

Pioneer families :

David Levasseur and Victorine Beauchesne of Saint-Rémi-de-Tingwick



Eugène Levasseur
and Délina Toussaint

Amongst the pioneer families, we note that of David Levasseur. David was born in Bécancour in 1842. In St-Paul de Chester in 1867, he married Victorine Beauchesne whom was born in 1846 in Stanfold (Princeville) . They lived in Notre-Dame-de-Ham (Fecto Mills) and then moved to St-Rémi.

In St-Rémi, on the property of his son-in-law Albert Grenier, David built his first sawmill powered by water. He also built another one for Lionel Beauchesne. He also built many houses in St-Rémi one of which still exists and is inhabited by Henri Beauchesne.

This family carried on with the birth of his son Eugène in Tingwick in 1878. Eugène married Délina Toussaint in Tingwick in 1904. At eleven, Eugène learned the rudiment of cheese-making while working in Mr Proulx' cheese factory. In 1903, he participated in the construction of the parish church. In 1916, the church burnt and in 1917, he contributed in reconstruction of a new church.

Back in 1903, Eugène bought Mr Proulx' sawmill in the 11th concession and promptly moved it to the 9th concession. Two years later, he built a second sawmill closed to his house. In 1906, he acquired Mr Honoré Rioux' cheese factory and was also the owner of a milk separating station. Latter, he purchased Mrs. Octave Roy's house, close to the church.

A cheese-maker first, an expert carpenter, a clever political organizer, always an ardent nationalist, Eugène Levasseur was interested in whatever was called progress. He worked very hard at obtaining a post office in St-Rémi and then the distribution of rural mail . He was also one of the local promoters of telephone in the area. The author recalls a meeting held in his house with some neighbors. His brother-in-law, Wilfrid Laliberté just had this innovation installed in Ham-Nord and was trying to explain the functioning of the system. Many were skeptical and were sort of laughing at this so-called "talking box"

In 1922, Eugène bought Wellie Marchand's farm. He needed something to keep his sons busy.... Finally, Eugène and his wife Délina Toussaint had twelve children, seven boys and five girls, all born in St-Rémi. Although none of the living children now reside in St-Rémi, they always take great pleasure in returning in this very picturesque part of the world which they affectionately call "la canadienne"

Written by: J. Raoul Levasseur

Direct lineage of David Levasseur

Pierre (1) Levasseur 1629-1694

Pierre Levasseur 1661-1731

Denis-Joseph Levasseur 1712-1792

François Levasseur/Vigoureux 1747-1827

François-Xavier Levasseur 1782-1851

Joseph Levasseur 1818-1851

David Levasseur 1844-1925

Your Association honors the memory of a great lady.

Taken from a letter written by Mrs Madeliene DesRivières to the Québec newspaper le « Soleil ».

« ...Irma Levasseur never looked for glory and glory completely ignored her ». As we witnessed on television, her life was one of grandeur and misery. She died as a bachelor at the age of 87. Her brother, also a bachelor, predeceased her. She had no descendants, no nephews, and no nieces. At the time of her death, no one bothered to honor her memory with a tombstone.

I wish to inform you that, at their meeting in Québec last summer, a few members of L'Association des

Levasseur d'Amérique took the initiative to correct this omission. They had the name of Irma Levasseur engraved on the family tombstone located in the St-Charles Cemetery in Québec City. Our most heartfelt gratitude is extended to some generous people who broke down Irma's anonymity and gave her the legitimate recognition she so well deserves.



**Madeleine des Rivières (left)
and Madeleine Levasseur**

Madeleine des Rivières