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Bulletin des Archambault d'Amérique *n° 101, September 2016*

***Brothers Urgel-Eugène, Joseph and Louis Archambault.
Sons of Louis, laborer and of Marie Angélique Prud'homme***



**Urgel-Eugène Archambault's medal
founder of École Polytechnique**

Medal of the *Association canadienne
française pour l'avancement des
sciences*

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**Louis Archambault's medal
founder of the *Société des artisans
canadiens-français***

Amability of: Centre de renaissance catholique

<http://crc-canada.net/etudes-speciales/syndicalisme-catholique-quebec/protection-ouvriere-19e-siecle/>

The medal on the left is homage from the ACFAS to Doctor Armand Frappier. He was given this medal in 1954. It bears the effigy of Urgel-Eugène Archambault, first principal of the Engineering and Polytechnic School of Montréal. The French Canadian Association for the Advancement of Science (Acfas) was founded in 1923 by the first French-speaking scientists in the country: the dean of the Université de Montréal, the Bishop Vincent Piette, friar Marie-Victorin, Léo Pariseau, PhD, Arthur Bernier, PhD, Édouard Asselin, PhD, the economist Édouard Montpetit, the Society for Biology of Montréal, etc. The Acfas is nowadays called French Speaking Association for Knowledge (Association francophone pour le savoir-Acfas).

Source : Musée Armand-Frappier.

http://www.musee-afrappier.qc.ca/fr/index.php?pageid=3122h&image=3122h_avancement

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Family tree

of brothers

Urgel-Eugène, Joseph and Louis Archambault

Jacques France around the year 1629 Françoise Tourault

Laurent Notre-Dame, Montréal 01/07/1660 Catherine Marchand

Jean Notre-Dame, Montréal 06/04/1708 Cécile Lefebvre

Laurent Pointe-aux-Trembles 10/29/1731 Marie Marguerite Brouillet

Pierre Amable Repentigny 01/12/1761 Marie-Madeleine Karnois

Pierre Laurent L'Assomption 10/18/1786 Marie Mercier

Louis L'Assomption 04/08/1823 Marie Angélique Prud'homme

Urgel-Eugène, Joseph, Louis

Urgel-Eugène Archambault

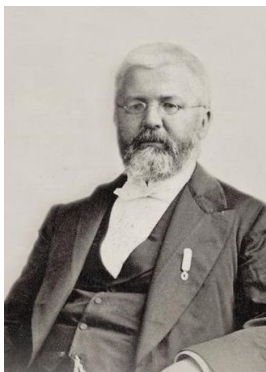


Photo : Wikipédia, L'encyclopédia libre

ARCHAMBEAULT (Archambault), URGEL-EUGÈNE (baptized **Urgèle**), teacher and school administrator; b. 27 May 1834 in L'Assomption, Lower Canada, son of Louis Archambault, a farmer, and Angélique Prud'homme; brother of Louis ARCHAMBAULT; m. 1 Oct. 1860 Azilda Robitaille in Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan, Lower Canada, and they had 11 children; d. 20 March 1904 in Montreal.

Early in the 1840s Urgel-Eugène Archambeault's father left L'Assomption and moved first to Saint-Roch-de-l'Achigan, and then to Saint-Jacques-de-l'Achigan, where he died in 1867. The locality had eight rural schools and one in the village. Urgel-Eugène probably discovered his vocation for teaching, a profession which received little recognition, while learning reading, writing, and arithmetic on the benches of one of these schools. On finishing his elementary education he did not go to a classical college as had his elder brother Joseph, who wanted to be a priest. In 1851, at 17 years of age, he chose to become a teacher. He began his career in the country at Saint-Ambroise-de-Kildare and then pursued it at L'Assomption and Châteauguay.

People at that period were starting to question the state of instruction in Lower Canada, and especially the skills and calibre of the lay teachers, both men and women. In 1853 an inquiry into education in Lower Canada under the chairmanship of Louis-Victor Sicotte*, the member for Saint-Hyacinthe, was set up by the Legislative Assembly. Two years later Pierre-Joseph-Olivier Chauveau* became superintendent of the Board of Education. He was determined to put into effect a number of the recommendations in the Sicotte report. In 1856 bills were passed authorizing the creation of a periodical on education (the *Journal de l'Instruction publique* was launched the next year), the founding of normal schools, and the establishment of a council of public instruction. These institutional bases made it possible henceforth for the men and women who embarked upon teaching careers to move in new directions.

Archambeault undoubtedly followed with interest the debates that engendered this transformation of the educational system in Lower Canada. In September 1857 he himself enrolled in the École Normale Jacques-Cartier, which had opened in March. The following year he obtained a diploma for model-school teaching. His initiative in attending normal school gained him a position with the Roman Catholic Board of School Commissioners of the city of Montreal in 1859 as principal of the first Catholic school there to be run by lay teachers, the École Doran. Founded in 1854 and named after its former principal William Doran, the school under Archambeault became the Catholic Commercial Academy of Montreal in 1860.

Having reached the age of 26 and attained a certain status, Archambeault could turn his thoughts to establishing a home and family. That year he married Azilda Robitaille. In 1863 he enrolled again at the École Normale Jacques-Cartier to improve his qualifications. He took courses for a year leading to a diploma in academic teaching, which he was awarded in July 1864.

In the late 1860s various French Canadian leaders were demanding that the educational system be adapted to the economic realities which were transforming Lower Canada. The school board gave Archambeault and Mathias- Charles Desnoyers, its treasurer, permission to travel to a number of major American cities to learn about the different kinds of instruction in the public schools. Upon his return Archambeault was in a position to give fresh impetus to the board's lay schools. At the opening on 19 June 1872 of a new building for the Catholic Commercial Academy of Montreal, commissioners and representatives of the Quebec government took occasion to stress the importance they attached to both lay schools and practical education. On 27 June *L'Opinion publique* of Montreal emphasized that the commissioners "wanted to show the great value they set upon [commercial and industrial] education by dedicating this magnificent building to it and by choosing a man of talent and high character to direct it, one of [their] most estimable fellow citizens, M. Archambault." The building, erected on a promontory in English neo-Gothic style, would thereafter be known as the Académie du Plateau. The following year the board created the post of local superintendent to discharge its supervisory responsibilities for monitoring teachers, conducting course examinations, and determining curricula. Archambeault was the first to hold the position and he retained it until shortly before his death.

Archambeault gradually made a name for himself as an authority on specialized teaching in Montreal. When the Université Laval refused a grant from the provincial government to initiate instruction in applied sciences, the principal of the Académie du Plateau convinced the school board and the government that his establishment could accommodate a true polytechnical school. In October 1873 plans for a scientific and industrial course at the Académie du Plateau were accepted by the new minister of public instruction, Gédéon Ouimet. The École Polytechnique of Montreal would be the result, with Archambeault as its principal. He devoted himself unstintingly until his death to this French engineering school. Poorly subsidized and outside the system of higher education – the classical colleges and the Université Laval, which were dominated by the clergy – this lay school managed none the less to graduate 114 civil engineers during Archambeault's tenure. This first generation of qualified French Canadians would play an important role in the formation of a new social group in French Canada, engineers. They owed a great deal to Archambeault who, for the survival of the school, had to recruit students, find jobs for its graduates, and campaign for legislation to aid the engineering profession.

Archambeault also played a key role in raising the status of teaching by laity. In 1879 he unhesitatingly and openly criticized the Boucherville act, which three years earlier had made all the bishops *ex officio* members of the Council of Public Instruction [see Sir Charles-Eugène Boucher* de Boucherville]. In 1881 he drew up a memorandum that was presented to the bishops on that body by 133 Quebec teachers, both men and women. The document explained the nature of the conflict between the lay and religious systems of education. It outlined the claims of the lay teachers, who thought the statute required much more of them than of the religious. Archambeault helped stop the attacks of the ultramontanes, who were demanding outright that the normal schools be abolished. That year, along with three other advocates of lay-controlled education – Abbé Hospice-Anthelme-Jean-Baptiste Verreau and Joseph-Octave Cassegrain among them – he revived the *Journal de l'Instruction publique*, which had ceased publication two years earlier.

From 1880 to 1886 he took an active and important part in drafting and defending a bill on the pensions of those employed in primary teaching. In 1892 Archambeault gave up his post at the Académie du Plateau to assume the office of director general of all the schools under the authority of the Montreal Catholic board. As the 20th century began, he was engaged in providing the École Polytechnique with the building it had always lacked. He died on 20 March 1904, only a few months before the new premises were officially opened.

ROBERT GAGNON

AC, Montréal, État civil, Catholiques, Cimetière Notre-Dame-des-Neiges (Montréal), 23 mars 1904. ANQ-M, CE5-12, 1^{er} oct. 1860; CE5-14, 27 mai 1834. Arch. de l'École Polytechnique de Montréal, Corr. d'U.-E. Archambault. Arch. Hist. de la Commission des Écoles Catholiques de Montréal, Fonds U.-E. Archambault. Bibliothèque Nationale du Québec (Montréal), Fonds Soc. hist. de Montréal, coll. U.-E. Archambault, 101/1/1–101/2/8. *L'Opinion publique*, 27 juin 1872. *La Presse*, 1^{er} juill. 1886. Jules Archambault, "Notes biographiques sur Urgel-Eugène Archambault" (copie dactylographiée, 2v., Montréal, 1962). L.-P. Audet, "La fondation de l'École polytechnique de Montréal," *Cahiers des Dix*, 30 (1965): 149–91; "Urgel-Eugène Archambault . . .," *Cahiers des Dix*, 26 (1961): 143–75; 27 (1962): 135–76; 28 (1963): 219–54; 29 (1964): 159–91. Ruby Heap, "L'Église, l'État et l'éducation au Québec, 1875–1898" (thèse de {ma}), McGill Univ., Montréal, 1978). André Labarrère-Paulé, "L'instituteur laïque canadien-français au 19^{ème} siècle," Marcel Lajeunesse, *L'éducation au Québec (19^e–20^e siècles)* (Trois-Rivières, Qué., 1971), 59–76. [J.-L.-]O. Maurault, "L'École polytechnique de Montréal," *Rev. trimestrielle canadienne* (Montréal), 9 (1923): 341–72.

General Bibliography

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http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/archambeault_urgel_eugene_13E.html.



Académie commerciale catholique de Montréal

Photo : archives Ville de Montréal <http://imtl.org/edifices/Academie-catholique-Comerciale.php>

Urgel-Eugène had nine children with Azilda Robitaille. One of them was Bernadette who got married in the Notre-Dame of Montréal Church, in the magnificent Sacred-Heart Chapel, on September 21, 1897, to Louis Béliveau, son of Siméon and Mélina Desrochers. Many members of the literary elite of the time were guests at the wedding, and amongst them, the famous poet Émile Nelligan. Louis Béliveau was treasurer of the École littéraire de Montréal (Literary School of Montréal) founded on November 23, 1895. In July 1896, he founded the Béliveau-Archambault Bookstore, located at 1617, Notre-Dame Street in Montréal.

The Urgel-Archambault Award

The Urgel-Archambault Award was created in 1953 in honour of Urgel Archambault, principal and founder of the Polytechnic School (École polytechnique de Montréal). The award is given to a scientist working in physical, computer sciences, mathematics or engineering. It is sponsored by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC).

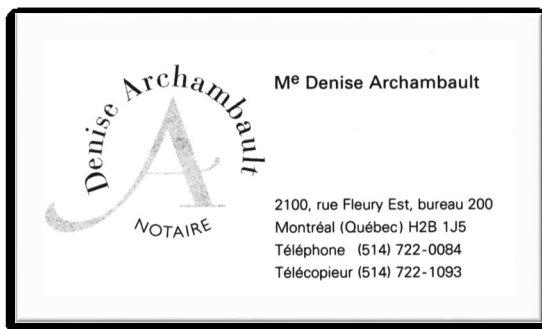
Joseph Archambault

Joseph Archambault was born on September 23, 1830. He married Marie-Antoinette Thibodeau on October 22, 1871, in the Notre-Dame of Montréal Church. Born in Rigaud in 1835, Marie-Antoinette was the niece of Dr. J. O. Chénier of Saint-Eustache, one of the patriots who died in 1837, as well as a relative of lady L.A. Jetté and the honourable Rodolphe Laflamme. The Archambault couple lived on Saint-Urbain Street, on the west side, at the former number 232, between Sainte-Catherine and Ontario Streets. That is where their four children were born, but two of them survived only a few months. Joseph-Alphonse was born in December 1875. Jules was born on August 6, 1881. He studied at the Sainte-Marie College, at the University of Montréal and at the Post-Graduate Medical School of New York. He established his practice in the Gaspésie region and later in Montréal. He became the head of the Provincial Laboratory of Serology in 1920, and later chief of division and technical advisor for the Ministry of Health from 1940, up to his retirement in 1954.

The professional career of Joseph Archambault came abruptly to an end in 1885 because of a smallpox epidemic, the worst Montréal had known since its foundation. Vaccination became compulsory, but the risks of infection ran very high nevertheless. Many teachers did not dare leave their houses because of the inoculation. Joseph Archambault, even ill, thought he could come back to his teaching and give a good example. That was the sense of duty becoming temerity and pushed to the limit. The cruel illness made him so weak for the rest of his days, that on March 21, 1895, he was sent home. During eleven years, Joseph Archambault, unable to teach, had to accept the position of librarian at the Commercial Catholic Academy and at the Engineering and Polytechnic School.

When in 1870, his brother Urgel-Eugène and the secretary of the School board, Mr. Desnoyers, went to New England for a research trip, Joseph Archambault was director ad hoc of the Commercial Catholic Academy.

Inspired by Urgel-Eugène Archambault (1834-1904)
Louis-Philippe Audet. M.S.R.C.



Louis Archambault



Photo : Photothèque, Société historique du Saguenay
Document : P2-S7-P10450-1

Louis Archambault, fondateur de la Société des artisans canadiens-français
Remerciement à Mme Myriam Gilbert, archiviste de la SHS

ARCHAMBAULT, LOUIS, artisan, building contractor, and promoter of benefit societies; b. 7 March 1829 in L'Assomption, Lower Canada, son of Louis Archambault, a farmer, and Angélique Prud'homme; m. first 11 Jan. 1853 Odile Leblanc in Saint-Jacques-de-l'Achigan, Lower Canada; m. secondly 29 April 1886 Luce Pelland of Montreal (d. 1898), widow of Ambroise Gélinas, *dit* Lacourse; m. thirdly 12 Oct. 1898 Hermine Coderre, widow of Joseph Cormier, in Saint-Ours, Que.; m. lastly, some time after 1900, Marguerite Audet, *dit* Lapointe; d. 2 Oct. 1906 in Saint-Eustache, Que.

Louis Archambault was the second child in a family with three girls, Céline, Anne, and Philomène, and two other boys, Joseph and URGEL-Eugène. He left Saint-Jacques-de-l'Achigan in 1863 and established himself in Montreal as a carpentry contractor. There he oversaw the construction of the Catholic Commercial Academy of Montreal [*see* Urgel-Eugène Archambeault], opened in 1872, and of the Institut des Aveugles. Later he became works manager for the Roman Catholic Board of School Commissioners.

Soon after his arrival in the city, Archambault had become a member of the Canadian Society of Joiners and Carpenters of Montreal. This association had been founded on 6 Dec. 1853 by Antoine Mayer after a serious fire in July 1852 burned down a section of Montreal east of the Champ-de-Mars, destroying more than a thousand homes and making it necessary to rebuild a quarter of the city. It was in this period of reconstruction that Archambault began promoting mutual benefit insurance within the organization. In 1865 he was elected president by his colleagues, and during the three years he served in this capacity he tried to draw in reluctant joiners and carpenters and get them to contribute to the insurance fund, which provided benefits in case of illness or death.

This first association, which was the forerunner of the French Canadian Artisans' Society of the City of Montreal, limited itself to bringing members of a single trade together on mutual benefit principles.

Thus it was not the broadly based organization its founders had envisaged. After a precarious 23-year existence, it no longer had the required minimum of eight members and had to disband. On 8 Oct. 1876 the three remaining joiners and carpenters liquidated the assets with a view to creating a benevolent society open to members of “all commercial, industrial, and manual trades” who did not work in an unsanitary environment; it was to become, in effect, a life insurance cooperative.

At the first provisional meeting, held on 9 Oct. 1876, Archambault was elected president and in this capacity he was authorized to “withdraw the funds [held by] the treasurer of the Society of Joiners and Carpenters of Montreal, namely, 150 dollars, and to use them for the purpose of incorporating the French Canadian Artisans’ Society of Montreal.” On the strength of this resolution, he set to work. He gathered together a few of his former colleagues from the mutual benefit movement. His brother Urgel-Eugène gave him information about the operations of the workers’ brotherhoods that he had heard about in Europe. Nine members, who came to be considered the founders of the French Canadian Artisans’ Society of the City of Montreal, signed a petition to the Quebec Legislative Assembly requesting legal recognition for the new society. Its purpose would be to provide coverage for members in the event of illness or death, “in return for a monthly payment based on the applicant’s age [and] on the face value and type of his insurance.” Incorporation was achieved on 28 Dec. 1876.

Primarily oriented toward individual advancement, the society also had patriotic and religious objectives. The “progress of the country” was interpreted as the “preservation of language, traditions, and faith.” According to J.-Z.-Léon Patenaude’s research, it was in reaction to the freemasons and similar organizations such as the Foresters that a number of French Canadian benevolent societies were set up. Hence the first requirement for membership in the new artisans’ society was “to be Catholic and not to belong to any secret or other society forbidden by the Catholic Church.” It was also necessary to be of good character and healthy, not to work at certain occupations dangerous to health, to be at least 18 and not more than 45, to be French Canadian (or considered such) or French, and to speak the French language.

In his report of 5 Sept. 1877 the society’s treasurer noted that it still had only 15 members. Recruitment was difficult because of the economic depression. In 1878 only six new members joined. Despite these modest beginnings, the pioneers persisted. The board of directors met every Tuesday evening at eight o’clock to deliberate. At the outset, the society made its headquarters on the ground floor of Louis Archambault’s home, where he had converted his joiner’s shop into a comfortable room. It was here, in these premises on Rue Cadieux, that he had first begun to work at his daytime trade.

In 1876 Archambault had become president of the Association Saint-Jean-Baptiste de Montréal. The members of the artisans’ society must have shared his patriotic sentiments for, beginning in 1884, they gathered under the banner of their society to march in the Saint-Jean-Baptiste parade on 24 June. There were then 110 of them.

Archambault was president of the artisans’ society until 1884 except for three brief periods: 5 Sept. 1878 to 6 March 1879, 3 March to 5 April 1881, and 6 March to 19 June 1883. Essayist Jacques-André Lamarche explains these gaps by the fact that “his occupation as a contractor and joiner required [Archambault] to be away from home quite often.” By January 1880 Archambault had become chairman of the board of the Banque Ville-Marie. The new board considered itself compelled to liquidate the bank. It had been badly managed during the depression of the 1870s, when too many loans had been approved, and now it could not pay its debts. Archambault watched closely as parliament passed the act defining the liquidation process.

According to historian Ronald Rudin, on 13 Aug. 1880, when the shareholders had been convened to elect three liquidators, “the meeting, to the great surprise of Archambault and of many shareholders, refused to appoint liquidators and decided instead, by a narrow majority, to turn the bank into a successful business once more.” Despite Archambault’s efforts at persuasion, the shareholders, who underestimated the bank’s bad debts, refused to consider a closing in which they stood to lose everything. In June 1881 he was replaced as chairman of the board by William WEIR, who would hold office until the bank failed in 1899. With Weir’s arrival, all the French-speaking directors were gradually replaced by his English-speaking friends.

At the end of 1884, after eight years as president of the artisans’ society, Archambault resigned and presented his successor to the meeting. The 144 members elected alderman Joseph Lamarche, a Montreal sheet-metal worker and roofer, to replace him. Now 55 years old, Archambault went back to his work as a building contractor. With the return of prosperity, construction was booming. Fifteen years later, at 70, he became a farmer on land along the Richelieu, probably at Saint-Ours.

After he had resigned the presidency, Archambault continued to take part in meetings of the artisans’ society. It grew from 103 members in 1884 to 676 in 1888. That year the first article of the constitution was amended to make it possible for people in the liberal professions to be enrolled. Membership increased even more rapidly, reaching 1,651 by 1889. For the first time, the society could lower the monthly payment for life insurance from one dollar to 85 cents and pay \$1,000 to the beneficiaries.

Until the end of his life Archambault regularly attended the annual meetings. He died in Saint-Eustache on 2 Oct. 1906 at the age of 77, two months before the society’s 30th anniversary. He was buried in Notre-Dame-des-Neiges cemetery, Montreal. In November the general council began raising funds to erect a monument honouring its founder. A bust of Louis Archambault, done by Alfred Laliberté*, was unveiled on 12 Sept. 1909.

With 30,000 members, the society was the strongest French Canadian mutual benefit association of the time. Several thousand people attended Archambault’s funeral. The messages of condolence all emphasized his modest social background as well as his religious, patriotic, and humanitarian sentiments. The distinguishing feature of “this worker’s accomplishment,” according to the society’s members, was its “fraternal, national, religious, and democratic” character.

ROBERT COMEAU

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General Bibliography

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The bust of Louis Archambault sculpted by Alfred Laliberté



Photo : Les Archambault d'Amérique

Born in the Bois-Francs region in 1878, Alfred Laliberté had an astonishing career that had merited him the title of a “National Sculptor”, having as a benefactor the Honorable N.C. Cormier, the son of Lucille Archambault and Charles Cormier.

During the unveiling of the monument of the Rev. Bélanger in Plessisville (Centre-du-Québec, Québec), Laliberté who had delivered a speech, had mentioned “... Mrs. Cormier and her distinguished and a very estimable spouse, the belated Honorable Cormier who had been a Legislative Adviser (son of Lucille Archambault) had been my first benefactors. They had been the ones that have helped me to take my first steps in art. I owe them so much... they had come to my assistance by guiding me along the way that had led me to the Order of the Art...”

Among his writings, one had owned him the title for the sculpture of Louis Archambault, founder of the Société des artisans Canadiens-français. On this subject Laliberté had stated “An anecdote has come back to me about the patina of this torso, which had been made of pale green. The brave Security Guard at the Bank of Hochelaga, now known as the National Canadian Bank, would talk to me every time I would go to the bank. One day, he asked me if I could tell him who the fool responsible was for sculpturing this torso of the bust of Archambault in green. I did not believe that it was wise to confess to him that this fool was no other than the one he had interrogated. Can you imagine an artist was considered a fool because of the color of patina!”

Alfred had also sculpted the monument of Mr. Wilfrid Laurier in 1925, who had been the Prime Minister of Canada from 1896 to 1911, a lawyer of his grandfather's, and a close friend of Oscar Archambault. He had also been responsible for the monument of Dollard des Ormeaux, situated in the au Parc Lafontaine at Montréal. One has known that half of the possessions of Dollard had been bought by the three brothers-in-law, Laurent Archambault, Gilles Lauzon and Jean Gervaise.

At his death Alfred Laliberté had left a total of 925 sculptures of which had been famous series of customs, crafts and past legends in bronze.



Louis Archambault's family history

Louis Archambault was born in L'Assomption, Québec (just east of Montréal) on March 7, 1829. He was the fourth child of Louis and Marie Angélique Prud'homme. Five other children were born after Louis, including Joseph (who became a Montréal school teacher), and Urgel Eugène (who founded the *Académie Commerciale de Montréal*).

Louis became a carpenter, and he was very involved in a Canadian organisation that promoted the interests of his trade. He also became an entrepreneur, and ended up quite well off.

On January 11, 1853, Louis married Mathilde Odile Leblanc (also born in L'Assomption). They settled in Saint-Jacques-de-l'Achigan, and it is there that they started a family. Their family grew to 11 children, 7 girls, 3 boys, and one we know little about: 1853-12-12 Marie Louise (died shortly after birth), 1856-02-16 Marie Odile Louise (died 1875-12-01 in Notre-Dame parish in Montréal), 1856-01-21 Marie Valérie Philomène (died 1871-03-15 in Notre-Dame parish in Montréal), 1857-03-17 Marie Anna (died 1870-01-03 in Notre-Dame parish in Montréal), 1858-04-01 name unknown (buried the following day, in Saint-Jacques-de-l'Achigan), 1859-05-04 Louis Napoléon (died 1859-11-26), 1860-06-06 Marie Emma (died 1860-08-28), 1861-09-08 Marie Augustine (died 1862-05-26), 1863-04-16 Marie Louis Napoléon (died 1863-07-03).

Shortly after the death of their last child, Louis and his wife settled in Montréal, where two more children were born: 1865-01-31 Marie Azilda Philomène (died 1865-06-16), 1866-11-20 Louis Joseph Édmond (died 1897-05-22, at the age of 30).

None of the children of Louis and his wife Odile Leblanc ever married, hence they had no grandchildren.

After the birth of his last child in 1866, Louis devoted much of his time to the Société canadienne des Artisans, whose name he changed to the *Société des artisans canadiens français* in 1876. After Louis' election as president, the Society became a life insurance cooperative. This organisation grew considerably, and became very popular with the craftsmen of his trade. After merging with les Coopérants, the organisation joined Desjardins insurance in the 1990's.

On January 26, 1885, Louis' first wife Odile Leblanc died, in Montréal. Following this, Louis had several disputes with members of the society he had founded, and he decided to retire from it.

By 1886 Louis became a landowner in Saint-Roch-sur-Richelieu. He married for a second time, to Marie Luce Pelland, on April 29, 1886, in the cathedral in Montréal. It appears Louis did not want to remain unmarried for long, seeing that he re-married only a few months after the death of his first wife. But on February 26, 1898, Luce died, with no children from this union.

The following year, on October 12, 1898, Louis again married, this time to Hermine Coderre, in Saint-Ours-sur-Richelieu. Louis was 69 years old. Hermine died less than three years later, in Saint-Ours, on August 17, 1901.

Louis married for the fourth, and final, time on January 7, 1903, at Saint-Jacques-de-Montréal church. His bride was Marguerite Audet dit Lapointe.

Louis died at the age of 77, on October 2, 1906, in Saint-Eustache. He was buried in the cemetery in Deux-Montagnes.

Despite a long life, and 4 wives, Louis Archambault left no descendants.



La Brasserie Saint-Denis, restaurant-pub



***“Bières et compagnie” from Terrebonne
and
“Brasserie Saint-Denis, bières et compagnie” Saint-Denis Street, Montréal***

<http://www.lapresse.ca/vivre/restaurants/201406/11/01-4774861-manger-a-la-biere-bieres-et-compagnie-le-pionnier.php>



Photo Olivier Jean, La Presse, La presse 11 juin, 2014

Robert Auger, Ani Meilleur owners and their son Tim Auger,
Manager of the “Brasserie Saint-Denis, bières et compagnie”

In 1998, Ani Meilleur, self-taught chef, and her husband Robert Auger, former hockey player at the junior level, and former owners of the Bar “Le Sainte-Élisabeth”, located at 1412 Sainte-Élisabeth Street in Montréal, founded their restaurant “*Bières et compagnie*”, one of the first in Montréal, located at 4352 Saint-Denis Street, in the building “l’Édifice Louis-Archambault”, founder of the Society of French Canadian artisans “*Société des artisans Canadiens français*”.

In 2008, the couple, both passionate about beer, opened a second restaurant “*Bières et compagnie*” at 2285 Gascon Road in Terrebonne where they offered menus based on recipes inspired from hundreds of different beers.

Thanks to M. J.S. Mercier, from La Presse for the authorization to publish the photo above.

“La Brasserie Saint-Denis”: something new on the Plateau!

In 2015, the restaurant “*Bières et compagnie*” now established since 17 years in the heart of the Plateau Mont-Royal, will be handed over to the “young brother”: “La Brasserie Saint-Denis”.

For the owners, Ani Meilleur, Robert Auger and their son Tim Auger, this transition came from their desire to bring new life to the family business. The family tradition continues but, this time, the younger generation will put forward their own colours. To give us a better idea of this new vision, we have been

invited by Tim to enjoy a meal with good beers as he wishes to serve to future costumers at “La Brasserie Saint-Denis”.

Already, in the first days, “*Bières et compagnie*” has made its name for its delicious mussel’s dishes and its wider selection of beers imported from all over the world. Without changing the winning formula, “*La Brasserie Saint-Denis*” still offers its specialties: mussels, burgers, sausages and sauerkraut! To those traditional menus, many new **delicious** and **affordable** dishes were added on; such as the mac’n’cheese and the Tartar. These offerings would attract a younger clientele, authentic mirror of the restaurant owners: students, young professionals who like to go out, to eat well and to discover new beers.



<http://chadcommunications.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/article-tim-52.pdf>

The microbreweries

A new wave of microbreweries took Quebec by storm some fifteen years ago. This phenomenon spread also all around the world. The commercial war between the small and the large breweries in Québec (Labatt, Molson, Sleeman) is very much one of David against Goliath type.

At the “*Bière et compagnie*” Brewery, it is possible to taste a hundred beers. The brewery is located in the Louis Archambault Building. This building, designed by the architect Joseph Égide Césaire Daoust and built in 1931, was the home of the *Société des artisans canadiens-français*, founded by Louis Archambault, and the famous Press Club. In 1990, the building, located in the heart of the Plateau Mont-Royal district won the Heritage Montréal Prize.

Some Archambaults host Bières & Découvertes, the “Oktoberfest” of Québec

They are three young people, and a source of inspiration for the youth and the not so young anymore: Samuel, Catherine and Justin Archambault. They founded the first Festival Bières & Découvertes, (the “Oktoberfest” of Québec) first in Mascouche and now in Le Gardeur (Lanaudière, Québec) an instant success, but the result of hard and long work.

The three of them succeeded in joining their complementarities and their forces to create a perfect synergy during one year and a half. What is particularly notable is that they were able to channel the beautiful heritage they received from their parents, Richard and Paulette Archambault, and to perpetuate it and move forward on a personal basis as well as in the creation of this festival.

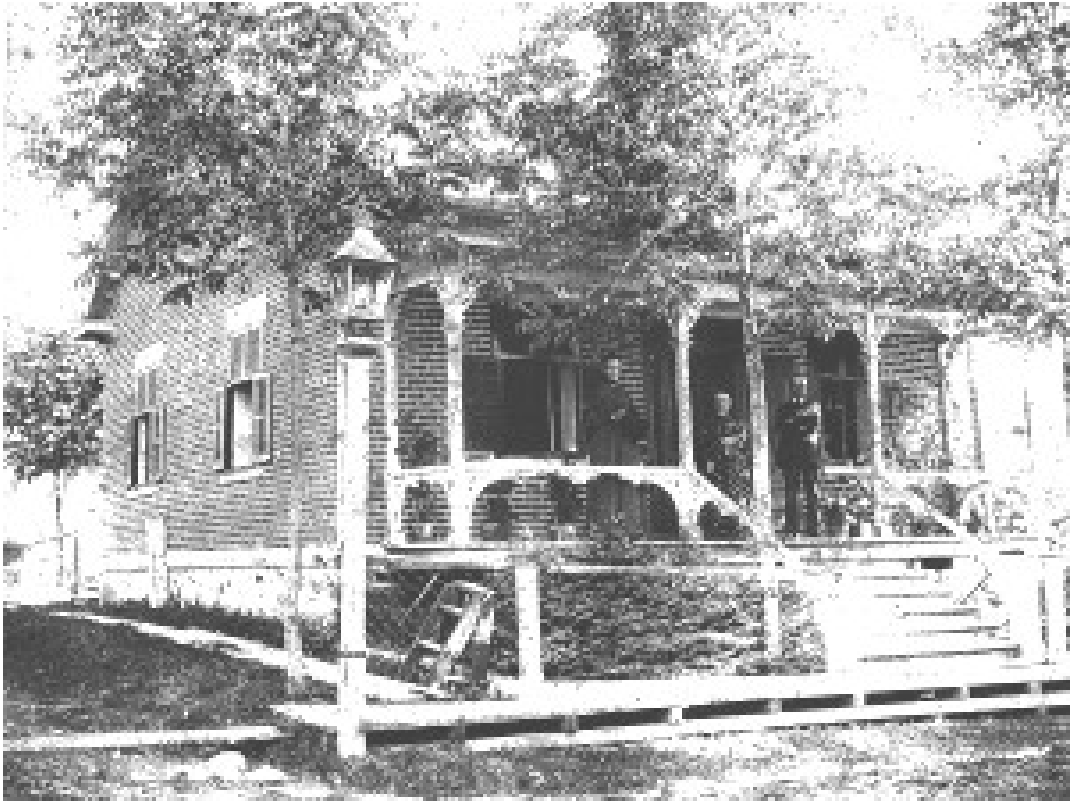
Their father Richard, helicopter pilot, helped them develop their curiosity and taste for discovery and open-mindedness, by having them know people from different ethnic backgrounds. “Our most memorable outing was our first Vietnamese soup in a Montréal restaurant!” He also showed them how to earn money with hard work.



***My grand-father's house, Louis Archambault,
in the town of Saint-Denis-sur-Richelieu***

NDLR We extend our warmest thanks to the Historic Society of Riches-lieux for their authorization to reproduce this text published in January 2004.

I call it “My grand-father’s house”, but I should say “The house of Aunt Albina and Uncle Paul”, because they were the ones living there when I used to visit this house. My sister Lucrèce lived there during more than 40 years. This house has its own history that I was able to retrace in part.



This is a picture of my grand-father’s house, Louis Archambault. He was my mother’s father. The people we see on the porch are neither my grand-father nor my grand-mother. Take a closer look at the pavement. It’s made of wood, like the one on Lion Street in Saint-Denis. The picture dates therefore back to the early 20th Century. An anonymous written note identifies the people as Élisabeth Leblanc (probably the neighbour from across the street), Adéline Archambault and Zéphirin Girouard. They were the owners of the house at the beginning of the 20th Century. If you walk on Lion Street, you will easily recognize this house at number 284, on the corner of Saint-Thomas. It is still there, with its unchanged façade, like it was a century ago.

The house seems to have been built in the first half of the 19th Century. It is a traditional Canadian House with brick walls. Notice the two sloping side-roof with drips, the fireplaces at the extremities and the front porch, on the façade. On Lion Street, in the mid-1950s, there were several houses like this one; the house of merchant Richard Meunier, on the corner of Sainte-Catherine Street; the Rosario Morin's house, on the North corner of Saint-Hubert Street; and a little bit up North, the house of Doctor Vadnais.

In 1900, the land belonged to Zéphirin Girouard and his wife Adéline Archambault, the sister of Louis, my grand-father. Zéphirin was a farmer and husband in community of property of Adéline. They probably bought the house when they retired in 1884, from Michel Richard, merchant (probably the grand-father of Richard Meunier whose mother was a Richard), who had bought it a few years back from a Mr. Lecours, very likely from Saint-Antoine. The couple lived there for 20 years. Zéphérin died there in 1905, and Adeline, in 1906.

In their will, they left their property to their nieces – half of it the Girouard family, and half of it to the Archambault family. The heirs were quite a few, and the house needed to be sold, but my grand-father wanted the house. He found a way around it with a subterfuge: Wilfrid bought the property and sold it the day after to his father, Louis.

Michel Richard bought it many years before from Amable Ledoux, likely from Saint Antoine. The contract describes that the lot is located “in the village of Saint-Denis, on Lion Street, between the streets Saint-Thomas and Saint-François-Xavier, on the other side, with a house, a barn and other buildings. This lot is part of the North-West section of number 158 of the cadastre of the Saint-Denis Parish. The front part is on Lion Street, and the back extends up to the alley”.

My grand-father and my grand-mother lived there up until their deaths. Aunt Albina and Uncle Paul went to live with them when they came back from the United States. The first official document that I was able to see was the will of my grand-father Louis, done in October 1918. He bequeathed to his wife, Octavie Lapierre, the usufruct of his belongings (immovable and furniture), and left a few things to his children and appointed Amanda and Arthur as his executors. I did not have a chance to know my grand-father (Louis Archambault) who died a year before I was born. This picture – therefore – has to have been taken before 1923.



284, rue Lion, Saint-Denis

I only knew the house in the Thirties when I was going to the town school (previously the Saint-François-Xavier College). To go to school, I used to walk on Saint-Denis Street up to the Patriotes Park that I crossed while noticing the big lettering on the stone house that became the House of the Patriots: Overall Manufacture Rgd. This manufacture belonged to Ignace Gendron. I would go on by the Saint-Thomas Street up to Collège Street, where I walked along my aunt Albina's house. The pavement in front of the house was made of wood. The property had three sections: on the North-West corner was the house, with its garden on the Southern side. The garden was always upkept with its perfect rows without any weeds and its squares full of vegetables; next to the street, was a border of flowers and lilies that my sister pampered with loving care.

Behind the garden, was an ice-house, an almost perfectly square building, with a flat roof. In wintertime, my uncle would fill it with large ice blocks taken on the river, and that he used to cover with snow and sawdust. In summertime, it is where the perishables were kept, on the ice.

I would sometimes be invited in by my aunt Albina, who was my godmother. Before that time, I used to go to the house for family celebrations when, for example, my uncle Arthur from Montréal came to visit with his family. It was the house on my father's side, and my grand-mother was still alive. I have fond memories of the joy we experienced when the whole family was meeting.

In the early 1930's, I was beginning to go to school. I would stop by my aunt Albina's, who, when the weather was harsh, would take pity on me and would keep me for lunch. That is where I really knew my grand-mother. She was very petite, and would spend her time sitting in her rocking chair by the kitchen window, overlooking Saint-Thomas Street, next to the sewing machine, all wrapped up warmly in her black wool shawl and wearing a black cap with waved edges. She must have had a big heart because she insisted in helping my mother when Lucrèce was born. She was born the twin of a little baby boy, during the Spanish Influenza outbreak in 1918. My mother had seen her nephew Lorenzo, son of Joseph, die at home, he could not have gone home, in l'Amyot. My grand-mother wanted to mind Lucrèce a little while, but Lucrèce stayed at Aunt Albina and Uncle Paul's place.

In 1933, my grand-mother passed away. In her will, she bequeathed her furniture and immovables to Albina who became the owner of the house. The house was modified. There was an extension done in the back, to lodge a pantry and a summer kitchen, overlooking a large L-shaped porch with stairs at the extremities. The ones on the North side led on the pavement of Saint Thomas Street, and the ones on the East gave access to the barn and to the ice-house. The barn was used to keep wood and instruments, and also as a playing ground to my sister and her friends.

It was called the "batterie" (for battering milk). My uncle Paul would make ice cream in the summer. He made ice cream regularly, two or three batches per week, to satisfy his big clientele of nephews, nieces and their friends! He made the device as a machine to install an electrical motor in it. Six feet from the steps, there was a very large tree, a linden-tree that was attached to the porch by a 4X4 beam. This wooden beam supported two swings. In summertime, near the tree, there was the soap furnace, to warm up water on laundry days.

This one and a half-storey house had eight rooms and a little water closet. On the first floor, there was a bedroom, a kitchen, a dining room and a living room. On the second floor, there were three bedrooms and a lumber-room. The staircase was located behind the entrance door. After the 45-degree bent, it went up to the corridor leading to the bedrooms. There was a fireplace in the kitchen, in the corner near the bedroom's door, and to help disperse the heat, the wall behind the fireplace was replaced by metal doors that could be opened, as needed.

At the end of the Forties, Aunt Albina sold the vacant lot on the eastern side. Josaphat Paré bought it to build a house for his retirement in town. In her will, written in 1948, aunt Albina bequeathed the property of Lion's Street – house, buildings and garden - to Romulus Archambault. Aunt Albina lived more than 15 years in the house, and gave shelter to two of her sisters: Amanda and Marie-Rose. Both of them died before Albina. When she died in 1964, Lucrèce had to leave the house where she had lived more than 40 years, helping out three of her aunts in their old days.

Jean-Baptiste Phaneuf

Note: Louis is the grand-father of Roger Archambault, Accountant and member of the Auditing Committee of our Association.

Family tree of Louis Archambault

Jacques France around the year 1629 Françoise Tourault

Laurent Notre-Dame, Montréal 01/07/1660 Catherine Marchand

Pierre Pointe-aux-Trembles, Montréal 11/21/1701 Marie Lacombe

Jean Rivière-des-Prairies 11/17/1727 Marie Marguerite Angélique Hogue

Jean Saint-Denis-sur-Richelieu 11/12/1753 Marie Charlotte Bousquet

Jean-Baptiste Saint-Denis-sur-Richelieu 01/24/1780 Elisabeth Bousquet

Toussaint Saint-Marc-sur-Richelieu 09/12/1826 Monique Langerin

Louis Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu 02/11/1868 Otarie Meunier dit Lapierre





Édifice Louis-Archambault, 4350, rue Saint-Denis, Montréal

Is engraved on the freestone of building

« Édifice Louis-Archambault, Société des artisans canadiens-français »