



De Laporte à St-Georges



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Laporte's from Verchères in New-Brunswick at the turn of the century.

Some descendants of Louis Laporte, son of Jacques and Nicole Duchesne greatly influenced life in New Brunswick at the turn of the century.



The first who gave birth to the others was :

Jean-Baptiste Laporte

(#1245)

Physician and Pontifical Zouave

At the age of 14, he joined the Collège de l'Assomption, in its 23rd class, and completed his "Classical" course from 1854 to 1862, at the end of which he entered the Church. After a year of teaching at the College, he shed the ecclesiastical cloth for that of physician. He first performed his medical duties in Holyoke, Mass, then came to settle in Quebec.



Even though all of his ancestors, since Louis, were born or lived either in Lavaltrie or Lanoraie, he chose to settle as family practitioner in Verchères, also joining the 5th regiment of the Canadian Pontifical Zouaves. On May 13, 1874 in Contrecoeur and against his will, he married Arthémise le Noblet-

Duplessis. He is the grandfather of Dr Jean-Marius Laporte, genealogist and member of the World Association of Laporte/St-Georges.

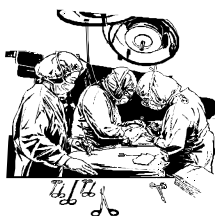
13 children were born to him, however we only know the occupation of four of them: Pio-Héliodore and Paul-Carmel, doctors, Sydney, photographer and Marius, notary.

Pio-Héliodore Laporte

(#2043)

Doctor and Minister

First son of Jean-Baptiste, born on August 13, 1877, he studied medicine in Paris and was a surgeon in Edmunston, N.B.



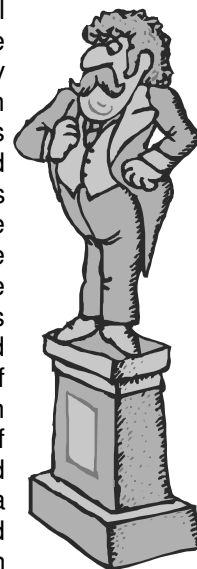
Alternatively President of the Doctors' Association of this province and Vice-President of the North-American French-speaking Doctors Assn, he was elected in 1935 as the Liberal representative for Madawaska in his province's legislature. In 1938, he was appointed Minister of Health and Labour, a post he occupied until his accidental death in 1939.

Paul-Carmel Laporte

(#2048)

Physician and Sculptor

Since his early years, he received private tutoring in sculpture and painting in Montreal. At the age of 14, at the end of his secondary studies, he became an apprentice woodcarver and cabinetmaker (1899-1902). He then joined Laval university where he studied medicine until 1909. Immediately afterwards, he went to New Brunswick where he practiced in Grand Falls, Connors, Clair and Edmunston. An active member of medical organizations, he was twice elected President of the Medical Council of New Brunswick. He dedicated most of his free time to sculpture and in 1933, he started a private school where he gave free courses to many young Acadian artists such as Albert Nadeau and Claude Picard. His influence can be detected in the work of Claude Roussel. He was the co-founder and first President of the Canadian Federation of Woodcarvers and the author of a publication titled "Let's learn sculpture".



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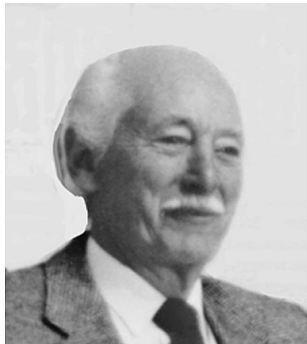
Art & the Laporte/St-Georges

Diane St-Georges

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The migration of Laporte /St-Georges from the region of Berthier to St-Michel-des-Saints

Antonio St-Georges
Born on Feb. 5, 1919



Antonio St-Georges is the father of Diane St-Georges, painter in watercolors who was the one to introduce me to him at a meeting we had in Herdman. This meeting was very enlightening and I met him later on in his home in St-Michel-des-Saints.

His father and his family have travelled a lot, twice leaving St-Michel-des-Saints to reside in Taftville, CT, and finally come back to settle in St-Michel. Like his father, Antonio has also lived in several places, i.e. St-Michel, St-Côme, Maniwaki, Laval then back to St-Michel where he is spending a happy retirement with Hélène Clarke, his wife who has always admirably assisted him.

During his "active life", he was alternately, and sometimes simultaneously, lumberjack, pit sawyer, teacher and school principal, owner of a bowling alley, journalist, civil servant, political organizer and father of nine children. In spite of all these occupations, he did find time to secure a B.A. degree from the University of Ottawa and take a U.S. correspondence course in architecture, which proved useful in drawing the plans of his bowling alley. Like his daughter Diane, he also paints watercolours. Since his retirement, he has also become a stringed-instrument maker and a poet, a lyrics writer and composer. Next to this article is a French song he wrote to describe the adventures of the Berthier settlers who migrated to St-Michel, people who were used to fertile lands and forced to work hard in the woods.

Today, he is 78 years old and his youthful demeanour would make the envy of the youngest of maidens. His daughter told us that he was "resuscitated" last Easter. After having been considered deceased by doctors on Good Friday. Like

Xmas in Saint-Michel

Couplet 1

*Ils sont venus semer le grain
Dans un pays du bout du monde:
Toujours plus haut, toujours plus loin,
Cherchant une terre féconde.
Pour y planter
Pommiers, rosiers,
Dans le jardin,
Près du chemin.*

*Quand arriva le dur hiver,
Et ses bourrasques de froidure;
La blanche neige à ciel ouvert,
Ce froid baiser de la nature.
C'était décembre, dans la chambre,
Mais la Noël à Saint-Michel.*

Couplet 2

*Puis la forêt leur a parlé;
Elle avait une voix charmante:
"Si le sillon ne veut payer,
Venez chez moi, car l'or y chante."
Ils ont bûché,
Charrié, dravé,
À en crever,
À cœur d'année.*

Et revenait le dur hiver,

*Et ses bourrasques de froidure;
La blanche neige à ciel ouvert,
Ce froid baiser de la nature.
Mais ils chantaient, dansaient, priaient,
Pour la Noël à Saint-Michel!*

Couplet 3

*Ils ont conquis le sol ardu,
La forêt vierge et l'étranger;
L'humble village est devenu
Champ d'avenir à partager.
Malgré le temps
Qui fait les ans,
Chaque saison
À ses chansons.*

*Revient toujours le dur hiver,
Et ses bourrasques de froidure;
La blanche neige à ciel ouvert,
Ce froid baiser de la nature.
Mais comme avant, tous leurs enfants
Chantent Noël à Saint-Michel!*

*Antonio St-Georges,
paroles et musique.*

Christ, he came back to life. Diane told us jokingly: "Being visited from Good Friday to Easter Sunday by all of his children gave him the will to live".

As a stringed-instrument maker, he has crafted more than 70 violins, giving away 28, one of which to the Senior Citizens Club of his parish which reaped several thousand dollars by selling it during a drawing. Although suffering from major vision problems, he is presently making three violins and an alto.

As a poet, he has written five poetry volumes to date. He also published a collection of vocal works of which he has written the lyrics and the music. He was director of the first mixed choir at St. Joseph's Oratory in 1953. The members of this choir were his 16 brothers and sisters, and they performed for two consecutive years at the Oratory during the Easter celebrations.

As a journalist, he contributed to the

newspaper Le Droit in Ottawa as an editorial writer during his Maniwaki period, and issued a regional newspaper which he almost wrote single-handedly. The newspaper was printed in Val d'Or and distributed in the 16 municipalities surrounding Maniwaki. He was also Chief Editor of the newspaper La Gatineau and bought La Gazette de Maniwaki in 1970.

Pierre St-Georges 30-08-97.



Art within the Laporte's/St. Georges



Diane St-Georges
SEA

Some of the numerous prizes awarded to Diane St-Georges.

October 96

First Prize "QWS", 13th Watercolour Exhibition, QuJbec

September 1995

First Prize "Prize of the jury", Symposium of the Arts Society of Saint-Jovite/Mont-Tremblant, QuJbec

July 1995

Prize of the Public "Coup de coeur", Expo-Fair, St-Michel des Saints, QuJbec

May 1995

Prize for excellence J.-P. Ladouceur, at the XIIth CWS Watercolour Exhibition in Brossard, QuJbec

October 1992

Bronze Medal, at the Grand Prix of the Gold Cup, in Ambilly-Annemasse, at the Galerie de la MartiniPre, France

November 1992

Gold Medal at the exposition of the Chateau Saint-Victor sur Loire in Saint-Ltienne, France

September 1991

Gold Medal at the Grand Prix for International Painters, at the Palais des CongrPs in Haute-Provence, France

Diane St-Georges was born in St-Michel des Saints and has been residing for over a year in the MontJrJgie region, near Montreal. She dedicates all her time to painting and teaching the art of **watercolours**. As an expressionist painter, renowned worldwide, she has adopted an approach of putting aside all forms of traditionalism in relation to watercolour painting.

Her blunt movements and bold strokes are the very essence of her work. Space is expressed through the simplicity of the present moment, be it dramatic, fanciful or whimsical. She paints her moods with all the maturity of a technique perfectly mastered.

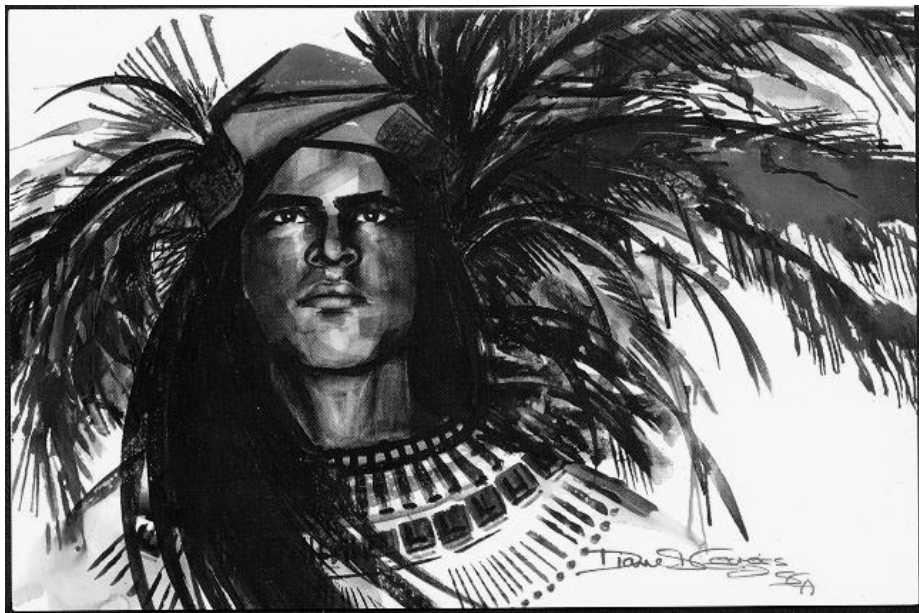
Recipient of many awards both in QuJbec and abroad, her work testifies to her perpetual efforts to surpass herself. She draws her uniqueness from the deepest respect for her integrity. By way of large paintbrush strokes, she chose to sublimate her everyday life through the spontaneous means of watercolours.

For the last 17 years, she has been constantly striving in her exploration of this art and she is still amazed by the vagaries of water. And as she tells her students, **"Watercolouring is quite often controlled happenstance."**

She was commissioned to illustrate several poetry collections as well as some novels. This year, her work **"ToJrance"** is featured in the poster which was chosen to announce the provincial tour of the 14th Exhibition of the Canadian Watercolour Society. She can be found in the "Guide FJlix VallJe 89", "92 Transparences", "106 professionnels de la peinture au QuJbec", "Investir dans les oeuvres d'art" and in several editions of the "Magazin' Art" publication.

She exhibits her work on a permanent basis at the **Galerie Manseau in Joliette** and at her **workshop-art gallery located at 1051 Brook Road in Herdman**. She can be reached at 514-264-9427. She is a member of the Organizing Committee of the XVIth Watercolour Exhibition of the Canadian Watercolour Society, and contributes, from April to October to various exhibitions in Montréal, Québec, Joliette, Alma and Nicolet.

CWS: Canadian Watercolour Society



"Tolerance"

Diane St-Georges's Arts Studies

1979-80

Art courses at the CEGEP de l'Outaouais, Hull

1980-81

Ink and Watercolour, Pastel.
Rita Rodrigue, Hull, Ottawa
1981

Watercolour, Louis Boekhout,
Chénéville

1982

Watercolour, Jaqueline
Gougeon, C.A.S., Hull

1983

Watercolour, Dr Joe
Robinson, A.W.S., Californie

1983-84

Watercolour, Zoltan Szabo,
C.W.A., A.W.S., Arizona

1985

Watercolour & Juice Acrylic,
Al Brouillette, A.W.S., Texas

1987-88

Watercolour, Jean-Paul
Ladouceur, C.A.S., Vimont

1988

Watercolour, pastel charcoal,
Alex Power, A.W.S.,
So. Carolina

If you could just see
this work in color !!!!
It's a marvel...

*The official poster
of the XVth
Exhibition
of the
Canadian
Watercolour
Society
features one of
Diane St-Georges'
paintings*

Related Experience

Teaching:

Écomusée in St-Constant,
LaTourelle Gallery in
Valleyfield
Christ-Roi Convent,
Maniwaki, St-Jovite,
St-Zénon, Prévost
Primary & Secondary Schools
in St-Jérôme, Morin-Heights,
St-Hippolyte & St-Jovite

Recent activities

Secretary on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Watercolour Society
Director on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Watercolour Society
President of the Creativity and Animation Workshops in Haute-Matawinie
Member of the Board of the Regional Cultural Council in Lanaudière