

## THE ANCESTRAL COUPLE JEAN MERCIER AND FRANÇOISE RADEGONDE DE MAYEUSE

The Merciers living in the United States represent 40% of all of the Merciers in North America. The majority of these Merciers are descendants of French Canadians who emigrated to New England in the second half of the 19th century and at the start of the 20th. At the time of colonization, a few Merciers emigrated from France directly to the United States. Among them was Jean Mercier, born on May 25, 1734 in Saint-André-de-Cubzac, a village located some fifteen kilometres north of the city of Bordeaux, in southwestern France.



Jean was the son of Jean-Baptiste Mercier and Marie Apperd. At the age of 31, in 1765, he settled in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he became a successful merchant. At the time of his arrival, Louisiana had been a Spanish colony for three years. The population was then estimated to be around 20,000 residents. Jean married Françoise Radegonde de Mayeuse in 1773. They had three children: Juana Louisa Justina, Maria Gratiana and Jean-Baptiste. It is believed that Jean had earlier been married to Thérèse Lagarde in France. Eighteen years later (in 1791), he married Marie Gracieuse de Fontenelle, daughter of a grand Creole family who owned plantations on the left bank of the Mississippi.





The Commagere-Mercier House, located at 630 Saint Peter Street in the old French Quarter, was built in 1796 by Pedro Commagere. It was sold in 1806 to Madame Gracieuse Fontenelle, wife of Jean-Baptiste Mercier.

On a plaque on the Commagere-Mercier House, located at 630 Saint Peter Street in the old French Quarter of New Orleans, one can read the names of the couple, who owned it in the early 1800s. They had two daughters, Justine and Marie Amélie, who together requested the emancipation of a female mulatto slave named Roseline in their mother's estate, in 1824. They vouch that Roseline is above the age of thirty and that she is a slave of "good moral". In a document at the Digital Library on American Slavery, they are identified as the heirs of Marie Gracieuse de Fontenelle Mercier. One can deduce from this that like other plantation owners, Jean and his wife had slaves in their service. Jean died at the age of 84 and was interred on April 18, 1818 in New Orleans.

Jean-Baptiste, the only son of Jean, perpetuated that Mercier line. He married Héloïse, daughter of Pierre Leduc and Joséphine Lecourt, who had come from Canada after the Treaty of Paris in 1763. They had six children: Jean-Jacques, Marie-Clarisse (Adèle), Charles-Édouard, Henriette-Amandine, Placide-Jules-Armand and Charles-Alfred. It was an affluent family. They could afford to vacation in France.



Alfred and Armand studied in Paris and became physicians. The daughters found well-to-do husbands: Henriette-Amandine married Pierre Soulé, a lawyer and future Senator in Washington, while Marie-Clarisse (Adèle) married Louis T. Caire, a notary.

# The Old Square, or French Quarter, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Alfred (1816-1894) even though a doctor, was known mainly as a poet, novelist and playwright. He is recognized as a distinguished Mercier by the *Association des Mercier d'Amérique du Nord*. In his writings, he gave a different version of his origins. He said he was the grandson of a man named Jean, who was born in 1772 near Bordeaux, France, who arrived in New Orleans in 1793 fleeing the French Revolution and that Jean had earlier married Françoise Radegonde de Mayeuse in France. The year of his arrival in New Orleans, Jean obtained an immense land concession of several thousand acres. He made no mention of the Fontenelle family. The story seems to be closer to a novel than to reality. A dispute over the estate may explain the rewriting of his ancestors' history.



The Jean Mercier and Marie Gracieuse de Fontenelle Couple lived in New Orleans, near the Saint Louis Cathedral, in the heart of the French Quarter.

When Alfred's father passed away, the estate was quite complex. Jean-Baptiste's descendants, whose mother was Françoise Radegonde de Mayeuse, launched a series of lawsuits against the descendants of Marie Gracieuse de Fontenelle and various New Orleans banks. The Louisiana Supreme Court decided in favour of Alfred's cousins and the banks, which resulted in depriving Alfred and his siblings of a huge property. The plantation produced an annual income of \$150,000 in 1830. Family reconciliation was never achieved.

During the Civil War, Alfred tried in vain to persuade the French to support the Confederates. After the war, he returned to a devastated Louisiana. Jean-Baptiste's family lost a lot during the conflict. He practised medicine while fighting to preserve the French language, which seemed to him to be on the decline. France made him an **Officier de la Légion d'honneur** in order to thank him for his support of the French language.

The descendants of Jean Mercier were renowned in the fields of medicine, letters and business. They probably represent a very small percentage of the American Merciers. They live mostly in the southern and the western United States.



Louisiana became a State of the United States in 1803. New Orleans had a population of 8,475 in 1805. From 1806 to December 1809, the city's population more than doubled with the arrival of a total of 9159 French refugees from Saint Domingue, of whom 2731 were Whites, 3102 were free Blacks and 3326 were slaves. In 1810, the city's population was 24552, of whom only 3200 were Anglophones. (View of New Orleans in 1803).

## **References:**

1- Anonymous, Alfred Mercier, physician and author 1816-1894. Le Mercien, La voix des Mercier d'Amérique, vol 26, numéro 1. Printemps 2010.

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3- Hamel, Réginald, L'Habitation Saint-Ybars, Alfred Mercier, Guérin Littérature, Montréal, 421 pages. 1989.

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5- Mercier, Ernest, Cinquième ancêtre, Jean de la Louisiane, Le Mercien, La voix des Mercier d'Amérique, vol 3, numéro 1. Février 1987.

6- Mercier, Ernest, Jean-Baptiste Mercier (1772-1841), Le Mercien, La voix des Mercier d'Amérique, vol 7, numéro 2. Avril 1991.

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8- Mercier, Pierre-Paul, Jean Mercier et la Louisiane, Le Mercien, La voix des Mercier

by: Gilmond Mercier No. 28



In January 2016, through our treasurer Lise St-André, we purchased a digitizer. Such a piece of equipment is very helpful for us to store our archives for our first 30 years and those to come.

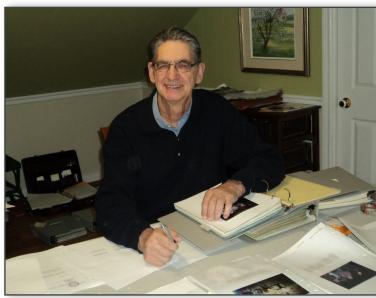
Lise is presently completing the digitizing of our Le Mercien, our main source of information since 1985.

## **A PRECIOUS HERITAGE**

The Archives of the Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord



Le Mercien: 3680 pages to digitize: 264 newsletters of 12 and 16 pages (in French and in English).



Gilmond, our tireless historian and researcher, has scrutinized all our other documents page by page

At the same time, our archivist Gilmond, our tireless historian and researcher, has scrutinized all our other documents page by page: minutes of proceedings, communiqués, correspondence, financial statements, pictures and texts of all kinds, which used to be stored at our warehouse in Wendake, near Quebec City, but which we have emptied at the end of 2016.

This article, with pictures, is to show you the "major clean-up" done by our people in order to preserve "the memory" of the association.



Three storage cabinets had been filling up with documents, year after year, at the warehouse, including multiple copies of the same documents. Our predecessors did not want "anything to get lost" and rightly so, thinking that abundance was not a bad thing. The members of the Board brought the whole accumulation down to what amounts to one storage cabinet. We could eventually digitize all of the documents so that they can fit on a single USB key. Whether we like it or not, technology is catching up with us all and even quickly outpaces us. We must use it in order to energize our association.

The numerous discoveries made by Gilmond while reading our archives will allow us to state that our founding families were all covered in our various Le Mercien newsletters. One fact is rather surprising: articles about Julien, the most prolific of our ancestors, are among the least "voluminous" of our presentations.

The 2015 publication of our "Répertoire généalogique des MERCIER de l'Amérique du Nord" represented a full update of our research about our six founding families. In our upcoming Le Mercien issues, we will publish the latest revisions about our ancestors.

We wish to thank our colleagues



Source : Lise St-André No. 1572

2017

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Archives at Wendake 2016.

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Lise and Gilmond for the colossal work they have done with both diligence and passion. Jacques Mercier No. 341

## **TWO DESCENDANTS OF CHARLES MERCIER, ALSO KNOWN** AS LAJOIE, AND MARIANNE LAHAISE ARE HONOURED



# 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary



Jean-Charles Mercier, who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on October 22<sup>th</sup>. They are the parents of Luce, Jacinthe, Henri, Chantale and Guylaine, and grandparents to Sébastien, Charles, Alexandre, Jean-Philippe, Joanie, Nicolas and Charlaine, and great-grandparents to Zackary, Olivier, Camille, Marilou, Julianne and Raphaëlle. Jean-Charles, No. 43, has been an active member of the Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord since June 1985.



# 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Cécilia Mercier and Roland Chabot, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 2017. They are the parents of Josée, Nathalie and Isabelle and grandparents to Simon-Pierre, David, Charles-Antoine, Élise and Simon and greatgrandparents to Chloé. Cécilia No. 1342 has been an active member of the Association des Mercier de l'Amérique du Nord and was a member of the board of directors for many years.



Newsletter of the Merciers of North America

## **LET'S ENCOURAGE OUR SPONSORS!**

