



AFGS

American-French Genealogical Society
Woonsocket, RI



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JULY-AUGUST 2009

NEWS FROM 78 EARLE STREET

Norm Deragon Chair, AFGS Building Committee

There is good news to report on the fundraising front. The June Rockwell Levy Foundation has awarded the AFGS a \$10,000 grant to help pay for the reconstruction of the lower level restrooms. The total project cost is about \$21,000. The balance will be paid from the AFGS Building Fund.

Once completed, the restrooms will feature new plumbing, fixtures and other renovations that will place the facilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This is the first step in the Society's plan to make the entire building ADA-compliant.

The building committee has developed specifications for review by several potential contractors. By the time you read this, bids will have been received and reviewed and a contract awarded. The new restrooms should be completed by Labor Day.

New signage for the building has been designed and, pending the approval of a zoning variance by the city, a contract should be awarded soon. The proposed signage on the Snow Street side of the building will face Social Street, one of the main thoroughfares in Woonsocket. This will make the building easier for visitors to see. Because the building is located in a residential zone, the Society will require the variance from the Woonsocket Zoning Board before the signage can be installed.

A grant application has been submitted to the Champlin Foundation in Providence requesting \$21,000 to install an energy-efficient heating system in the new wing of the research center. This would include both heating and air-conditioning in the library section and newly renovated lunchroom. If approved by the Foundation, the Society will be notified in November with the contract awarded soon afterward and installed by early 2010.

Another application will be submitted in July to the Rhode Island Foundation for a \$4,000 Organizational Development Grant. If approved, this grant would enable the Society to hire FundRI to help AFGS develop a strategic plan for future growth, create a volunteer recruitment campaign and training program, review the AFGS by-laws for possible updating, and assist with board development and recruitment.

There are many more exciting projects on the drawing board that not only include paint and polish but also programs designed to add more value to your AFGS membership, particularly to our out-of-state members who are not always able to visit Woonsocket.



We also removed two large trees from our parking area. They were rotted and posed a hazard to our members and our neighbors.

Tom Allaire, an AFGS researcher, trims some branches from his family tree! Actually, Tom and his brother did a great job removing some trees that could have caused problems for our members and our neighbors.

A TIP FROM YOUR BOOKIE
by Janice Burkhart

In the Fall, AFGS will be holding its very popular and free workshop for beginners. At that time you will receive lots of good hints concerning how to begin doing your genealogy. For those who will be working diligently on their family history over the summer, your "Bookie" offers this advice. Make sure you write everything down. You will find that you will begin to gather lots of information and if you don't write it down, you may forget it. When you are recording information use standard abbreviations such as **m.** for married or **d.** for death. If you must use your own abbreviations, make a list of what each abbreviation stands for. It may not seem possible, but you could forget what your abbreviations stand for. Always record your sources. You will be surprised how often you may want to return to the source. Always use the full date when recording dates. Use the day, a three letter abbreviation for the month and the year. An example would be 21 Jun 1943. If you use all numbers 6/8/1964 for example, some people may wonder if it is June 8th or August 6th. And finally, decide on a system to organize your research right from the start. Have clearly labeled folders and a box or file to keep them in. While you are at it, make sure you use acid free folders and paper. You will be spending a great deal of time and possibly money on your research so you want to make sure it is filed in a safe and appropriate manner.

WHAT'S COOKING?
BLUEBERRY CRISP

You all know my passion for almost anything blueberry! Those wonderful little round berries mean summer to me and I wait in great anticipation each year for the bushes to turn blue with these wonderful little gifts from God. I am sure our ancestors looked forward to these treats as well. Today I will offer you a recipe for blueberry crisp and blueberry cobbler. Both are good served warm and of course with ice cream. Enjoy!!!

CLASSIC BLUEBERRY CRISP

4 c. blueberries, washed
1 T lemon juice
1/3 C granulated sugar (more to taste if berries are tart)
1/3 C flour
1/3 C packed brown sugar
1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
3/4 C quick cooking rolled oats
4 tsp soft butter

Arrange blueberries in a deep greased baking dish. Sprinkle with lemon juice and granulated sugar. In separate bowl, combine flour, brown sugar, cinnamon and oats. Cut in butter until mixture is evenly blended and crumbly. Spread mixture on berries and bake at 375 degrees 40-45 minutes. Serve warm.
Makes 5-6 servings.

BLUEBERRY COBBLER

3/4 C flour
1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
1/8 tsp salt
2 tsp baking powder
1 3/4 C sugar
3/4 C milk

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www.afgs.org
e-mail - newsletter@afgs.org
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1/2 C butter

3 C fruit

Sift flour, salt, cinnamon and baking powder together. Mix in 1 1/2 cups sugar. Stir in milk. Melt butter in 8 x 8 inch pan. Pour batter over butter, **DO NOT STIR**. Pour fruit over batter. Sprinkle top with remaining 1/4 cup sugar. Bake 45 minutes to 1 hour at 350 degrees.

Any cobbler fruit can be used (blueberries, apples, peaches, etc.).

AFGS TO HOST FRENCH FESTIVAL IN AUGUST

AFGS is partnering with members of the Francophonie Rhode Island group to host the first of what we hope will be an annual French Festival in Pawtucket, RI on August 29. The festival will be part of the 11th annual Pawtucket Arts festival. The festival will be held from 12 to 5 pm outside the historic Slater Mill along the banks of the Blackstone River in downtown Pawtucket. Admission is free. The event will feature live entertainment representing several French-speaking countries including Canada, France, and Africa. French food and displays will also be part of the festival

Visit the AFGS Web site to get more details. We will be posting them as they are finalized. For more information about the Pawtucket Arts festival visit their web site at www.pawtucketartsfestival.org.

**GENEALOGY CLASSES TO CONTINUE
NEXT YEAR**

Our free monthly genealogy classes have proven to be very popular. They will continue next year. **We have included a schedule of classes with this newsletter. Please save it and refer to it each month.** Also check out our web site at www.afgs.org. We will be updating the site with additional workshops throughout the year. Please notice that in an effort to accommodate more members, some of the workshops are on Saturday morning, some on Saturday afternoon and some on Tuesday evening. There is still time to add you favorite topic to our list by contacting misskoko@aol.com.

DO YOU GIVE AT THE OFFICE?

Many of our members donate to the United Way at work. These funds are then distributed to various charities. Did you know that you can request that part or all of your contribution be directed to AFGS? You get credit for a charitable donation and your Society benefits from the gift. If you contribute to United Way, ask about this program.

Also some members work for companies that have a matching gift program. If you work for one of these companies and contribute to AFGS, ask your representative about matching your donation.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who sent us gift cards. These cards have helped us with many of the projects we are working on. We were able to buy paint, brushes, cleaning supplies, etc.

DID YOUR ANCESTOR FIGHT IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR IN NEW YORK STATE?

Ed Spaeth, a member from Fishkill, New York sent us this item. If you had a Canadian ancestor who fought in this area, check out this article. Ed wrote:

Hello Folks,

Here is an Associated Press news article about the unmarked Revolutionary War burial ground found in

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| The American-French Genealogical Society P. O. Box 830, Woonsocket, RI 02895-0870 Editors: Lucile McDonald, Jan Burkhart |
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Fishkill, NY where an ancestor (on the THERRIEN family side) of mine is buried. The burial ground is just down the hill from my house. When the soldiers were encamped there years ago, they would get water from a spring in the walnut grove up the hill. As it happens, I have many walnut trees on my property and there is a natural spring just off my western property line. I feel I am walking on hallowed ground.

Click here: [N.Y. growth besieges Revolutionary patriots' graves - San Jose Mercury News](#)

TIP FROM OUR WEB GUY By Bill Pommenville

Now AFGS can also be found on facebook. Please check out the site as we are looking for suggestions on what we should have available on this AFGS facebook site. You do not need to be a member to view the site. If you want to leave a message you must be a member. No charge for facebook membership. You can reach the facebook site by going to our home page <http://www.afgs.org> and clicking on the facebook logo at the bottom.

Important: this is not a replacement for the normal AFGS website. You may comment directly to AFGS by sending an email to our Web Guy: wpommenville@afgs.org AFGS Webmaster

Thought you might be interested in taking a look at this new site which is a knowledge engine. It has a lot of features and is growing. It does calculations, lookups such as dates and a lot more. If you're interested check it out and make sure you watch the video as it shows much more than you might think it does. It is called Wolfram|Alphait and it is a computational knowledge engine. It generates output by doing computations from its own internal knowledge base, instead of searching the web and returning links. The address for this engine is <http://www53.wolframalpha.com/>

Here are a few examples of what it can do:

A few things to try:

- Enter any date (e.g. a birth date). June 23, 1988 returns a lot of info relative to the date
- Enter any town (e.g. a home town). New York returns a lot of information on New York such as population etc.
- Enter any two stocks IBM Apple
- Enter any calculation \$250 + 15%
- Enter any math formula $x^2 \sin(x)$
- Enter any two first names andrew, barbara
- Enter any food 1 apple + 2 oranges
- Enter any measurement 45 mph
- Enter any chemical formula H₂SO₄
- Enter any musical notes C Eb G C

Demo - Video takes time to load

<http://www53.wolframalpha.com/screencast/introducingwolframalpha.html>

CANADA'S PARISHES

This information was sent in by Fran Tivey: I was researching my Gemus family in Sudbury Ontario looking for where my family's churches were located and I happened upon this web site. I found what I wanted and then I got curious and started to head east to Quebec. Lo and behold, I found more churches. I bet this is a good web site to put into your next newsletter. I realize these are today's Catholic parishes and maybe some of the old churches are not in existence. Search around this web site you'll be amazed. I know I was.

<http://www.canpages.ca/business/ON/sudbury/churches-roman-catholic/3802-158029.html>

OTHER LINKS OF INTEREST

Here are a few other links that you might find to be of interest.

Ernest Gagnon sends this information about a Cemetery link: A unique and very handy genealogical resource on the Web is the "Cemetery Junction Directory" at: <http://www.daddezio.com/cemetery/>

There is no charge for the use of the web site. It boasts tens of thousands of cemeteries in the US and Canada, including family cemeteries and much more. Beginning in 1999, the site grew from users submitting the names and locations of cemeteries. It continues to be a 'work-in-progress'. A form is provided for users to submit additional cemetery information. In addition, there are links to other resources such as local societies, obituaries, wills, and funeral homes. Check out this unique site.

And this from AFGS member Ellie: I noticed that on <http://www.afgs.org/genepges.html> AFGS has this link http://wwwpersonal.umich.edu/~cgaunt/gen_int1.html, but that page doesn't seem to be up any more. I found this page to be a good replacement:

<http://www.usa-people-search.com/content-genealogy-resources-on-the-internet.aspx> Cheers, Ellie

At this site you will find historical videos in both French and English. It is very interesting. <http://www.balado.tv/video.php?id=36&c=9>

DNA ANYONE?

DNA in genealogy seems to be the upcoming trend. AFGS had a very good article on this subject in a recent Je Me Souviens. We want to invite you to reread that article and in case you do not have it, we will be reprinting it in our Fall edition of JMS. In November or December, we will be sending you information about a group we will be starting and it will outline how you can participate.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are compiling a list of people who might like to serve on the AFGS Board of Directors. To qualify, you must be willing and able to attend monthly Board Meetings at your own expense and you must be a member in good standing of AFGS. If interested please contact Janice Burkhart at misskoko@aol.com. I will send you an application form to complete.

TRANSLATION SERVICE OFFERED

Have you ever received an original document only to find that it is not written in English? When we first begin gathering original documents from Quebec, we often forget that they will be written in French and sometimes even Latin. This can pose a very big problem if you read neither! AFGS has the ability to translate these documents for you at reasonable rates thanks to members who have volunteered to help us out. If you have an original birth, marriage or death certificate that needs to be translated, please contact us and we will make arrangements for your document to be translated.

WORTH REPEATING

This interesting discussion appeared on one of the Quebec Boards (quebec@rootsweb.com). I think it will be of interest to you.

Question: Does anyone on the list know how to express the relationship between cousins "once removed" "twice removed" etc. in French?

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Answer: In canon law, the degree of blood relationship between two individuals is expressed in terms of the generational distance between them and their common ancestor. In the era when Quebec and la Nouvelle France were governed by France, the same norms applied to both church and state, and marriage was prohibited without dispensation up to the fourth degree of blood relationship.

Brothers and sisters have at least one common ancestor one generation removed from them. They are related in the first degree.

First cousins (cousins germain, in French) have at least one common ancestor two generations removed from them. They are related in the second degree.

Second cousins (cousins issus de germain, in French) have at least one common ancestor three generations removed from them. They are related in the third degree.

Third cousins have at least one common ancestor four generations removed from them. They are related in the fourth degree. In French, they are known as cousins au quatrieme degre.

If two persons share ancestry from one person (or more), but one of them is two generations removed and the other three generations removed, they are first cousins once removed in English, cousins au deuxieme degre touchant le troisieme, in French.

If two persons share ancestry from one person (or more), but one of them is three generations removed and the other four generations removed, they are second cousins once removed in English, cousins au troisieme degre touchant le quatrieme, in French.

Comment: Interesting. You dictate the Catholic Church discouraged marriages below fourth degree. I have found numerous marriages by second cousins and some by first cousins. If they knew of the connection, how was the dispensation arranged?

Reply: Ah, the origin of second cousins considered to be "kissing cousins" was a development of the 1983 code. Surprising, that is relatively recent in history.

Further comment: Catholic Church law on that subject has changed over the years. In the 1917 Code of Canon Law, dispensation from consanguinity or affinity was required for marriages up to the third degree. In the 1983 Code, dispensations are required only for the marriage of first cousins. Marriage between siblings and direct ancestors and descendants is absolutely prohibited, of course.

A Book Review: "Champlain's Dream"

by David Hackett Fischer

Simon & Schuster, New York, NY. 2008

Review by Gail Brodie

What drove Samuel de Champlain to become the Father of New France? The comprehensive biography "Champlain's Dream" by David Hackett Fischer attempts to answer that question and many more. This long but very readable book opens a window into a time quite different from our own and draws a clear portrait of a humble yet gifted man to whom all people of French Canadian descent owe their gratitude.

Indeed, Fischer's "portrait" of Champlain is more accurate than any found in schoolbooks. There is no evidence that Champlain's image was ever captured by a portrait artist. The only likeness Fischer believes is accurate is a tiny detail in the engraving of a battle scene drawn by the explorer himself. Champlain was a talented cartographer and artist. His elaborately illustrated maps of New France are found on both flyleaves and throughout the book.

The story of Champlain's remarkable life could not be told without a thorough explanation of French politics

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during the late 1500's. Fischer deftly handles this both in the narrative and in the extensive appendices. The years of Champlain's youth were troubled and bloody times in France. The Reformation was the catalyst for waves of conflict between Catholics and Protestants. Although it is not clear in which denomination of Christianity Champlain was raised, it is clear that like his patron Henry IV, King of France, Champlain had strong religious faith combined with religious tolerance.

Fischer also stresses the importance of Champlain's birthplace in the shaping of Champlain's future. Champlain was raised in the French coastal city of Brouage in the uniquely independent province of Saintonge. His early exposure to the lives of coastal mariners and the opportunities to experience ocean voyages prepared Champlain for the life of an explorer.

But all explorations need funding and Champlain showed a dogged determination in currying the favor of kings, queens, bishops, and businessmen. He made a total of 27 transatlantic crossings, spending time in New France exploring and fostering settlements and time in old France raising funds. Champlain excelled as a negotiator - whether in the gilded halls of the French monarchy, or while smoking ceremonial pipes with the tribes along the St. Lawrence.

One point that Fischer makes very clear is Champlain's respect for Indian culture. Unlike most of Champlain's contemporaries, Champlain believed Indians could be the intellectual equals of Europeans, with the exception that they lacked the enlightenment of Christianity. And although he supported Christian missionaries among the Indians, his approach was one of persuasion, not bullying. He also felt that neither Catholicism nor Protestantism should be the exclusive form of Christianity in New France.

The heart of Fischer's book is devoted to Champlain's voyages, explorations, and colonization efforts. Although alliances with Indian tribes occasionally led to battles and skirmishes, Champlain was always remembered as a peacemaker, not a conqueror. Independent commercial ventures often tried to exploit the native population. Champlain led the charge to expel these pirates and unscrupulous traders from the waters and forests of New France. Champlain believed that the Indians and French could and should live together in peace.

Members of the AFGS may be particularly interested in the later chapters of the book. Because Champlain shared the exploration and settlement of New France with many others, you may possibly find familiar surnames, or even an ancestor or two named in the ranks of the farmers, interpreters, and other early habitants of Quebec and Acadia.

In summary, all who enjoy a well-researched history and a good adventure yarn will be captivated by the story of "Champlain's Dream."

TEMPORARY ADDRESSES

Thank you to everyone who has sent us their summer and winter addresses. In case you missed this in our last newsletter, here it is again.

We want you to receive all of your mail! Won't you help us? During the winter months, and the summer months too, we get so much mail returned with "**TEMPORARILY AWAY**" written on it. We, of course, have to pay the Post Office a return charge. Then if I mail it to you, we have to pay postage again. You can help prevent this by sending us your summer or winter address and the dates you will be away. That way we will direct your mail to you. It will only take a few minutes and will insure that you are kept up to date on everything that is happening here in Woonsocket. You can email me the changes at misskoko@aol.com or mail them to the Society at AFGS, PO Box 830, Woonsocket, RI 02895. For those who have already sent in these addresses - thank you again.

ARE YOU A THERRIEN?

The 27th Reunion of the Ralliement des familles de JEAN ET PIERRE THERRIEN will be held at West Hartford, Connecticut August 7, 8 and 9, 2009 on the St-Joseph College Campus at 1678 Asylum Avenue. For more information contact **Michael DeConti**, President, Organizing Committee. Telephone : 1-860-232-1319 Email MichaelDeConti@comcast.net

OR A SEGUIN?

Summer is time to meet again at the Séguin's of America! Public meeting and rejoicings from August 14 to 16, 2009 at the Auberge La Calèche of Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, QC. Persons with the generic Séguin name, of Séguin families and of derived families, single, in couple, or with family, members and non members of the Association - all are welcome.

For more information contact: Association des Séguin d'Amérique at the following web site or telephone. <http://www.lesseguindamerique.ca/> Snail mail address is 15 rue Jacqueline, Rigaud, QC J0P 1P0 or phone Jacqueline Séguin: (450) 451 - 5529

AFGS NEWS NOW ON LINE

AFGNEWS is now on line at our web site. Here is what some of our members are saying about it! Just finished reading the newsletter. Would love to receive the newsletter like this on a regular basis.....save trees and much less clutter. Had no problems opening, reading, etc. - Lorraine

I am quite pleased with the online version. Pictures are clearer and it saves postage! Thanks for including me in your trial. - Irene Lebeau

I think online newsletters are a great way for the Society to save money. I had a bit of trouble accessing the newsletter, but got it on the second try. I like the color photos, and think that there is great potential. All the web address should be "hyperlinked" ...some were and some weren't. - Jan Isosaari (We have discovered that the addresses need to be on one line for them to be accessed. Thank you for all the great comments. We are still working out the bugs so keep the comments coming!)

WILL YOU BE IN VERMONT THIS SUMMER?

Much like the city of Québec did last year, Vermont is now celebrating the 400 years that the French explorer Samuel de Champlain arrived on the Vermont soil. Vermont has wanted to give a significant role to Québec. In this regard, several artists from Québec will be in Vermont in the days and weeks to come.

The participation of artists from Québec will reach its peak during the **Burlington International Waterfront Festival** (July 2-14). **The 10th of July has been named *Spotlight on Quebec*** by the organizers of Vermont and is officially dedicated to Québec. The artists from Québec which will be performing on that day are: le Vent du Nord (traditional music), les Charbonniers de l'enfer (*acapella* traditional songs), Eliaspie Isaac (inuit singer), les Cowboys Fringuants (pop-rock music), Ensemble Karel (concerts with sound and visual effects), Bob Walsh and his orchestra (Gilles Sioui & Guy Bélanger; jazz music), the showing of the movie *Bon Cop Bad Cop*.

The public will also have the chance to see some other shows from Québec during this festival : The Lost Fingers (pop-rock music, July 3rd), the showing of the movie les Triplettes de Belleville (July 5th), Bizzarium aquarium (puppet theatre, July 6-7th), Piecework (music, July 8-10), dance performance from the choreographer Marie-Claude Rodrigue (July 9th), Bateaukrachboom (circus art, July 11th), as well as Temps

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Antan (traditional music), and Danse Fragment Libre. Several of these events are free. For more details go to <http://celebratechamplain.org>.

The Québec Government Office in Boston has also been an intermediary to propose artists from Québec (50 in total, students in art from the CEGEP of St-Jean-sur-Richelieu) in the creation of the project *Art Fits Vermont*, a gigantic puzzle. The opening of this event will be on July 11th at 10 am. We anticipate that this puzzle will be the biggest ever made; officials from the Book of Guinness World Records will be on hand.

Québec will continue to be associated in other key events of the 400th celebration of Lake Champlain such as the *French Heritage Day Festival* (July 17-18) and the *Champlain Valley Folk Festival* (July 31 – August 2nd). We hope to see you there!

SPECIAL WORKSHOP IN OCTOBER

David Mishkin will present a special workshop entitled "Preserving Your Digital Photographs" at an open house to be held in October. Details are still being worked out so please keep an eye on our web site www.afgs.org for updates as they happen. If you own a digital camera, you will not want to miss this event.

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to the people who have volunteered to help us with various projects. There will be more opportunities.

THIS IS PRETTY NEAT

AT 5 minutes and 6 seconds after 4 AM, on the 7th of August 2009 the time and date will be: 04:05:06 07-08-09! This will not happen again until the year 3009.

THIS COULD DRIVE YOU AROUND THE BEND AND THAT DARNED CAT WILL BE THERE!

Here is a cute game that will drive you crazy! It is fun. Try it out. It is called "Circle the Cat!" Jan <http://www.members.shaw.ca/gf3/circle-the-cat.html>

CREATIVE PUNS FOR "EDUCATED MINDS"

Submitted by Del Buris

1. The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it was just an "optical Aleutian".
3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of "math disruption".
5. The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.
6. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
7. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
8. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
9. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

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11. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
12. Atheism is a "non-prophet" organization.
13. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other, 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'
14. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. "Then it hit me".
15. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
16. A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, 'No change yet.'
17. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
18. The short fortuneteller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
19. The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a "seasoned veteran".
20. A backward poet writes inverse.
21. In democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.
22. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got "a taste of religion".
23. Don't join dangerous cults: Practice "safe sects"!

Feel free to send any material you would like included in your newsletter!