



# AFGS

American-French Genealogical Society  
Woonsocket, RI



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## NEWS FROM 78 EARLE STREET NORM DERAGON BUILDING COMMITTEE CHAIR

By the time you read this we expect that the roofing contractors will have begun replacing the flat roof over the older section of the building. As mentioned previously, the work will include removing the cross, which is rusted and is an eye sore, from the roof.

The replacement of pipes that feed the water and gas lines in the building is completed. Pipes are now above ground and all the old gas lines dating to the 1920s when gas light fixtures were on the walls are now disconnected.

Bids have been received to patch the walls and repaint the hallways in the lower level and first floor. This will be done in late summer after new emergency exit signs and emergency lights are installed on the first floor. The emergency lighting will be paid for in part through a \$3,000 state grant. We hope to have the painting work completed prior to our French Canadian Hall of Fame induction ceremony in October.

Work will begin this month to prepare what will be the extension of the library to the former church dining hall. A permanent wall will be installed to separate the new library section from a storage room which also will house the library computers. The new computer section will feature 10 computer stations each with a flat screen monitor, keyboard and mouse only. There will be space for members and visitors to use laptop computers while conducting their research.

We expect the engineering study of heating and air conditioning options throughout the building to be started soon. The study will present options for upgrading our heating system in stages throughout the building and the installation of air conditioning

particularly in the library. This will maintain climate control in order to protect our holdings by preventing mold. It will also provide comfort for members and visitors during the hot and humid Rhode Island summer months. We hope to be in a position to address recommendations in 2011.

### A THANK YOU FROM JAN BURKHART

Once again, we would like to thank you for all the support you have given us. People are absolutely amazed when they see our building and all the work we have accomplished. When they hear that we are debt free, amazement becomes astonishment! To our many members who made pledges, we thank you for your generosity and for your faith in your Society. Our work progresses slowly, but each dollar donated to us for the building is put to very good use. We also acknowledge the donation of time and expertise that our members extend to us. From painting, cleaning, yard work, preparation work for the contractors, donations of books and supplies, locksmith work, and landscaping to advice and recommendations, our members continue to support us in so many ways. We have been fortunate to receive several grants. We have received donations from members who have matching fund programs at work and/or who have designated AFGS as a charity of choice through the United Way. We have also been fortunate enough to be remembered by several members through bequests and by the families of several departed members who request donations to the Society in lieu of flowers. We have members who have donated hand crafted items for us to sell and we even recycle donated aluminum cans. At five cents each, the effort adds up! If you are able to continue your financial support, we thank you in advance. Our work continues.

**A TIP FROM YOUR “BOOKIE”  
BY JANICE BURKHART**

**PROTECTING YOUR KEEPSAKES BY BECKY SCHIPPER  
GENEALOGY GEMS: NEWS FROM THE FORT WAYNE LIBRARY NO. 75, MAY 31, 2010**

Some tips from the American Institute for Conservation’s online guides to “Caring for Your Treasures.”

**Books:**

\*Books require a cool, dry environment. Extremes in moisture and temperature can promote mold growth and cause the books to expand and contract, damaging the pages and their binding. \*Avoid prolonged exposure to ultraviolet light sources like sunshine and fluorescent bulbs. \*Books displayed on shelves should stand vertically, supported on both sides by an adjacent volume or bookend (but not too tightly). Leaning them diagonally against opposing surfaces can distort the spine and damage the cover. \*When packing your books for storage, use acid-free corrugated cardboard boxes

**Ephemera:**

\*Keep paper products like letters, drawings, and newspapers cool and dry. \*Limit exposure to ultraviolet light. Use incandescent or tungsten bulbs when viewing the documents or lighting them for display. \*Whether you’re storing or displaying paper materials, make sure you do it using chemically stable folders, boxes, and mat boards strong enough to prevent bending.

**Photographs**

\*Always keep photographs in a cool, dry, and well-ventilated place. High temperatures and moisture levels can accelerate deterioration and the growth of damaging molds. \*Protect photos from dust and light damage by storing them in plastic or paper containers that are chemically stable and free of acids, sulfur, and peroxides. When using photo albums, avoid those with magnetic or sticky pages, and store them in custom-fitted, acid-free boxes. \*Avoid prolonged exposure to light. Whenever possible, display a duplicate in place of the original, and frame it with acid-free materials and ultraviolet-filtering

For more information on protecting your keepsakes, visit the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works.

**WHAT’S COOKING  
BY JANICE BURKHART  
PETS DE NONNE - “NUN’S FARTS”**

This treat, with the very irreverent name, is a tasty treat much loved by French-Canadian children and adults as well! Our friend, Jean-Marie Hebert, often brought them in for our library patrons to enjoy in the break room. There are a number of explanations about how these sweet pastries got their name, but the most common is that it was a way for the common people to poke a little fun at the clergy. Pets de Nonne evolved as a way to use leftover pastry scraps. The pastry is brushed with butter, sprinkled with sugar, and rolled into spirals. The pastry spirals are then baked into crispy, flaky confections that are best eaten fresh and warm from the oven. I think you will enjoy these delicious little confections.

**Ingredients:**

1 recipe pastry dough or 1 package store-bought pie dough  
1/3 cup butter, softened  
2/3 cup light brown sugar  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon (optional)

**Preparation:**

Preheat an oven to 350F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside. Roll out the pastry dough into a 9-inch by 12-inch rectangle. Brush the butter over the dough. Mix the sugar and cinnamon together and then evenly sprinkle the mixture over the butter. Starting at the 9-inch end, roll up the pastry dough into a tight spiral. Slice it crosswise into 16 pieces about 1/2 inch each. Place the pastry spirals, cut side down, onto the prepared baking sheet. Place them close to each other. Bake them for 20 to 25 minutes, until the pastry has turned light golden brown and the sugar is caramelized. This pets de nonne recipe makes 16 servings.



**BLUEBERRY STREUSEL MUFFINS**

Well, it is SUMMER and what says SUMMER more than a nice, warm blueberry muffin? Nothing in my opinion! Here is a tasty recipe that will please the whole family.

**Streusel Topping Ingredients**

1/4 cup all purpose flour  
2 tablespoons packed brown sugar  
2 tablespoons firm butter or margarine  
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
Mix all ingredients until crumbly.

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**Muffin Ingredients:**

1 cup milk  
1/4 cup vegetable oil  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla  
1 egg  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
1/3 cup sugar  
3 teaspoons baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon (optional)  
1 cup fresh blueberries or 3/4 cup frozen (thawed and drained)

**Instructions:**

Heat oven to 400°. Prepare streusel topping. Grease the bottoms of 12 medium muffin cups or insert paper muffin cups. Beat milk, oil, vanilla, and egg. Stir in flour, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon and salt and **mix just until flour is moist**. Batter will be lumpy. Fold in blueberries. Divide evenly among muffin cups. Sprinkle with 2 teaspoons of the streusel topping and bake 20 - 25 minutes until golden brown. Makes 12 muffins.

**NEWS FROM OUR WEB-GUY  
BY BILL POMMENVILLE**

During one of my genealogy classes at AFGS, I mentioned that it is possible to access the census records at home for FREE. Depending on where you live, check out your public library and see what they offer that you can access at home. In our area, if you have a library card you can log in and get access to Heritage Quest as well as other information. Heritage Quest has the US census. Here we use the numbers below the bar code on the library card to log in. Give your library a call, visit the library in person or check out their web page. You might be very pleasantly surprised by what they have to offer.

**AFGS HELPS LOW VISION MEMBERS**

We are happy to report that AFGS has purchased a CCTV - a device that will help our members with low vision. Patrons can insert maps, books, magazines or other print materials into the machine and be able to read it on a screen at a much magnified size. We are very pleased to offer this new device which should help many of our older members enjoy our wonderful resources.

**AFGnewS NOW ON LINE  
BY BILL POMMENVILLE**

This is our second newsletter sent to members who have requested that we no longer send the newsletter by snail mail. We thank those members very much and hope that others will be willing to sign up.

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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. We hope you take this opportunity to sign up!

If you want to stop receiving the four AFGS newsletters normally mailed on their own and receive them online instead, please go to the AFGnews newsletter page on the web site and fill out the form. You will also find at the newsletter site further instructions concerning the newsletter.

### **AFGS HOSTS FIFTH GRADE CLASS**

AFGS recently hosted 23 fifth grade students from the Harris Elementary School in Woonsocket, RI. The children were studying about the “Immigrant Experience” in the city so it was a perfect opportunity to discuss the Franco-Americans who came to the city. It was really fun for Jan Burkhart who taught the class and for the children!



Students from the Harris School visited the AFGS library and learned about the “Immigrant Experience” in the city.



Student examines a sad iron and is surprised at how heavy it is.

## ARE YOU A PERRON?

L'Association des Familles Perron d'Amerique is having their annual meeting at St-Isidore-de-Clifton on August 21, 2010. All Perrons and their friends are welcome to attend. For more information, visit the Perron site - [www.famillesperron.org](http://www.famillesperron.org).

## WEB SITES YOU MIGHT ENJOY

[www.metismuseum.ca](http://www.metismuseum.ca) This web site is a very comprehensive attempt to chronicle traditional Métis history and culture on the World Wide Web and contains a wealth of primary documents – oral history interviews, photographs and various archival documents – in visual, audio and video files. In addition, many proven resources such as Steps in Time and Gabriel Dumont: Métis Legend have also been added to this site. Finally, new material, suitable for general information and for educators, has also been commissioned for The Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture. If you have an interest in Metis culture, check out this site.

[findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com) Find A Grave is a resource for finding the final resting place of family, friends, and 'famous' individuals. With millions of names and photos, it is an invaluable tool for the genealogist and family history buff. Find A Grave memorials can contain rich content including photos, biographies and dates. Visitors can leave 'virtual flowers' on the memorials they visit, completing the online cemetery experience.

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canbc/HughLArmstrong/qc1666/qc1666.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canbc/HughLArmstrong/qc1666/qc1666.htm) The first census of New France is presented as the names were listed. It includes 10 regions. It is not alphabetical but it is very interesting. There is a link that brings you to a page where a glossary lists some of the terms used.

[www.migrations.fr/700fillesroy.htm](http://www.migrations.fr/700fillesroy.htm) Here you will find an annotated list of Les Filles du Roi 1663-1673 - The Daughters of the King. The filles du roi, or King's Daughters, were some 770 women who arrived in the colony of New France between 1663 and 1673, under the financial sponsorship of King Louis XIV of France. These women played a very important role in our history. The sight offers links to sites for the **Carrignan Regiment** and **the ships that departed from Dieppe**. This is a very interesting site.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=6412572n&tag=related;photovideo> Everybody--you must watch this video! The ad takes about 30 seconds but this message will amaze you, and maybe, start you wondering about the last time you had your bank flash you a copy of your accounts--or the nurse in your Doctors office making you a copy of your medications or test results! And how about your IRS forms and broker accounts??? Here is some information that EVERYONE needs to know.

<http://www.wimp.com/wineshoe> Learn something new everyday. Well, here is what to do if you ever get caught without a corkscrew. How to open a bottle of wine with a shoe. Just watch. You don't need to understand French.

### **FIRE ALARM**

We have told you in the past about our new alarm systems. Well we got a chance to see how they work a few weeks ago when the alarm suddenly went off! Everyone exited the building and soon trucks from three different departments arrived. It was a very hot day but these men, in full gear, went all over our building for about 15 minutes. It was finally determined that we had spiders in one of the smoke detectors. It sure was nice to know that our investment is working and that we have such dedicated fire fighters in Woonsocket!



April, May and June arrive at the library. (Oops! That was a different calendar.) We are really lucky to have such accomplished men on our Fire Department.



As you can see, our members know what is important. Everyone grabbed their research before leaving the building.

### **TELL US WHAT YOU WANT!**

We are developing our calendar of classes for next year. We know our popular beginner's class will be held in the Fall and Spring. We may have a class on the Religious Wars and how the persecution of the Protestants in France may have a tie to your genealogy. We need 10 people in order for this class to take place so please notify [misskoko@aol.com](mailto:misskoko@aol.com) if interested in attending. If you have an idea for a class for next year, please contact [misskoko@aol.com](mailto:misskoko@aol.com). We would like to design classes that fit your needs and we are beginning to plan now.

### **PAUL DUMAINE DONATES RECORD PLAYER AND RECORD COLLECTION TO AFGS**

Much to the delight of AFGS Board members, Paul Dumaine donated to AFGS, the antique Pathe record player and record collection owned by his Great Grandfather, Theophile Gagne Paul also included the original oak record cabinet that housed Theophile's collection. These items will eventually be displayed in our museum. The records were particularly interesting as many of them were purchased in Woonsocket stores that no longer exist. I can picture my own Grandfather's record player that looked very similar. I can still see him sitting in his rocking chair listening to the music or listening to the news on his Philco radio. We are really grateful to Paul for his generous donation.



Paul cranks up the music!



Paul displays one of the many records in the collection.

**PUNS**  
**SENT TO US BY DENNIS BOUDREAU**

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 turned out to be 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. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
7. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
8. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
9. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
10. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
11. 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.'
12. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
13. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
14. The short fortuneteller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
15. The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
16. A backward poet writes inverse.
17. In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.
18. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
19. Two peanuts were walking through a dark alley. One was a salted.

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**THE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL GENEALOGISTS - NEW ENGLAND  
CHAPTER PRESENTS ELISSA SCALISE POWELL AT AFGS**

The Association of Professional Genealogists - New England Chapter will be presenting a program at AFGS. Elissa Scalise Powell CG will present two topics **Hiding Behind Their Skirts: Finding Women in Records** and **Continuing Education**. The program will be presented on Sunday, July 11, 2010 from 12:30 - 3:00 PM. For questions, contact: Tim Firkowski at [tim@the.genealogyassistant.com](mailto:tim@the.genealogyassistant.com) Price for the program is \$15.00 if you are a NEAPG member or \$30.00 if you are a nonmember. Make checks payable to NEAPG and send to

NEAPG ESPowell  
C/o Alice Kane  
P. O. Box 170204  
Boston, MA 02117

**CAN YOU HELP?**

AFGS is creating a very large database that will be very helpful to all researchers. We need help with data entry. We will be using program that can translate into EXCEL. If you can help and/or for further information, please contact [misskoko@aol.com](mailto:misskoko@aol.com).

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AFGS  
P. O. Box 830  
Woonsocket, RI 02895-0870  
Hrs: Mon 10 AM-4 PM Tues 1 PM-9 PM Sat. 10 AM - 4 PM

The American-French Genealogical Society  
P. O. Box 830, Woonsocket, RI 02895-0870  
Editors: Jan Burkhart and Lucile McDonald