

Le Marsan

association@marsan.org

The Marsan-Lapierre family association genealogy newsletter

A Word from the President

The fourth annual general meeting of the MARSAN-LAPIERRE families will take place on Saturday, August 4, 2001. The registration is free and we ask each family to bring their own picnic lunch. This year it is held in Mont-Saint-Grégoire at a sugar shack called "AU SOUS-BOIS". This spacious venue is situated on the slope of the highest Monteregien hill and is surrounded with numerous orchards. It is about twelve minutes from Montreal by highway 10.

Nearby, situated in the valley of the Haut-Richelieu, is Fort Chambly where in 1665, our ancestor, Sergeant Pierre Marsan dit Lapierre helped build the first wooden stockade which was erected by the Company of Captain Jacques de Chambly of the Regiment de Carignan-Salières.

Acadians returning from exile following their deportation and attracted by the fertile land of this region settled in the village of l'Acadie founded in 1768. It also enticed a few MARSAN families of Terrebonne and l'Assomption to move their families there at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Their descendants put down roots in the region and you will certainly meet some of them there.

For those who wish to spend some time in the region, the Valley of the Forts and Rural villages such as l'Acadie offer numerous tourist attractions. Wine and cider produced

locally, which pleasantly accompany the many regional dishes, can be sampled in the numerous gastronomic establishments of the region.

Because only one of the three sons of our ancestor had an offspring, the different branches of our family originated only in the third generation. All the participants at the meeting can find out

which branch they descend from at the registration. Depending on your ancestor, your name on the name badge you will receive, will be written in **blue** if you are of the eldest branch and your ancestor is Pierre, in **yellow** if you belong to the second branch and your ancestor is François, in **red** if you descend from the third

branch and your ancestor is Jean-Baptiste and in **green** if you belong to the youngest branch and your ancestor is Joseph. You can also consult the descendant family tree that hangs on the wall. This chart includes all the ancestors of the first five generations.

The complete activity program is presented in the following pages. We hope that you will come in great numbers making this reunion a success and therefore guaranteeing the continuation of our Association. Why not take this occasion to organize a family gathering in a beautiful site? The temperature at the beginning of August is usually very pleasant. It will be a pleasure to meet you all in Mont-Saint-Grégoire.

Jean-Guy Marsan

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IN MEMORIAM

Last December, in Worcester, 2000 but he had agreed to re-Massachusetts, died at 43 years old, **Donald E. Marsan**. As a lawyer, he was in charge of the legal department of a firm of consultants in social benefits for companies. As a hobby, Don was greatly interested in genealogy and he felt an irresistible need to look for his ancestors in Canada. He had been elected vice-president of the Association of the Marsan-Lapierre Families at the 1999 meeting in St-Jacques-de-Montcalm. Health problems had forced him to resign at the beginning of

main the correspondent of the Association in the United States. I would like to thank Don, in the name of the Association and the members of the board, for his invaluable contribution. I also wish to offer our most sincere condolences to all the members of his family, particularly to his wife Mary Taksar, to his daughter Samantha, to his brother Joseph and his wife Mary Catherine Marsan-Lapierre and her husband John Cannon, as well as to all his nephews and nieces. ■

Echoes from the board

- Our Webmaster, Steve Marsan, did an impressive task of renovating our Internet site. We invite you to view it at the following address: www.marsan.org
- The administrators have decided that our site will continue to be lodged, for the present year, in the Centre de généalogie francophone d'Amérique : www.genealogie.org.
- On our Internet site, it is now possible for our members to add a link to their personal site free of charge, or to take professional or business ads for as little as 25 \$ per year.

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Oldest branch (second marriage)

In the year thousand seven hundred and forty eight, the twenty first day of January after having published one bann at the parish mass and having a dispense signed by Mr Norman vicar-general for the two other banns, and having at the same time permission to marry in my parish Pierre Mersan widower of Geneviève Filion, and son of Francois Mersan and d'Elisabeth Desroches his father and mother of this parish on one hand and Geneviève Jacquese daughter of the late Jean Jacquese and deceased Catherine Gilmault her father and mother from the parish of Pointe-aux-Trembles on the other hand, having no guardian being an orphan abandoned by her parents, no impediments having been found in the parish of Pointe-aux-Trembles and in this one, I undersigned actually being in charge of the functions of the parish priest in St Pierre-du-Portage parish and having received the permission of Mr. Norman vicar-general of the diocese have received their mutual consent and gave them the

nuptial blessing with the ceremonial prescribed by the Holy Church in the presence of Laurent Archambault, of Blaise Juillet, Jean Langlois dit Lachapelle, and of Jean Baptiste Langlois dit Langlois, who have declare not knowing how to write or sign after being asking according to the law except Laurent Archambault et Blaise Juillet who have signed with me.

DeGeay pss

Jean Jacquese dit Leblond arrived in New France from his native Bruxelles in 1715. He and his wife made their home in Trois-Rivières where he founded a school of sculpture. They had three daughters. He died in December 1723 in Sorel at age 35 abruptly ending his career as sculptor of religious carvings for the churches, and a few months before the birth of Geneviève. Catherine Gilmault did not remarry; she died in Montréal in 1734. The orphan daughters were probably placed in charitable families who wanted to take them in after the death of their parents. Two and a half years after the

death of his wife, Pierre, now 35 years old and father of three young children, married a second time in his parish of l'Assomption, which was then known under the name of St-Pierre-du-Portage. He had twelve children with his second wife Geneviève. Four of them died very young but six got married and settled on the banks of the Rivière l'Assomption or its tributaries. With their numerous descendants they have contributed to make the eldest branch the one who totals the most descendants.

Pierre continued to work his land now measuring about four acres of frontage by forty-eight deep, on the south bank of the Point-du-Jour brook. He paid his rights and rent in tournois pounds and in wheat to the Sulpiciens who were the Seigneurs of the St Sulpice Seigneurie. When he died, at age 70, he had managed to farm nearly half of his land, the rest remaining wooded areas. Geneviève survived her husband for twenty-one years. She died surrounded by her family at age seventy-nine. ■

News from Our Family at Large

• On December 24, 2000, the first grandson of **Donald M. Marsan** of Hillsboro, Missouri, celebrated his first birthday. Trystin Maurice Solomon is the son of his daughter Rabeka and her husband A. Waller of Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

• In Boucherville, on June 21, 2000, at the age of 77, died **Marc Marsan** husband of Claire Longpré. We wish to express our deepest sympathy to his wife, to his children Michel (Danielle Beaudet) and Annick (Luc Airoldi), to his grandchildren Mathieu, Hugo, Guillaume, Kim and Marie-Pier, to his brother Gérard (Réjeanne) and to his sisters-in law Lise Lemay and Emma Provost.

• Mrs **Lucie Marsan**, wife of the late **Maurice Lépine** died on August 15, 2000 in Ste-Thérèse, at the age of 92. She leaves in mourning her daughter Francine (late Michel Chénier) and her grandchildren Judith, Sylvain and Guylaine to whom we offer our sincere condolences.

• On January 8, 2001, **Anne Marsan** and her husband **Louis-Paul Dubé** gave birth to a daughter, **Audrey** and a sister to their elder daughter Marie-Pier. Anne and Louis-Paul both practice Veterinary Medicine in Trois-Rivières-Ouest.

• Our vice-president, Paul, informed us of the death of his cousin **Guy Marsan** on January 28, 2001, at age 73. Our condolences to his wife Laurence Morin, to his children Johanne (Jean-Marc Marcoux) and Jean-Claude (Micheline Nantais), to his grandchildren Marc-André, Frédérick, Rémi and Amelie, to his sister Lise ss.cc.j.m and to his brother André (Nicole Lamoureux).

• **Anne Marsan-Cook** proceeded to the official opening of her Music and Art Studio in her workshop adjacent to her beautiful Victorian house with the private viewing of her most recent canvases, on May 12, 2001 in Roslin, Ontario. Anne is a member of our board of directors.

• Congratulations to **Gisèle Marsan-Kobelansky** for the tremendous growth of her company. In the last year alone, she has expanded her business 3 fold, into the Ontario and Maritimes markets, applying the same business practices that had contributed to her success in Quebec for the last 30+ years. In order to make this possible, she had to open an Office and Warehouse in Toronto, as well as build a new facility in Anjou, Qc (over 50,000 sq feet) necessitating huge investments. Despite her professional activities, she finds time to sit on our Board and the generosity to contribute to our financing. She cares a great deal about her family. Sincere thanks.

• **Andrea Marsan** and **Eric Boulden** saw their family grow by another son this summer. Liam Alex was born in Toronto on June 25. He will be protected by his older brother Matthew (the future golf pro) who will soon be 4 years old. ■

Armand Marsan Family

(continued from last newsletter)

By **Vernon Alexander John Frost**

Elphege "Alfred" Marsan was probably the most adventuresome member of the Marsan family, and until his later years he spent the least time at Duffield. He worked on the railway, and while working on a trestles at Blue River, B.C., he lost an eye in an industrial accident. During World War II, he worked on the Alaskan Highway as a cook for the American Army. He became a barber after the war. While in British Columbia he married Catherine "Cassie" Shovar on 3 November 1957, at Merrit B.C. They had a brief and devoted marriage until tragically "Cassie" died of a stroke on the 11 October, 1957, a little more than six months after they were married. Cassie had had heart problems and a minor stroke before they were married. Alfred remained on the farm at Johnny's Lake, after her death. He had always enjoyed the outdoors, boating and skidoing in the area. He spent several years working at Wabamum Provincial Park with his brother

Alexandre. Alfred's last years were spent at the senior's lodge at Evansburg, where he still managed to enjoy the outdoors. He passed away at the age of 87 years on the 7th July, 1986.

Aimee "Amy" had received some schooling in St. Albert and Edmonton. She became the caregiver for her sister Antoinette, particularly when Antoinette had to be hospitalized in Edmonton. Later she was the caregiver for her mother who suffered from cancer. Amy worked at a number of jobs, including domestic work in the Spruce Grove area, for Trudeau Dry Cleaners in Edmonton, and as a cook in the lumber camps. Amy met Sidney Frost in the Spruce Grove area and on 17 November, 1934 they were married at St. Dominic's church, Duffield, Alberta. (See Frost family).

Marie Jeanne was about six years of age when her family moved to the farm at Duffield. The lack of schools in the area prevented her from obtaining a traditional education in her younger years, and companionship of other children other than her immediate

family. Her older sister Antoinette was her teacher. Marie developed very strong ties to her family and these ties continued throughout her life. Marie married Herbert Wm. Sparke, on the 26 November, 1938 in Spruce Grove, Alberta. Marie died on the 14 March 1999. (See Sparke Family).

Frank was also a victim of the lack of a school reasonably close to his parent's home. He was 9 years old when the Marsan family moved to Spruce Grove and he was able to start school. Frank and his brother both followed the same employment course and eventually obtained their certificates as Stationary Engineers (Steam). Both Frank and Girard, worked as steam engineers in a number of power plants, at the coal mining towns of Coal Valley, Mountain Park, Luscar, Gregg River and Mercoal. Frank finally left Mercoal in 1952 and then worked as a steam engineer at the Edmonton General Hospital.

Frank and Girard purchased a house in Jasper Place and in 1953 Armand and his wife Marie moved from the farm at

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Armand Marsan Family (conclusion)

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Duffield, to live with Frank in what was then known as Jasper Place. Frank was very devoted to his father and his stepmother and provided them with a home until Armand died on the 25th December 1961 in Edmonton. Frank married Anne Mary Wall on 18 May 1962. Frank died of a heart attack at his home in Edmonton on the 23 April, 1986.

Girard was the only Marsan who regularly attended school at Duffield. When he was older and after he became a stationary engineer he worked in a number of the same coal mining towns as Frank. As the coal mines in the different towns closed, the need for engineers no longer existed. Girard moved to Edmonton, where he took positions with several companies over the next few years. Girard was always mechanically inclined and on his days off he could be found repairing some vehicle at the farm at Duffield. Girard like his siblings also enjoyed the outdoors. He enjoyed hunting and trapping. On the 20th November 1966, at the age of 51 years, Girard died of a heart attack at his place of employment.

Armand died at the age of 92 years, and his wife Maria did not adjust to the loss of his companionship. Her health steadily declined, and it was discovered that she had inoperable cancer. When she was getting ready to go home, she died of a heart attack while in hospital in Edmonton, on 31 August 1962. Armand and Maria, Alexandre, Alfred and Cassie, Aimee and Sidney, Marie and Bert, Girard, Annabelle McCool, and Ernie Bartko are all buried at the Duffield Roman Catholic Cemetery. Frank is buried at Holy Cross Cemetery in St. Albert. Despite the fact that Armand was 67 years of age when his first grandchild was born, he did live to see four grandchildren, Vernon Alexander John Frost (born 1936), Annabelle Frances Frost (born 1939), Raymond Donald Sparke (born 1941) and Frances Avril

Sparke (born 1947). He also had four great grandchildren at the time of his death, Michael Joseph McCool (born 1957), Maureen Elizabeth McCool (born 1959), Joanne Teresa McCool (born 1961) and Jacqueline Carol Sparke (born 1961).

I, Vernon Frost, the first grandchild definitely had special privileges, particularly until my sister Annabelle was born two and half years later. Apparently, once I learned to walk I was my grandfather's close companion. By the time I was four years old I was speaking and understanding French, although French was not the language spoken by my parents. My father spoke English only, while my mother spoke both French and English. In 1941 my family moved to Luscar, Alberta. For the next ten years, we always returned to Duffield and my grandfathers farm at Johnny's Lake for summer school vacations. It was an adventure I always looked forward to. As the other grandchildren were born, they too were spoiled and entertained by our Grandfather and Grandmother. Maria was always called Grandma, as she was the only grandmother we knew.

Not that many years ago, I commented to my wife, "My grandfather had a good life, he didn't have too many responsibilities, had a comfortable lifestyle and seemed to be happy". I soon realized that Armand was at least 70 years of age before I remembered anything about his life. I did not witness the hardships and tragedies that the pioneering families endured in the early years. I have wonderful memories of my Grandfather, Grandma Maria and my Uncles, Alex, Alfred, Frank and Girard and certainly benefited from the hospitality that they and my Aunt Marie extended to me and my family. ■

Echoes from the board

(continued from page 2)

- Finally, we are always in search of a server which would enable us to put at the disposal of all our members our database, which presently contains about 20,000 names. Currently to have access you must address your requests by e-mail to: mar-san@globetrotter.net or by snail mail at: **9, 14E rue Ouest, Rimouski, QC, G5L 5E6.■**

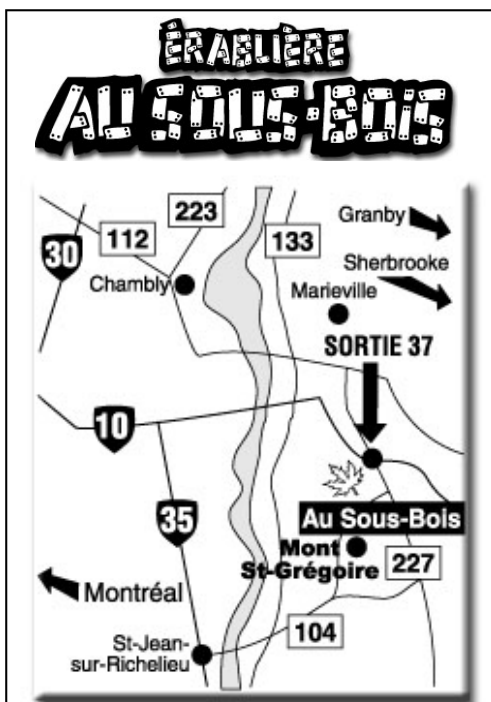
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You are cordially invited to the fourth:

Great Family Gathering 2001

Marsan-Lapierre



**164, chemin du Sous-Bois
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J0J 1K0**
PhoneNumber : (450) 460-4069 ou (450) 460-2269

We are pleased to invite you to the fourth family gathering which will take place on August 4, 2001 in Mont St-Grégoire, Qc. This year, we are having the gathering in a nice Sugar shack called Erablière AU SOUS-BOIS. There is no registration fee and we ask participants to bring their own picnic lunches. Situated at the foot of the tallest hill in the Monteregie area, that spacious sugar shack is surrounded by numerous apple orchards, roughly 10 minutes from Montreal via Highway 10.

We invite you to read the "Word from the President" on the first page of this issue of "Le Marsan" for more complete information about this event. Come meet many of your unknown family members. Your presence will contribute to the success of the day. This year, we are running a new contest. Bring photos of your ancestors and pick any two (2) to enter the contest. The Board will decide on the winning photo at the end of the day. Those photos or any other you can part with, will be added to our family photo database and returned to you. In short, meeting, games, discussions and attendance prizes. We would like for you to attend again this year.

Day's Schedule

- 09h00 Registration/ submission of photos for contest
- 11h00 Annual General Meeting of the Marsan-Lapierre Association
- 12h00 Word of welcome from the President, and picnic
- 13h00 Kiddies make up and exterior activities weather permitting
- 15h00 Results of photo contest and attendance prizes draw.



List of Hotels in the area

Hôtel des gouverneur— St-Jean sur le Richelieu	(450)348-7376	725, boul. du Séminaire-Nord, St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Qc
Confort Inn - St-Jean	(450)349-4466	700, rue Gadbois, St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Qc
Auberge Harris	(450)348-3821	576, rue Champlain, St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Qc

If you do not expect to be able to come to the gathering, but wish to renew your membership, please fill in the form below, and send it in accompanied by a cheque. For those who will be there, you can renew your membership at the gathering.

2001 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

NO, I can't attend the annual gathering but I wish to renew my membership for the next year (15\$)

I wish to make a donation of:

First

Last

Street, app #

City, Province, Zip

Membership Card Number

Please make your Check or money order addressed to: « Association des familles Marsan-Lapierre ».

**Then, send this coupon dully filled to:
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