



De Laporte à St-Georges



Laporte, Minnesota



Baxter Laporte in front of the entrance to the village in June 2001 where about 100 people reside.

LAPORTE meaning, in French, "the door or gate", a city in Lakeport Township, was incorporated as a village in May 4, 1908, separating from the township on June 22. The first post office, 1899-1901, was established with the arrival of the Northern Pacific Railroad; Nelson Daughters, who had come in 1898 with his wife, Ann, who died shortly thereafter in childbirth, became first postmaster, naming the site Ann in memory of his wife. In 1899, some Indians came to Daughters, requesting whiskey; when he refused, they returned to Walker, charging him with liquor trafficking; while being taken to Walker for trial, he escaped, returned to Ann, and died in a gun battle with the sheriff's posse. When the post office was re-established in 1900 with justice of the peace J. C. Stuart as postmaster, the name was changed to Lake Port; the mail was being confused with Lake Park, so Mrs. Stuart named it Laporte after the Iowa town where she was married. Most of the village burned on May 11, 1911, but the community immediately began rebuilding; major fires occurred again in 1930, 1931, 1934, and 1936.

Birthdays

From April to June

Our best wishes to those who have celebrated a birthday or will
celebrate one soon.

April

01- Hélène Clarke
19 – Céline St-Georges
23 – Hélène Laporte-Ledermann

May

03 – Gaëtan Laporte
06 – Andrée Laporte
07 – Mary Thérèse Falslev
14 – Lise Laporte
18 – Pauline Frigon Laporte
27 – Guy Laporte

June

13 – André St-Georges
27 – Paul-André St-Georges

Visit our web site
<http://www.genealogie.org/famille/st-georges>
and send your suggestions for
articles for the bulletin as well as
your e-mail address to

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DE LAPORTE À ST-GEORGES

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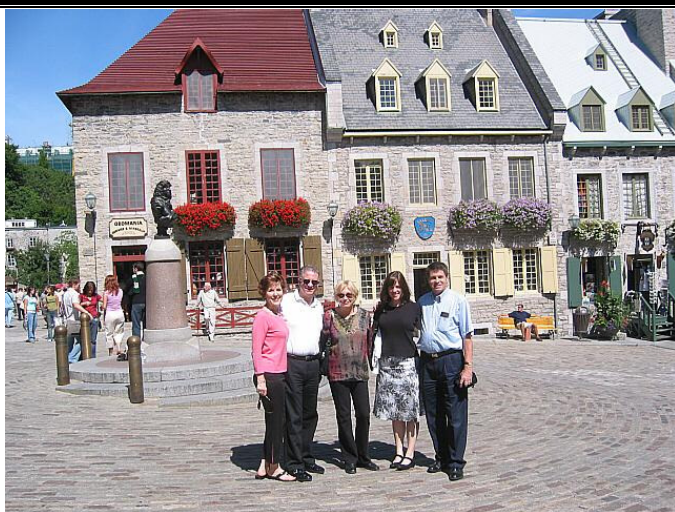
Some Laporte/Saint-Georges Descendants Gather in Arizona

By: Marie-Thérèse Falslev

On Monday, March 14, 2005, several Laporte and Saint-Georges descendants gathered for a non-routine gathering in the Phoenix, Arizona area for a dinner and conversation. Only one of those present had met all the others before. The meeting was set up by four members of the Laporte and Saint-Georges Association: Marie-Thérèse Falslev from Benson, Utah and her brother John Young from Fresno, California as well as Baxter and Linda Laporte who have a second home near Phoenix.

At least a dozen years ago, Baxter suggested to Marie-Thérèse that she should organize and gather non-Canadian Laporte and Saint-Georges descendants in the United States. The idea of including Québec members in a get together with United States members somewhere outside Canada in addition to the Association's annual gathering in Québec, a new idea, came as a result of Baxter and Linda meeting Michael and Linda Saint-Georges at a Phoenix area restaurant a few years ago.

Baxter, always looking for new members wherever he goes, made initial telephone contact with the Saint-Georges who live in Arizona. The two couples weren't sure if they would enjoy meeting each other as they contemplated the appointed evening. They each had pre-conceived notions about what the other couple would be like. Each imagined the other would be older and perhaps even boring. However, all four were pleasantly surprised to find that they were of similar age and had similar interests. The solid friendship developed rapidly as a result of the enjoyable evening together. Soon Michael and Linda joined the Canadian Association.



Michael St. George's family in the city of Québec. From left to right: Linda St. George, her husband Michael St. George, Linda Tatlock (Baxter's wife), Brooke St. George (daughter of Michael and Linda) and Baxter Laporte.

Reunion in Arizona, cont...

Because Baxter and Linda are often in the ~~South-western~~ USA ~~on-business~~ where most of the Laporte and Saint-Georges relatives of Marie-Thérèse live, she suggested that they get together perhaps in Southern California to stir up interest in the Association among other Laporte and Saint-Georges descendants. Due to many complications of circumstance and calendar, the proposed gathering was postponed a couple of years. Eventually, some of those potential Association members, or “future” members, moved from Southern California to the Phoenix area where Baxter, Michael and their two Linda’s spend much of the cool season. Everybody thought it was time to finally have a small gathering.

All together, 16 people came together at a Greek restaurant in Mesa, Arizona. The food and beverage made everyone relax, and a festive mood prevailed as Marie-Thérèse’s and John’s close relatives came to know Baxter, Linda Laporte and Michael, and Linda Saint-Georges. After a lively few hours, all reluctantly said good-bye with the hope that this would not be the last informal gathering of cousins. All agreed that great things often start small; so it is hoped a larger group will convene next time.



Reunion in Tempe, Arizona: from l to r: Baxter Laporte, Larry and Marie-Thérèse Falslev, Linda Tatlock (Baxter’s wife).



Partial view of the reunion in Arizona on March 14, 2005.

Baxter and Mary have been talking for several years about the possibility of forming a Laporte and Saint-Georges Association in the United States. Other members in Western Canada, Central United States, and Eastern United States (and even the South) can follow suit and hold similar gatherings, encouraging the joining the Association in Canada and/or forming a similar Association as a non-profit group in the States. Who knows, it may yet come to fruition if gatherings such as this continue to be such fun!

Pictures for this article were taken by John Young and Baxter Laporte.:-

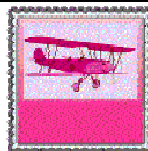
Genealogy of Marie-Thérèse Falslev and her close relatives

- * Heloise Saint-Georges and Médard LaTendresse (m. 26 February 1838, St-Paul, Joliette, PQ) These are the great-great grandparents of John, Mary, their siblings and cousins.
- * Joachim Saint-Georges and Josephte Berthelot (m. 31 August 1814, St-Paul, Joliette, PQ)
- * Louis Laporte dit Saint-Georges and Brigitte Perault (m 23 October 1780, Lavaltire, Berthier, PQ)
- * Nicolas Laporte dit Saint-Georges and Angélique Pilote (m. 19 August 1748, St-Antoine, Lavaltrie, PQ)
- * Pierre Laporte dit Saint-Georges and Marie-Anne Han dit Chaussé (m 27 July 1703, Notre-Dame, Montréal, PQ)
- * Jacques Laporte and Nicole Duchesne (m. 3 September 1657, St-Ours, Richelieu, PQ)

Announcement

At the C.H.R.D.L., in Joliette, on March 21, 2005, at the age of 82, died ~~Misses~~ Jacqueline Germain, wife of Dr Sylvain Laporte, *our first very dynamic Vice-President* who lived in Joliette. She leaves behind her children François (Pauline Ouellet), Bernard (Marie-Claire Choquette), Benoît (Anne Deschamps), Hélène (Jean Proulx), Louis (Nicole Beaudoin) and André (Christiane Lavallée), her 14 grandchildren, her brother and sisters: Reina, Stella, Isabelle, Gisèle and Guy (Thérèse), her brothers and sisters-in-law: Dr Marcelin Laporte (Marcelle), Dr Jacques Laporte (Diane), Léonard Laporte (Huguette), Réjean Laporte (France) et Lucille Laporte (Guy), and many friends. The Association would like to offer ~~theirs~~ deepest sympathy.

In the mail



May I bring a little correction.

About the marriage of Jacques, it is said that Nicole Duchesne came to Nouvelle-France on a boat owned by François Perron. The family name of this François is spelled with only one "R" and without an accent on the "E". It is only when his illegitimate son Daniel came to the country and added one "R" to the name now known as Perron. Just like in Normandie, the name is often pronounced like if there were an accent on the "E", so Peron was pronounced Péron.

René Péron, descendant of Jacques from his mother and of François from his father, Ottawa.

Message from the President



It is a pleasure for me to announce, after the wonderful success at St-Michel-des-Saints last year that the next reunion for 2005 will be as interesting and exciting.

The very small devoted team of Marcel and Madeleine Laporte found a fantastic place in St-Donat, which we never thought of before. It is the Manoir des Laurentides which is partially owned by Sylvain Laporte who, on top of it, performs there! Sylvain is very fond of genealogy and is proud to welcome the Association at his magnificent place on Lake Archambault, despite our late request and the fact that his place has almost "no vacancy" for the summer. Take a look at the mobile sheet in this bulletin to find out more or visit our web site where you will find up to date information every week.

Marcel Laporte just came back from Florida and met with many members of his family, some from the state of Michigan. He told them about our next reunion and they all showed a great interest in participating and in coming to the reunion. We should have a good number of foreign visitors again this year, which will add to the reunions.

Of course, we invite the big St-Georges family of St-Michel-des-Saints and the area to come, they were so good in animating the reunion of 2004 and their presence was well appreciated to a point where many people still talk about it today. We will try to have an update on our web site with pictures from that reunion.

Marcel and Madeleine will probably need volunteers to help out during the reunion day to ensure registration, to welcome new and old members and for different administrative tasks. Please, do not wait for them to ask you, that is never a fun thing to do, just offer your collaboration right now to our secretary Marcel Laporte at 450-833-3107 or by e-mail at m.laporte@sympatico.ca

Please continue to send us your texts of interest for the Association's bulletin. We did not have a great success in the past to get your e-mail addresses, but we are asking again to please send yours today. We also encourage you to visit our web site.

You can reach me personally at the e-mail address below or leave a message at my number in Montreal. We are very receptive to every letters or calls we receive.

I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you again or meeting you for the first time.

Baxter D. Laporte
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Association Member Writes Novel to Respond to a Void in the Literary Market

Baxter Laporte and Marie-Thérèse Falslev, an Association member from Benson, Utah, discussed her unpublished novel recently after Baxter's wife Linda and her mother Laura finished reading the manuscript.

Baxter: Marie-Thérèse, Linda tells me how much she enjoyed reading the manuscript of your novel. Our membership might like to know more about it. When did you write it, and what inspired you to do it?

Marie-Thérèse: It was inside me for many years. I suppose it really started as a small seed when I was 17 years old that seed growing as I discovered more and more about my Québec heritage. The people in my ancestry, especially the women, became quite real to me the more I learned about them and the times they lived in. I fantasized about being able to jump into some time machine and go back and visit them. I wanted to sit in their kitchens as they baked bread, be there as they gave birth, really get to know them. After many years, I began to look for historical novels that might help me visualize their lives. I could only find one for English readers that appealed to me.

Baxter: What was it called?

Marie-Thérèse: I think it was called *This Widowed Land*, or something similar. I am not quite sure, but the point is: there just were too few novels of the period with a Québec setting, at least ~~not~~ in English. And I just didn't have time to read the ones that I found in French, as I read French so much more slowly. I was working full time then, and I had children to raise. So I began to think about what I would like to see in such a novel.

Baxter: What did you want to find in such a novel; what kind of a story were you looking for?

Marie-Thérèse: Well, as I said, I wished for a time machine so that I could place myself as the contemporary of my female ancestors. I began to wonder what a woman who thought like me would do in that era. What would happen to her? What kind of conflicts, successes would she have? How might she deal with life, given the lack of modern amenities? You know, how would she cope? Who would she form alliances with?

Baxter: When did these musings start to become a story?

Marie-Thérèse: The very first morning after I quit working at my last full-time job in 1999. I woke up before dawn and began to write. I wrote for 2 to 6 hours a morning, 5 days each week for a year until it was done. It is really an epic, over 400 pages long.

Baxter: You've told us that you based the main character on your own personality. Where did you get the inspiration for the other characters?

Marie-Thérèse: Many places. Most of the characters are composites from people I've known. The husband of the heroine's husband is definitely based on my husband.

The parish priest, who looms larger than the husband, is based on some of the clergy I met throughout my life, perhaps one Jesuit brother in particular, a teacher I met many years ago. The young people are very much like my own children and stepchildren. The women friends of the heroine remind me of some of the women I am close to in my own rural community here in Utah.

Baxter: How did the plot development come to you?

Marie-Thérèse: That is the fascinating part. I had a lot of help in that regard. Sometimes as I lay in bed at night I had no idea what would happen to my characters next. Yet, when I woke up in the morning, I would know exactly what to do with the story. It was as if I were being told what to write by women from my ancestry, as if these things happened to them. Yet, I had no recollection of dreams or anything like that, just a sense that I had gone somewhere during my sleep to hear their stories. I really don't feel that I can take credit for all of it.

Baxter: I hear that your story is very historically accurate. How did you accomplish that?

Marie-Thérèse: I read a great deal about Québec history, perhaps up to a hundred sources, some of them very scholarly. I also asked people who knew about history, one distant cousin in particular, Bertrand Drapeau of Boucherville, a historian and sort of mentor in my genealogy research. I especially studied the philosophy behind the movement of the Society of the Jesus, as I really wanted to get into the mind of the major male character, a Jesuit priest. I researched the ideas of Saint Ignatius, the founder of the order. The heroine in the story goes through the steps of spiritual renewal that the early Jesuits did. I studied the events of the era in terms of climate, epidemics, wars, etc. Because the book has two Native Americans who are not insignificant to the story, I studied about the Natives of the vicinity. I even researched which men were Bishops in the colony during the period. I actually took a day and drove around the area where the story takes place to make sure I had described the scenes well enough. I was surprised to find that this area, a place I had never visited before, looked just like I imagined it!

Baxter: What exact period does it cover, and where exactly is it set?

Marie-Thérèse: It covers from just before 1720 to the late 1770's in the Chaudière region of Québec. The parish is fictional, but the neighbouring villages are not. I would put it close to Saint-François-de-la-Rivière-du-Sud, somewhere between there and Saint-Charles-de-Bellechasse.

Baxter: What about getting this book published?

Marie-Thérèse: Well, I haven't worked very hard on that. I know that it is worth publishing, but I can't seem to stop my genealogy research long enough to market the book seriously. A distant cousin, Pierre Turgeon, who is a well-known author and publisher in Québec, read it and said he'd like to translate it and get it published in French. I also have an acquaintance, a best-selling author in the States, who asked his editor at a well-known New York publishing house to take a look at it. She did, for 30 days, which I've been told is quite unusual. She said that it was too intellectual for the mass market. But I don't see the story as intellectual. To me it is romantic, historical, faith-promoting, all at once. It is a saga of a family and all the conflicts the matriarch of that family faces as she struggles with circumstances, historical events, and her own views of God and eternity, which views are sometimes in conflict with her friend, the parish priest.

Baxter: What is the book called?

Marie-Thérèse: The working title is *Her Jesuit Heart*. I hope you can see the irony in that title. I wrote it under a pen name, Marie Chebroux, a name I took from my grandmother. Chebroux is not the name her family used. They were known by the "dit" name LaTendresse. Chebroux is the name of the family as it existed in France.

I used a pen name because my married name and my father's last name seem too disconnected from Québec. And I hope to publish non-fiction using my real name; it's a way to separate the two kinds of writing, sort of like two different avocations.

Baxter: Would this story be one that our Association members would like to read in serial form in the bulletin?

Marie-Thérèse: Well, Baxter, I would hope they would enjoy it. However, it is much too long to put into the bulletin, even in serial form, without condensing the novel. I am not sure I could write a condensed version and do it justice. If I allowed it to be published in its entirety in the bulletin, if that were even practical or possible, I might find that I would have foreclosed my right to publish it commercially. I know for a fact that I would not be able to enter the work in any artistic competition after that. But I would certainly like to see the first few chapters in the bulletin, if the members respond well to this interview. Then if they want to read beyond what is in the bulletin, perhaps we can work something out individually. Or better still, perhaps one of them knows someone in the publishing world who can help it to get published. In any case, I wrote the novel to please myself as its first audience, even if it never is read again by anyone. My friends and relatives, perhaps two dozen people in all, have read it. They are not objective readers, I realize, but they tell me that they cannot put it down, that it is a true "page-turner."

This interview is a compilation of conversations in person and by e-mail during the last two years between Baxter and Linda Laporte and Marie-Thérèse Falslev. Please let us know if you would like to read more of this novel.

Reunion 2005



**August 12 and 13 at Manoir des Laurentides,
290, Principale St. in St. Donat.**

Located near magnificent lakes Archambault and Ouareau, the Manoir and host Sylvain Laporte are proud to ~~have you over~~host our reunion. Our cousin Sylvain will also perform during the event. So act quickly and make your reservations now.

For a motel room, consult these following sites :

www.manoirdeslaurentides.com (or by phone : 1-800-567-6719)
www.quebecvacances.com/fiches/hot_man_laurentides_2.asp
Motel St-Amour (60,00\$/nights for 2 persons) at 1-888-446-2551

Program

Friday August 12 : 5 to 7 PM – Welcoming cocktail in Sylvain Laporte's suite.

Saturday August 13 : 10 am – Registration (reunion and cruise – 14\$ for cruise)
11 am – Historic walking tour of St. Donat (about 30 to 60 minutes).
12:30 – Lunch in the *La Laurentienne* hall
2 pm – Cruise on Lake Archambault (90 minutes)
4 pm – Annual reunion
6 pm – Free time : supper at the hotel's restaurant with Sylvain Laporte's show.

L'Association des Laporte et St-Georges du Monde