



A F G S

*American-French Genealogical Society
Woonsocket, RI*



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Hours Monday 11AM - 4 PM Tuesday 1 PM - 9 PM Saturday 11 AM - 4PM

March - April 2010

NEWS FROM 78 EARLE STREET

Norm Deragon

Building Committee Chair

The repair priority has shifted to the flat section of our roof. A leak over the former sanctuary continues to be a problem and another has developed over the windows in the first floor conference room. We have contacted several commercial roofing companies. They have been to the building and we will be awarding a contract for repairs or the possible replacement of the flat roof section.

We have finished the installation of a drop ceiling in the lower level of the building in the hallway outside our library. The project also included new electric outlets in the hallway, the installation of better lighting, and new emergency exit signs and lights. Tile flooring will be installed outside the restroom area and carpeting outside the library hallway entrance. We are also installing brighter lighting in the parking lot.

The building committee has hired a HVAC engineer to evaluate the building's heating system and make recommendations about the system's capabilities and limitations. The evaluation will address the most efficient way to heat and cool each floor. The engineer's report also will provide cost estimates and segment the projects by floor so they can be addressed in phases.

We have received word from the Rhode Island State Senate Fiscal office that a \$3,000 grant has been approved. A thanks you to State Senator Marc Cote of Woonsocket who secured the funds for us. The grant will be used to offset the cost of the emergency lights and exit signs that were recently installed in the lower level and first floor.



Improvements in the downstairs hallway have made the hallway brighter and safer.

BUILDING COMMITTEE WOULD WELCOME HELP

Would you like to help the Building Committee by becoming a member of the committee? We would welcome any help. Just write or e-mail us a note with your skills or interests and we will be in touch. You must be able to attend meetings at the Society's building.

A TIP FROM YOUR "BOOKIE"

BY JANICE BURKHART

Primary source records are very important in your research although many of us rely on secondary source material. What is the difference? Primary source records are original records - letters, photos, town hall records, church records and the like. Secondary source records are transcriptions. If someone has written down what the original record says, there is room for error. Perhaps in transcribing a marriage record for example, the transcriber may misread the names of the bride or groom. Perhaps the names of the witnesses are accidentally recorded as the names of the parents. Maybe the parents' names are put in the wrong place so that the bride's parents are listed as the groom's parents. Numbers in dates may be reversed so that 1856 becomes 1865. Perhaps the translator skipped a line so the groom from one wedding is paired with the bride from the next wedding. These and many other errors can occur.

What can be done? Whenever you take facts from written collections, such as our repertoires, always try to check the data with an original source. At AFGS we have the Drouin Film Collection and microfilms of the vital statistics from New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. There are also many sites on the internet that now allow you access to primary source documents. It is important to use these sources whenever possible.

And while we are on the subject of sources, remember to always record where you found your information. If it is a book, list it. If it is a film, record the type and box number. If it is a primary source, record it along with the location of the source. A little care now could save you a lot of time later if the need to find the information again occurs.

WHAT'S COOKING

BY JANICE BURKHART

VENISON STEW

We know that our ancestors lived off the bounty of the land. They grew vegetables for the root cellar, wheat and corn to be made into flour, enjoyed fruit in the summer, fished in the rivers and streams and had farm animals to provide meat, milk, eggs and cheese. We assume they hunted when possible to supplement their food supplies. Game was plentiful and we can imagine that the occasional deer was brought home to supply a little variety for the winter meals. Here is a venison stew you might like to try. I tried to find an old fashion recipe but perhaps this updated recipe will be more to the liking of the modern day taste buds. You may add any vegetable that you would usually use in stew. Serve over rice or thick noodles.

Ingredients

3 pounds venison (deer meat)	1 1/2 cups chopped turnip
7 cups water as needed	1 1/2 cups potatoes, cubed
5 beef bouillon cubes (or you could use beef broth)	1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1 onion, thinly sliced	1 cup hot water
1/3 cup all-purpose flour	
2 tablespoons vegetable oil	
1 1/2 cups sliced carrots	

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Directions

1. Cut meat into bite-sized pieces. Mix with onions, and toss mixture with 1/3 cup flour. Shake off excess flour. Heat oil in a large saucepan, and cook meat and onion over medium low heat until meat is nicely browned.
2. Place browned meat mixture and bouillon cubes into a crock pot. Add water until meat is covered with 1 inch liquid. (Or use beef broth instead of water and cubes.) Cover. Slow cook on high for about 5 hours. This should be long enough to make the meat very tender. If using a stock or stew pot, bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover pot, simmer for about two hours or until meat is very tender. Add a little water if necessary.
3. To thicken up the gravy, mix 1/2 cup flour with 1 cup hot water until flour is dissolved. Pour into crock pot, and stir. Repeat if not thick enough. If you are not using veggies, the stew is ready to pour over the rice or noodles now. If you are going to use veggies, precook the vegetables. Add to the stew. Cook for an additional 45 minutes so vegetables can take on the flavor of the stew.

ZIPLOC OMELETS

It is very likely that our ancestors had a few hens about the farm so it is likely that omelets appeared on the table from time to time. Well modern times call for modern methods and this clever idea was passed on to us by a reader.

This is good when all your family is together or you are having brunch with a lot of guests. Have your guests write their name on a quart-size Ziploc freezer bag with a permanent marker.

Crack 2 eggs (large or extra-large) into the bag (not more than 2), break yolks, and shake to combine them. Put out a variety of ingredients such as: cheeses, ham, onion, green pepper, tomato, hash browns, salsa, etc. Each guest adds prepared ingredients of choice to their bag. Make sure to get the air out of the bag and zip it up. Shake to combine. Place the bags into rolling, boiling water for exactly 13 minutes. [We did 15 minutes]. You can usually cook 6-8 omelets in a large pot. For more, make another pot of boiling water. Open the bags and the omelet will roll out easily. Be prepared for everyone to be amazed.

It is nice to serve with fresh fruit and coffee cake. Everyone gets involved in the process and it becomes a great conversation piece. Imagine having these ready the night before, and putting the bag in boiling water while you get ready. In 15 minutes, you've got nice omelets for a quick breakfast!!!

AFGnewS READY TO GO ON LINE BY BILL POMMENVILLE

For the last year, AFGnewS has been sent by mail and tested online. We have asked for and received many comments. We have incorporated the many helpful ideas and suggestions sent to us by members who have written to us. We really appreciate your interest and help in the endeavor.

To date we have received many rave reviews of the online newsletter. The pictures are nice. The links are active. People like saving it to a folder on their desktop. It cuts down on the paper coming into the home. And of course, for the Society, it means a cost savings (paper, printing and postage) and reduces people hours involved in putting the mailing together.

Well now it is time for you to make a choice concerning how you receive your newsletter. Do you want it mailed, do you want the online version or do you want to receive it both ways?

Presently you receive six newsletters from AFGS. Two of these arrive with Je Me Souviens. The other four come on their own. If you want to stop receiving the four AFGS newsletters normally mailed on their own, please go to the [AFGnewS Newsletter page](#) and fill out the form. You will also find further instructions concerning the newsletter.

Remember, AFGS has established a DNA project that our members may join. Being a member of this project will allow you to have testing done at a reduced rate. You will be able to learn more about the project by checking out our web page at www.afgs.org

WEB SITES YOU MIGHT ENJOY

The URL for the RI State Archives has changed to <http://sos.ri.gov/archives/>. The link for the RI Historical Records Advisory Board now appears in the right-hand gutter on their web pages. The new URL is <http://sos.ri.gov/rihrab/> and the Directory of RI Historical Records Repositories is to be found at <http://sos.ri.gov/rihrab/direct.html>.

Here is a really neat site sent in by a member. It will provide photographs of your old neighborhood. This site is still being photographed so not all houses are available yet. Keep checking back if you don't find what you are looking for. Go to the web site below. When you enter an address you will see a picture of that place. There is a little map with a little man on it. You can move the little man up and down the block if you need to. I just looked at my childhood home! Really nice web site! <http://www.vpike.com/>

Paul Godin sent us a beautiful slide show of Quebec City at Christmas time. It is so charming, peaceful and nostalgic. If you have visited the city in summer, you will really appreciate these pictures of Christmas time To view the slide show Google QUEBEC-Magnifique and click on the following link: [QUEBEC-Magnifique Ppt Presentation](#) Turn the volume up. Click to view full screen. Enjoy.

On a recent rootsweb board, Renee Cummings wrote:

Just came upon this map of Quebec parishes before 1850. Just click on the parish you want and then click on "Statistiques" It will give you the BMS for the different years for that parish:

<http://www.genealogie.umontreal.ca/fr/carteQuebec.asp?CODE=401>

Fran Tivey wrote: Are you doing Irish genealogy? If so there is a web site that might help you out. [Genfindit.com](#) has a list of the indexes and the records of Birth, Marriage and Deaths of Ireland. These are the original LDS indexes and records but the lists on this web site are very easy to read. They are also listed on the LDS web site but very hard to find. If you're looking for the records of marriage and deaths. [Genfindit.com](#) also locates and supplies birth, marriage, death, wills or census records for you at affordable prices helping you to complete your family tree. Here is what you will find.

Birth index 1864-1921	Birth records 1864-1955
Marriage index 1864-1921	Mar. records 1864-1870
Death index 1864-1921	Death index 1864-1870

Fran also shares the following information: **Are you researching Danish records?** I am and after surfing many hours looking for help I came across a great web site that I'd like to share with you. www.dis-danmark.dk is a forum, but not the kind you're use to. This one was designed for family history researchers who do not speak Danish. It allows you to ask for help, either to find information about your ancestors or to get in contact with relatives or descendants in Denmark. This forum works as all the others do, but on this site you submit a question about your Danish ancestors in English and you're answered by someone who writes and speaks in English. All they want to do is to help you research your family. They supplied me with the following web site: www.arkivalieronline.dk which has the actual BMD documents that you can use for **FREE!** Yes it's for free. All you have to do is to download a program called JAVA which you can find here utilis.dk This is where you can find information on how to use AO (arkivalieron line). Here utilis.dk you can find information on how to use AO (arkivalieron line). You might want to print this out. If you are using a PC this little program is very good: [AO Værktøj 3.4.0](#) This helps you to view the actual documents.

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I've never before been helped this much through a forum. They located my great-grandfather's birth and from there they went on to his siblings, his parents births and deaths - even their marriage. They found census records [they are free also] for me and gave me a good start on how to use this great web site. Best of all, they translate anything you want. Just enjoy these websites. You're in for the ride of your life.

FAMILY ASSOCIATIONS

Richard L. Fortin sent in the following information regarding the 9th Annual reunion of L'Association des Familles Fortin d'America. It will be held on 10 Jul, 2010 in Rimouski, Quebec. All the activities are held in French and English with arrival on Friday. All programs and activities are held on Saturday and the reunion ends on Sunday with the annual meeting. They also publish a fine bulletin in both languages entitled "**FORTINFO**" and we would like to see an increased participation from Fortin's from the United States. For more information go to their web site at www.afa@fortin.com or contact their U.S. representative, Richard L. Fortin G.A.E. at RLFortinNH@aol.com

Arthur Levesque writes: I belong to a family association for the Levesque family. You can visit their web site at the following internet address www.genealogie.org/famille/levesque/elevsque.html. It has a lot of information on the Levesque family and offers help in tracing the family back to the original family which arrived from Normandy, France.

Ernest and Fay Gagnon have sent us the following information. Some AFGS members may be interested in the Gagnon Reunion planned for June 2010 in Madawaska, ME. Check their Website for more information: www.gagnonreunion.com

Remember, if you have a family association you would like us to know about, send the information to misskoko@aol.com.

RESPONSE TO BURIAL CUSTOMS

Henri Leblond writes: I'd like to add a P. S. to Rick Whitesell's article in the AFGnews. You don't have to go abroad to find weird burial customs by American standards. There's a cemetery in the US which buries it's dead chronologically. So, if a husband dies on Monday but his wife dies the following Monday, they're likely to be buried several graves apart. (Could this be true? Yes! ed.) To learn more, check out this web site. <http://clinton.ilgenweb.net/cemetery/strose/strosecatholic/strosearticle.html>

HOW TO WRITE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Recently, AFGS sponsored a class on how to write your family history. The class looked at different types of family histories, discussed the audience they would likely write for, developed topics they would like to include, and best of all, explored how to begin organizing their material. This was a great class with lots of audience participation and questions.

If you have an idea for a class for next year, please contact misskoko@aol.com. We would like to design classes that fit your needs and we are beginning to plan now.



Class participants check out sample family histories and share ideas.

BUS TRIP TO THE ARCHIVES TO BE RESCHEDULED FOR NEXT YEAR

The National Archives are currently closed for repairs. These repairs are taking longer than expected. At this point, our trip is canceled. We will reschedule for next year.

PRESERVATION TIP OF THE MONTH Repairing and Storing Cards, Including Sports, Greeting, and Postcards

by Becky Schipper

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Genealogy Gems:

News from the Fort Wayne Library

No. 70, December 31, 2009

During the holidays, you may have received some cards you would like to save and pass along to your children and grandchildren. Many of us also have collections of trading cards or postcards commemorating significant events, either in the life of our community and country or in the lives of family members. Cards we are intending to keep always should be handled with clean hands or soft, lint-free gloves. Any mending of tears should be done on the back using an archival tape, not a pressure sensitive tape. Cheap tape purchased off-the-shelf in big box stores can deteriorate quickly, turning yellowish-brown and damaging the cards. Cards that are dirty can be cleaned with a document cleaning pad or eraser with a very light touch. Always test the eraser you intend to use on a blank piece of white paper to ensure that erasing does not leave any marks and to get used to the amount of pressure to apply for removal of dirt and stray marks. Cards then should be stored in acid free enclosures, away from heat and light sources. Polyester plastic enclosures are preferred because they allow viewing the item without disturbing it. Groups of cards should be stored vertically in acid-free, lignin-free boxes. The contents of each box should be noted on a separate sheet of paper to facilitate locating the correct card without handling others unnecessarily.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

A new program about genealogy, **“Who Do You Think You Are?”** begins Friday, March 5, 2010 at 8/7 Central on NBC. Share a heartwarming journey through family history with Sarah Jessica Parker, Emmitt Smith, Lisa

Kudrow, Matthew Broderick, Brooke Shields, Susan Sarandon and Spike Lee as they discover the stories of their ancestors.

“Who Do You Think You Are?” also shares ideas and research strategies that could help you make new breakthroughs — and help people everywhere understand what they could discover about their own family stories. Watch the show on Friday nights at 8/7 Central starting March 5, 2010. This should be fun for all of us who love genealogy!

VAN GOGH GENEALOGY REVISITED

I was happy to receive the following letter from John M. Dauray in response to the family tree of Vincent Van Gogh which we recently published in AFGnewS.

Gentlemen: The family tree of Vincent Van Gogh was very complete, but being an amateur genealogist, I delved in and came up with a few more relatives. The brother from Illinois - Chicar Gogh; the twins from Africa - Bon Gogh, Bon Gogh who I hear didn't want to leave the Congo; the niece Mary who married the refined Mr. Round and became Mary Gogh Round; the oldest name I could find - Long A Gogh; and the nephew who works in “fast food” - To Gogh. I hear his hometown changed their traffic light from red and green to Stop and Gogh. Where do I gogh from here? “Way to Gogh” John! - Jan

Patty Locke and our research committee found two more relatives: his Aunt from Pee-oria - Igotta Gogh and her son, who is a bouncer - Hugh-Gotta Gogh

I hope this Goghs on a little longer. I'm “goghna” be waiting!

THE NEXT NERGC CONFERENCE IS BEING PLANNED

Join us April 6 -10, 2011, in Springfield, MA, for the 11th New England Regional Genealogical Conference! The Conference is sponsored by The New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC); an umbrella organization comprised of over twenty genealogical and historical societies in the region. The Conference theme is **"Exploring New Paths to Your Roots."** and will help genealogists explore the following topics:

- 1. New research pathways, methodologies, and strategies, including technology and online resources
- 2. The “pathways” their ancestors followed into and out of New England (including where and why they moved and settlement and migration patterns)
- 3. Ethnic genealogy of all types, especially British Isles, Irish, Italian, French-Canadian, African American, and Native American
- 4. New approaches to discovering their ancestors' worlds through directories, maps, atlases, gazetteers, and online imagery
- 5. Systematic approaches for finding and utilizing record sources (such as religious, civil, cemetery, military, newspapers, etc.)
- 6. The wealth of information available in New England's repositories (archives, libraries, historical societies, etc.)
- 7. New ways to plan and prepare for a successful research trip, including resources close to home
- 8. General genealogical skills and techniques
- 9. Family history writing and publishing

Each session will last one hour, including questions and answers. Hands-on workshops should last 2-3 hours. AFGS has participated in all of the NERGC conferences. They are great, affordable and friendly. Check out the NERGC web site, www.nergc.org, sign up for the free E-Zine and mark your calendars now. You will love this conference.

JOIN US FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL FRENCH-CANADIAN SOIREE

Join us on Saturday, April 17, 2010 at the LeFoyer Club, 151 Fountain Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island for a buffet dinner and a night of fiddle music, fun and dancing! So bring your dancing shoes and spoons!

Music will be provided by Dudley Laufman and Area French Canadian Fiddlers. Dudley Laufman is a musician and barn dance caller from Canterbury, NH. In 2009, he was awarded the National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. Join us for a night of fiddling, dancing and fun in the French Canadian tradition.

Tickets must be purchased in advance. They are available at the American-French Genealogical Society, 78 Earle Street, Woonsocket, RI or by calling Roger Bonin at (401) 728-8328. Tickets also may be purchased online at www.afgs.org for \$30.00 per person. Proceeds will benefit the AFGS Franco-American Heritage Center and the important LeFoyer Franco-American Records Preservation Project.

1909

The year is 1909, one hundred years ago. What a difference a century makes! Here are some statistics for the Year 1909 :

The average life expectancy was 47 years.

Fuel for cars was sold in drug stores only

Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

There were only 8,000 cars and 144 miles of paved roads. The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 miles per hour.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower

The average wage in 1909 was 22 cents per hour.

The average worker's yearly wage was \$200 to \$400.

More than 95 percent of all births took place at home .

Ninety percent of all doctors had no college education. Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and the government as 'substandard. '

Sugar cost four cents a pound.

Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.

Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

The American flag had 45 stars.

The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was only 30!!!

There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

Twenty percent of adults could not read or write and only 6 % of Americans had graduated from high school.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drugstores. Back then pharmacists said, 'Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and bowels, and is a perfect guardian of health

There were about 230 reported murders in the entire U.S.A.

Try to imagine what it may be like in another 100 years. It is hard to imagine!

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