

Le Marsan



The Marsan-Lapierre family association newsletter

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Word from the president

As we look back at our accomplishments since the first meeting of the association in 1997 in Pointe-aux-Trembles, I would like to mention the holding of four large annual reunions. The choice of our coat of arms, the publication of eight bilingual newsletters, the development of our rules and regulations, the construction of our bilingual Internet site and its numerous renovations and the access to the 25,000 person Marsan-Lapierre families database are also worthy of mention.

These achievements are due to the work of numerous volunteers. I would like to emphasize the dedication of all the members of the Board of Directors since our founding, all those who contributed their efforts to the success of our activities and to all those who supported us financially and encouraged us to continue.

First, I would like to highlight the work of our vice-president Paul Marsan who took charge of the meetings in St-Jacques de Montcalm, Roslin Ontario, and the most recent one in Mont St-Grégoire in the Haut-Richelieu region.

Then, Michel Marsan, our devoted secretary has prepared the agenda for the four meetings of the Board of Directors held each year and for the annual general meeting, sent out the program to all concerned parties and written the reports and minutes for all our meetings.

For the past two years, we were fortunate to be able to count on the participation as treasurer of the Board of Danielle Marsan-Evans. For the last three years she has been the editor of our bi-annual publication "Le Marsan".

Our first treasurer, Alain Marsan, still sits on the Board of Directors. He also gave us permission to use, free of charge, our present coat of arms that he had ordered from specialists in heraldry in the sixties. He is also a generous benefactor in offering door prizes for our general meetings.

Besides being a member of the board, Ghislaine Laramée offers us legal advice. She drafted our rules, and with our secretary Michel took the necessary steps to obtain the association's charter.

It is thanks to the generosity of Gisèle Marsan-Kobelansky that we can print and send our newsletters to more than three hundred and fifty persons. Out of those about fifty pay their annual subscription. Gisèle has been a member of our council since 1999.

Last year, it was a pleasure to welcome Anne Marsan-Cook as member of the board, and this year it was Stéphane Marsan's turn to offer us his collaboration as administrator.

The creation and maintenance of our current Internet site is the work of our Webmaster Steve Marsan. Steve also manages the database and typesets the newsletter that is posted on the Internet site, and mailed out to the members.

We value the work done by Marcel Marsan, Donald Marsan and Andrée Ricard for the translation. Mrs. Ricard is the current translator of our bi-annual newsletter "Le Marsan".

Before his death Donald Marsan had been a member of the board and the correspondent of our association in the United States. He died in the autumn of 2000. His brother Joseph succeeded him in this office.

Jean-Guy Marsan

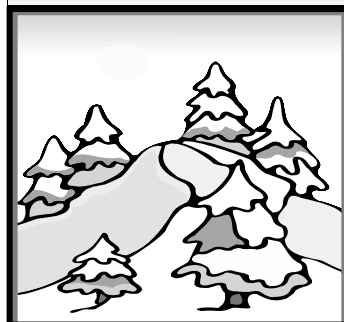
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Return on the past by Roger Marsan (first part)

Our youth

Besides our studies and homework, there was reading. The pastimes: marbles, pee-wee, Mississippi, checkers and chess, croquet, hockey, ice skates or roller skates, scooters, soap box races, bicycles and at the park we had slides, swings, occasionally brass band concerts and cinema.

Attractions

In the small stadiums: Ontario-Delorimier, Frontenac and Mont-royal, the entrance fee was 25 cents for an evening of amateur performance. The finalists received \$10,00 as their prize. Wrestlers gave their "show". They goaded the crowd and invited those who wanted to wrestle to come up. The winner would get \$10,00. Those who enjoyed wrestling took up the challenge. The amateur was often overpowered, but sometimes it was, to the delight of all, the wrestler himself who was defeated.

The tavern

At night on payday, the tavern keepers' business was brisk. Tables were covered with glasses of beer at 10 cents apiece. Furious women, sometimes in tears, occasionally came in to drag out their husbands before he drank up all his pay. It was not uncommon to observe emotions becoming heated, especially during the election period, certain customers coming to blows. The police were called in to separate the battlers.

Parades and processions attracted crowds

The main parade was that of St-Jean-Baptiste followed by large fireworks. Early in the morning, people lined the sidewalk with benches or chairs to reserve their places. Some who were more privileged could view the parades from the balconies of buildings situated along the route and those who had more money would pay for a seat in the stands. There was also a large crowd for the Christmas and St Patrick's day parades. Occasionally, there would be the Barnum and Bailey circus parade with its clowns, dancers and animals. Some animals were free while others were locked in luxurious golden or brightly coloured cars. What a spectacle!

During the Christmas parade, we would take time to look at the festive shop windows and all the other decorations. Sometimes there would be contests for the best decorations and a bus would go around the most beautifully decorated streets.

Other attractions

Among these were the arrival of a fleet of airplanes from Mussolini's Italy, the coming of the Graf Zeppelin that would suffer destruction the following year, and the visit of the dirigible R100.

Visiting

Every Sunday, we would go visiting the family. Not forgetting those who were gone,

we went to the cemetery, and sometimes families would bring their lunch. We would picnic on the graves of the departed.

Picnics were much the style

We travelled in cars, and even in trucks, until it was prohibited by the police. We went to different beaches: Oka, Plage Ideal, Laval-Ouest Missisquoi Bay and Plattsburgh. Buses would bring the people in the evening for the dances and even the "nowhere" journeys. The most appreciated picnics were those of the altar boys. They received 2 cents to serve mass, and later, after complaining, they were granted 5 cents and the promise of a picnic in the summer at the Welfare Park in Pointe-aux-Trembles, or to St-Jérôme, or Missisquoi Bay. Usually it was the Parish priest or the parish council that paid for it. Often the little singers' choir or the members of the bugle and drums corps were invited. We also celebrated Ste-Catherine with movies, soft drinks, popcorn and candies. Families also picnicked in city parks, on the mountain, especially at Ste-Hélène's Island. On the menu, were the fabulous pork and beans. We brought the beans to the baker in stoneware pots on Saturday and for 25 cents he cooked them for Sunday morning. What a delight!

To be continued...

The Second Branch

In the sixth day of prescribed by our Holy Mother the Catholic, Apostolic and Roman Church, in the presence of Sirs François Merçan father, Pierre Merçan son, Antoine and François filion father and son who have declared not knowing how to sign their names after being asked according to the regulations. elisabesmereresan

Lacombe Priest

At twenty years of age, François was the youngest of the three Marsan brothers to be granted a parcel of land of four acres by thirty deep on the south bank of Point-du-Jour brook, in l'Assomption in 1738. Three years later, he lived there with his young wife after cultivating enough land

to guarantee their subsistence. Having signed a marriage contract before a notary named Coron three days before his marriage, and according to an extract of the parish registers of St-Charles de Lachenaie, he was married the 6th of February 1741 to Marie-Anne Filion, who was only 19 years old. She was the sister of Pierre's wife and also the sister of Thérèse's husband. These marriages between brothers and sisters of two families seem rather frequent at that time.

To obtain the necessary money to settle down to a comfortable life, François, in 1742, took on work as helper to travellers to the Western Sea as he had done in 1737. He bought a second parcel of land at the Point-du-Jour in 1750. Marie-

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Family News

•Laurie Marsan, a professional social worker, has held for the last year the position of Program Director for a children's mental health organization in Port Hope on the shore of Lake Ontario. She is the daughter of Remi Marsan of Sept-Îles, Québec.

•Michelle Marsan and Gregory Johnson informed us of the birth of their second daughter Pascale Gabrielle born on October 13th, 2000 in Vancouver, two years to the day after the birth of their elder daughter Jasmine Anabel.

•Our meeting on August 4th, 2001 in Mont-St-Grégoire was a success. The old photograph contest was won by André Marsan of St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, who received a

magnificent painting done by Ghislaine Laramée. The painting, representing the collecting of maple sap, was painted for the occasion and graciously donated to the association.

•We also want to thank Paulette Beauséjour, Alain Marsan and Paul Marsan for the prizes offered during the meeting.

•Muguette Marsan informs us of the death of her cousin Marie-Jeanne Marsan at 75 years of age. She died on July 14th, 2001 in Montreal. Marie-Jeanne Marsan was the daughter of Léo and Jeanne Dagenais. Predeceased by her brothers Fernand and Roger, she leaves in mourning her sisters Claire, wife of Jacques Sarao, as well as

Fleurette and her companion Maurice Latour.

•We would like to offer our most sincere congratulations to André Marsan on the huge success of the Quebec 2001 summer games in Lachine. André was president of the organizing committee.

•Murielle Mironnette and Michel Marsan announced the marriage of their daughter Valérie to Jean-François Ruest that took place on August 18th, 2001 in Ste-Claire church in Montreal. Jean-François is the son of Jean Ruest and Diane Séguin.

•Benoît Marsan has advised us that the city of Carignan has honoured the memory of some of the soldiers of the regi-

ment of Carignan by assigning their names to certain streets. Our ancestor Pierre Merçan dit Lapierre has a street named after him in the du Domaine sector.

•On August 20th, 2001, Annie Nobert and Stéphane Marsan saw their family grow with the arrival of their third son Raphaël.

•Francine Marsan of Montreal has just become a grand-mother for the first time. On February 12 of 2001, her son Eric Carrière and his conjoint Marie Tassé welcomed the birth of their daughter Emy. Congratulations to the happy family.

The Second Branch

(continued from page 3)

Anne and François had eight girls and three boys and lost two children when they were very young. Their elder son Joseph remained in l'Assomption, while the second, Louis, chose to settle in Ste-Rose de Laval. Both had numerous descendants, which places François as ancestor of the second branch of our family tree. Most of their daughters lived in l'Assomption and the others in the Terrebonne region.

François and Marie-Anne died before reaching their fifties and the inventory of their possessions was drawn up at the beginning of 1769, immediately after the death of Marie-Anne. The administration of the estate was entrusted to their uncle Jean-Baptist Marsan who was named legal guardian of the children who were still minors. Of the three brothers, only Pierre remained in l'Assomption, because the eldest son Jacques had returned to the Island of Montreal in 1757 having bought

the paternal land after the death of his father. We have to remember that it was in Pointe-aux-Trembles, that their grandfather had set up house when he left the regiment of Carignan.

Jacques sold his concession of Point-du-jour to his son-in-law Antoine Brouillet. The three adjacent properties later belonged to his children. As the only son of Jacques had only female descendants, the large number of Pierre's descendants made him at the head of the oldest branch as we saw in the previous newsletters. On the Marsan-Lapierre family tree, as far as we know, the four branches originated only in the third generation, because to this day, we have not found any descendants from their two uncles nor any cousins to Jacques, Pierre and François, who got married.

Echoes from the Board

Due to the costs involved, the administrators have decided not to engage the services of a specialized firm to host our database. We will continue to benefit, free of charge, from Steve Marsan our Webmaster's computer even if there are certain complications involved in gaining access.

The board of directors was happy to accept the offer of Joe Marsan to succeed to his brother Don as correspondent of the association in the United States.

Our next general assembly will take place towards in the middle of September during a dinner in a Montreal restaurant. It will probably coincide with the launch of the genealogical dictionary of the Marsan-Lapierre families.

Paul Marsan, our vice-president is going to look into the possibility of holding a sugar party in the spring of 2002.

Since our new business name *l'Association des familles Marsan-Lapierre* was approved during our last general assembly, the steps taken by Ghislaine Laramée and Michel Marsan to obtain the incorporation of our association are progressing normally.

The October 27th, 2001, board meeting took place at Gisèle Marsan-Kobelansky's new offices in Anjou. We wish to thank the *Collège Marsan de Montréal*, for providing us with a space to hold our board meetings during the years past.