



AFGnewS

American-French Genealogical Society
Woonsocket, RI



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March - April 2011

NEWS FROM 78 EARLE STREET Norm Deragon Chair, Building Fund Committee

It has been a hard winter here in Rhode Island and it has also been tough going for our fundraising efforts. Donations have slowed considerably and our building fund balance has dwindled.

Nevertheless, work continues on several fronts at the AFGS Franco-American Heritage Center. We recently received a legislative grant that will enable us to replace the doors at both rear entrances. This will contribute to our energy savings. During recent snow storms we could see the snow blowing through holes in the doors. If snow was blowing you can be sure heat was blowing out too. With oil costing us \$3.48 a gallon this season, it's a repair that is long overdue.

The building committee has met with a heating and air conditioning engineer to assess options for upgrading our heating system, particularly in the library. We have two boilers in the building. The larger steam boiler uses 16 gallons of oil an hour. The smaller hot water boiler is a bit more efficient (12 gallons an hour). We are exploring more energy-efficient alternatives to heating and cooling the lower level. We will report on the engineer's suggestion.

The committee is also planning to seek grants from several foundations to help off-set the cost of the heating system upgrade and window replacement in the lower level. We are also exploring a number of potential fundraising activities in the local area. We hope members who live within reasonable driving distance of Woonsocket will support these activities. Again, we will keep you posted as details are finalized.

BYLAWS TO BE REVIEWED

It has been many years since our bylaws have been reviewed. A committee has been formed to perform this important task. A few more people are needed. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact AFGS at P. O. Box 830, Woonsocket, RI 02895. Committee members must be able to attend meetings in RI and must be a member in good standing of the Society.

ONLINE AFGnewS NEWSLETTER VERY IMPORTANT PLEASE READ

Anyone who signs up on the Internet to receive the AFGnewS online newsletter **MUST** confirm their subscription. After signing up to receive the online newsletter you will receive a confirmation email. If

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P. O. Box 830, Woonsocket, RI 02895-0870
Editors: Jan Burkhart and Lucile McDonald

you do not click on that email you will not complete the process and will not be subscribed to the online newsletter. Any questions please contact Bill Pommenville wpommenville@afgs.org Thank you for your patience.

opportunities to enhance our services to other documentary heritage institutions. This makes sense from both the client service and business practice perspectives – to stay relevant, we must move forward."

As part of an overall strategy designed to provide more online public access, LAC will take a multifaceted approach: adapting services and transforming business processes to make access easier, and increasing online content by switching to digital formats. For more information about this, please visit www.collectionscanada.gc.ca

**A TIP FROM YOUR "BOOKIE"
BY JANICE BURKHART**

These two items will seem "old hat" to some of you, but I feel that I must stress them again as recent developments at the library point out their importance. For those who have read these hints before, I hope they will serve as a reminder and that you will try to follow thru on them.

First, please make arrangements for your research and collections. I know you have all spent untold hours of hard work and devotion on your genealogy research. You have, I am sure, also spent a great deal of money on photos, books, maps and charts. Please decide now where all these treasures will go when you die. It may come as a surprise to you, but not all family members may care about the family history. Ask around. If someone expresses an interest, ask if they would like your collections. If they agree, please make sure you let your Executer and family know what is to happen to your papers. If no one is interested, ask your local library, historical society or genealogy society. If one of them agrees to take your papers, again, make sure your Executer or family knows. It is heartbreaking to learn that years of work was thrown in the trash because provisions were not made.

Second on the list is **ALWAYS CITE YOUR REFERENCES!** A recent patron had a conflict in her chart. She did not cite her references and it took us several hours to help her track them down. It is almost guaranteed that at some point you will need to go back and check on something. Having the references handy will save you time.

**WHAT'S COOKING?
BY JANICE BURKHART**

POTATO CASSEROLE AND BAKED FRENCH TOAST

Easter will soon be here and some people use this time of year to serve brunch to friends and family. Here are two wonderful recipes that are sure to please.

POTATO CASSEROLE

INGREDIENTS:

1 two pound bag of frozen hash brown potatoes (Orida) Bag is actually a little less than 2 pounds.
1/4 cup melted butter
1 tsp salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
1/2 cup chopped onions
1 pint sour cream
1 can cream of chicken soup
2 cups mozzarella cheese (8 ounce bag)

Mix all ingredients together. Pour into a greased 9X13 casserole dish

TOPPING:

Mix 1 cup crushed corn flakes with 1/2 cup melted butter. Top casserole with corn flake mixture and bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour or until potatoes are well cooked.

BAKED FRENCH TOAST CASSEROLE WITH PECAN AND BLUEBERRY TOPPING

INGREDIENTS:

1 (16 oz) loaf supermarket French or Italian bread, sliced into 1-inch pieces
1 tablespoon unsalted butter, softened (to coat baking dish)
8 large eggs
2-1/2 cups whole milk
1-1/2 cups heavy cream
1 tablespoon granulated sugar
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg

TOPPING:

4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, softened
3/4 cup packed light brown sugar
1-1/2 tablespoons light corn syrup
1 cup pecans, chopped coarse
1 cup blueberries

PREPARATION:

1. **Casserole:** Slightly toast the bread slices in a baking pan for 10 minutes or until dry at 325 degrees. Pull out of oven to cool.
2. Butter a 13 x 9 inch baking dish and place the slices into it in two rows, slightly overlapping the slices. Whisk the eggs in a large bowl until combined. Then whisk in the milk, cream, granulated sugar, vanilla, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Pour the egg mixture over the bread slices. Cover the entire mixture with plastic wrap and push the bread slices into the egg mixture until soft and well coated. Refrigerate overnight.
3. **Topping:** Stir the butter, brown sugar, and corn syrup together until smooth and then stir in the pecans. Wrap in plastic wrap and also refrigerate overnight.
4. **Bake and serve:** Unwrap the casserole and bake in a preheated 350 degree oven for 45 minutes. Remove

from the oven and sprinkle the blueberries on top, then the pecan topping mixture and bake for another 15 minutes until golden brown and bubbling. Serve with warmed maple syrup.

WONDERFUL NEWS!

Everyone in our neck of the woods has been chatting about our new service. Our designation as a Family Search affiliate library is really causing excitement. The newspapers have given us wonderful coverage. Films are being ordered and the library is buzzing with excitement. If you would like to read some of the articles, check out these links.

[.http://breezepapers.com/2011/03/02/nsbw/woonsocket-s-afgs-taps-into-mormons-worldwide-genealogy-center](http://breezepapers.com/2011/03/02/nsbw/woonsocket-s-afgs-taps-into-mormons-worldwide-genealogy-center)

http://www.projo.com/news/content/WOONSOCKET_MORMONS_02-23_11_Q9MKV2Q_v44.193fdb0.html

<http://www.projo.com/news/content/>

APRIL SPEAKER LUCIE LEBLANC CONSENTINO

Lucie LeBlanc Consentino is a leading Acadian genealogist. Her web site, Acadian & French-Canadian Ancestral Home (www.acadian-home.org), is widely regarded as providing reliable, original, and comprehensive genealogical data. She has published in several Acadian and French-Canadian genealogy journals and speaks regularly at events in the U.S. and Canada. She was a speaker at two events during the Congrès Mondial Acadien 2004 (World Congress of Acadians) in Nova Scotia and one event in 2009 in Northern New Brunswick. She was honored to give the keynote address at the Commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the Deportation of the Acadians in Boston, Massachusetts. She has been interviewed by many mainstream media outlets about her genealogy work - most recently, by Radio Canada Television.

Check her web site and blogs:

Acadian & French-Canadian Ancestral Home - www.acadian-home.org/frames.html

Acadian & French-Canadian Ancestral Home Blog - <http://acadian-ancestral-home.blogspot.com/>

Lucie's Legacy - <http://lucieslegacy.blogspot.com/>

She is also administrator of the following:

Mothers of Acadia mtDNA Project :

<http://www.familytreedna.com/public/mothersofacadia/default.aspx?publicwebsite.aspx>

Acadian Genweb: <http://acadian-genweb.acadian-home.org/frames.html>

Acadian French-Canadian RootsWeb Mailing List:-

Acadian-French-Canadian-L-request@rootsweb.com

She is a proud member of the Daughters of the American Revolution through her Acadian ancestor Michel Bourque.

Her talk for AFGS on Saturday April 16, 2011, will begin at 10 AM and will last for about 2 hours. This wonderful speaker is being brought to us by a kind donation from the former Acadian Cultural Society.

Please join us on April 16th.

NEW ACADIAN HERITAGE SECTION AT AFGS.ORG

We are pleased to announce the addition of an **Acadian Heritage Section** to the American-French Genealogical Society's website. Included are over 200 links for **Acadian Genealogy** research as well as recipes, museums, music, plus events, festivals and much more. A section for historical videos,

stories, AFGS library holdings for Acadia as well as a section for Acadian heritage related news is included. You can also listen to the Acadian national anthem or get an Acadian timeline. Since almost all Quebecois have Acadian lines in their family, it would be helpful for you to check out our new addition to our website. Our Webguy has done a great job. Take a peek and see for yourself!

WEB SITES YOU MIGHT ENJOY

Have you ever wondered who lives near you? Here is a site that might interest you. Just type in a street name at the top of the form and your whole neighborhood map will pop up. Every place you see a red balloon or thumb tack is the home of a convicted felon. Just place your mouse over an icon and not only will the name come up, but also the crime they were convicted of.

<http://www.felonspy.com/search.html>

Ray Helie sends this site about French Speaking countries around the world:

<http://french-genealogy.typepad.com/genealogie/>

You will find information about various archives and interesting happenings.

Dick Eastman has a wonderful newsletter that will really keep you up to date on what is happening in the genealogical community. Please give it a peek.

http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/

To learn more about genetics, go to:

www.genome.gov/glossary

"A 105-year-old Acadian woman agrees to be filmed one Sunday as she goes about her daily routine and ruminates on life. Filmed by her great-grandson, Aldéa Pellerin-Cormier comments wisely on politics, sex and religion. From getting ready in the morning to drinking her nightcap before bed, every moment is punctuated with a witticism or existential thought. Respectful of the old woman's privacy, Daniel Léger's first documentary looks at wisdom, serenity and enjoyment of life. In French with English subtitles."

http://www.nfb.ca/film/sunday_at_105

Here is a fun test of your powers of observation. Click on the link and take the test. The normal rate is 7 out of 25. Good luck with this and have fun! <http://www.oldjoebblack.0nyx.com/thinktst.htm>

ADVICE FROM OUR WEB GUY BY BILL POMMENVILLE TIME LINE ON GOOGLE

Did you know you can do a timeline of anything you're searching for? I was very impressed with this feature and tried a number of things. Here is the way it works

Put something in the Google search box - a name an item a place etc. Select search, then, on the left hand side, select Timeline. If Timeline is not visible select "More Search Tools" and Timeline will display. You can do this with any search term. Once the results display you can select the year range of your Timeline.

You can try the links below as examples.

American French Genealogical Society example

http://www.google.com/webhp?rls=ig#sclient=psy&hl=en&safe=off&rls=ig&tbs=tl:1&q=%22american+french+genealogical+society%22&aq=&aqi=&aql=&oq=&gs_rfai=&pbx=1&fp=a20cfd04ba3c5cf9
<http://www.google.com/webhp?rls=ig#sclient=psy&hl=en&safe=off&rls=ig&tbs=tl:1&q=%22american+french+genealogical+society%22&aq=&aqi=&aql=&oq=&gs_rfai=&pbx=1&fp=a20cfd04ba3c5cf9>

Genealogy example

http://www.google.com/webhp?rls=ig#sclient=psy&hl=en&safe=off&rls=ig&tbs=tl:1&q=%22Genealogy%22&aq=0&aqi=g4g-o1&aql=&oq=&gs_rfai=&pbx=1&fp=a20cfd04ba3c5cf9

FOLLOW AFGS ON FACEBOOK

No need to join Facebook to read the information and see the pictures posted on the AFGS Facebook page. Just go to the AFGS website homepage www.afgs.org and click on the [Facebook logo](#).

NERGC CONFERENCE COMING TO SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS IN APRIL

The 11th New England Regional Genealogical Conference will be held in Springfield, Massachusetts from April 6th - April 10th. This is a wonderful conference sponsored by nearly two dozen New England genealogy societies. Check it out at <http://www.nergc.com> If you are an AFGS member who will be attending the conference, please come visit us at our booths in the vendor area. We would love to see you!

CAN YOU HELP?

Would you share your stories with us? **Je Me Souviens**, our semiannual journal is in need of articles. We want to make our journal interesting, informative and useful. We would like articles about your family research, methods for doing research, ways that you solved "brick wall" issues, reference books that you have found helpful, historical events that effected our ancestors such as sicknesses, famines, fires, wars, economic issues, migration problems, or division of property at the time of death. In other words anything that would interest our readers. To those who have already responded - Merci!

ENGLISH LANGUAGE GENEALOGY CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT MCGILL UNIVERSITY

ROOTS 2011 Is an International Conference on Family History Research hosted by the Quebec Family History Society. This event will be the largest English-language genealogical conference ever held in Quebec. There will be numerous well-known speakers discussing all aspects of family history research, computer demonstrations, and a book fair. All lectures and events are in English.

Date: June 3rd, 4th, & 5th 2011

Place: McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

For complete program details and registration form visit the QFHS website at: www.qfhs.ca

Or e-mail: roots2011@bell.net

You may also write to:

ROOTS 2011, Quebec Family History Society,

P.O. Box 1026, Pointe Claire, Quebec, Canada

H9S 4H9 or call: 514-428-0236

DNA CLASS

Thomas Allaire hosted a very interesting class on DNA and Genealogy as part of our continuing series of free genealogy classes. Please check the online newsletter at AFGS.org for a picture.

GENEALOGY TIP

By Joan Young

ARE YOUR GENEALOGY POSTS GETTING LOST IN THE FOREST?

Previously published in *RootsWeb Review*: 9 March 2011, Vol. 14, No. 3

Everyone has considered the age-old question "If a tree falls in the forest and no one is around, does it make a sound?" Both sides of that issue can be debated with valid arguments. However, when it comes to family history research there can be no debate about the difficulty in posting queries or data that will help interested people find your posts. This is especially true when your message concerns ancestors with surnames (last names) that are also common words or given names (first names). When you are researching surnames such as FOREST, LANE, ROBINS, or ROBERT, make use of all available options at your disposal at the time you post the message, and also when searching for existing posts. If you are not careful with common-word surnames your message will be like the tree that falls in the forest and no one will see or hear it.

Some pointers that may help you when posting and searching are:

1) Post your queries in places such as the RootsWeb/Ancestry message boards where database

offers a dedicated surname field. Enter only the surnames found in your query in the surname box. Enter the surnames in a manner that will enable proper indexing for future searches. If you enter: ROBERT(S) or LANE/LAINE your surnames

may not be found in a search unless someone were to enter the names exactly as you wrote them which is unlikely. Enter the surnames and variants individually with a comma and space to separate them: LANE, LAINE, ROBERT, ROBERTS. Do not enter any characters or symbols, dashes or slashes, which may cause the searcher to miss your entries or may introduce non-surnames into the search field. The words "and" "or" "etc." and "family" are not surnames and should not be entered into the surnames box. Properly entered surnames in a dedicated field will yield only surnames and no extraneous words in a search.

While most researchers will perform a search to find your message, some people prefer to browse through all messages on a board scanning the posts for items of interest. Commas separating surnames make it easier for researchers who browse to find names they are seeking. Your VAN WINKLE ancestors might be mistaken for separate surnames VAN and WINKLE unless you make use of commas as delimiters. Surname box entries listed: LANE, VAN WINKLE, ROBERT, ROBERTS make it clear

PARARROSDOKIAN SENT BY PAULINE COURCHESNE

A paraprodsokian is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or

unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to reframe or reinterpret the first part. It is frequently used for humorous or dramatic effect, sometimes producing an anticlimax.

1. Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.
2. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
3. The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on the list.
4. If I agreed with you we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. Evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening', and then tell you why it isn't.
9. A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. I have a work station.
10. How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?
11. Dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish.
12. I thought I wanted a career, turns out I just wanted pay checks.
13. Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says "In an emergency, notify:" I put "Doctor".
14. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
15. Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.
16. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
17. The voices in my head may not be real, but they have some good ideas!
18. Hospitality: Making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.
19. I discovered I scream the same way whether I'm about to be devoured by a great white shark or if a piece of seaweed touches my foot.
22. When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the Fire Department usually uses water.
24. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.