



# AFGS

American-French Genealogical Society  
Woonsocket, RI



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No. 3

May - June 2011

## AFGS TO EXPAND HOURS FOR THE SUMMER

AFGS will expand its hours this summer. In an effort to accommodate our many visitors and members, AFGS will experiment with having the library open on Saturdays during the month of June and August. **THE LIBRARY WILL NOT BE OPEN ON SATURDAY DURING THE MONTH OF JULY.**

In the past, opening on Saturday has met with mixed results. There were often more staff members on hand than there were visitors. Because of our expanded microfilm assets, the Board has decided to give the Saturday openings another try.

We hope that this will prove to be convenient to our members who live far from the center and who may be traveling this way during the Summer. If that is you - come on home. The welcome mat will be out!

## 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.

## BOOKS FOR SALE

We are pleased to announce an **AFGS Book Sale!!** We have a number of books with limited copies. We would like to sell these books to make room for newer titles. Check the enclosed list to see what we have.

In order to be fair, we ask that you fill out the form telling us what you would like to order. **DO NOT SEND MONEY.** We will draw the slips from a hat on June 1, 2011 and notify you if your order can be filled. Make sure you include an **e-mail address** and/or a **phone number**. Orders will be filled as they are drawn. If you are not notified, it means your slip was not drawn. There may not be enough books to complete your entire order.

## THANK YOU

We want to thank everyone who lent a hand for our Clean Up Day which was held on April 17th. In spite of rain showers and cloudy weather, our volunteers did a great job of sprucing up the parking lots and planting area. A special thanks to Marcella Boule, Bill Beaudoin, and Roger Beaudry.

## SAD NEWS

We sadly announce the death of Jean Marie Hebert, long time member of AFGS. Jean Marie was born in Weedon, PQ. He was the son of the late Jean-Baptiste Hebert and Oiada Tremblay Hebert. Jean Marie was 93 years old.

Visit us on the internet! [www.afgs.org](http://www.afgs.org) e-mail - [newsletter@afgs.org](mailto:newsletter@afgs.org)  
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

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Jean-Marie, who had a passion for genealogy, belonged to many genealogical blogs and bulletin boards. He helped countless people find answers to genealogical questions and was always so pleased when he unraveled a particularly knotty problem. He loved working on his computer; answering numerous e-mails each day; reading historical books about Quebec; and helping new members get started on their family trees.

Jean-Marie was a happy individual who loved to tell stories, cook, and speak French with a circle of friends here at the library. We will miss his salmon pies, banana bread, baked beans and pea soup. We will especially miss the twinkle in his eye when he told us about “Nun’s Farts”. Most of all, we will miss our very dear friend, Jean-Marie Hebert.

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

#### **THE NOTARY RECORDS**

Notaries played a big part in the daily life of our French-Canadian ancestors. They used a notary for marriage contracts, wills, inventories of personal goods, sale of land, contracts for work that would be done, contracts that would allow them to be a voyageur, sale of a cow, etc. These records have been well preserved in the archives and when used can give you a good idea of how your ancestors lived. Who attended the signing of the marriage contract? What did your ancestor own at the time of death? What type of business were your ancestors involved in? You might be very surprised when you read some of these documents but where will you find them?

At AFGS we have three very good sources of information. First, we have the Drouin film collection. Quite a few notary records have been microfilmed and are listed alphabetically by notary in the Drouin film catalog. Second, we have collections of notary records in printed book form. These records give a brief overview of what each record contains. Third, we have a number of books that list the notaries and the areas where they worked.

Another source of information is the Parchamin Project. For an excellent description of this project go to [https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Quebec\\_Notarial\\_Records](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Quebec_Notarial_Records)

This is a reference you should certainly check out and use.

### **WHAT’S COOKING BY JANICE BURKHART PATE CHINOIS DIT SHEPHERD’S PIE**

**Pâté chinois** is a French Canadian dish similar to [English cottage pie](#) or shepherd's pie . It is made from layered [ground beef](#) (sometimes mixed with [sautéed diced onions](#)) on the bottom layer, [canned corn](#) (either whole-kernel, [creamed](#), or a mix) for the middle layer, and [mashed potatoes](#) on top. Variations may include sprinkling [paprika](#) on top of the potatoes, reversing the layering of ingredients or adding cheese to the potatoes.

<p>The American-French Genealogical Society P. O. Box 830, Woonsocket, RI 02895-0870 Editors: Jan Burkhart and Lucile McDonald</p>
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Pâté Chinois is not a Chinese [recipe](#). One possible explanation for the 'Chinese' reference is that it was introduced to Chinese railway workers by Canadian cooks during the building of the North American railroads in the late 19th century. These cooks made it under instruction from the [railway](#) bosses (of English extraction) as an easily prepared, inexpensive version of the popular [cottage pie](#), with the sauce in the tinned creamed-corn serving as a substitute for the [gravy](#). The French Canadian railway workers became fond of it and brought the recipe back with them to their home communities. From there it was brought to the [textile mill](#) communities of [Maine \(Lewiston\)](#), [New Hampshire \(Manchester\)](#), [Massachusetts](#) (e.g. [Lowell](#) and [Lawrence](#)) and [Rhode Island \(Woonsocket\)](#) where many French Canadians immigrated to work in the mills during the early 20th century.

Another more probable explanation for the name was traced by Lionel Guimont, a student of linguistics at Laval University, who shared his idea with Quebec language historian Claude Poirier. Mr. Poirier later published an article to this effect. Mr. Guimont had met an old native of Maine who was visiting Canada for the first time and had heard the man call the dish "China pie". Based on the fact that "pâté chinois" would normally translate in "Chinese pie", referring to the country (like in "French fries" as opposed to "\*France fries"), Mr. Guimont wondered why the old man said "China pie", which in English refers to a city or a region (like in "Boston cream pie" as opposed to "\*Bostonese cream pie"). He then found that two towns in the state of Maine, called China and South China, had been a favorite destination for Québécois forest workers, who came down from la Beauce along the Kennebec river by the turn of the century. Even today, a vast portion of the population of the China region is from Québécois descent and still bear French names so Mr. Guimont concluded that the name "pâté chinois" had not come down to Maine from British Columbia via Québec (and become "Chinese pie") but rather went the other way. "China pie" must have been a common dish in lumbering camps and in mills kitchens around China. It had been (wrongly) translated later by the workers returning to Québec into "pâté chinois" because of the awkwardness of "pâté de Chine" in the French language. In parts of Maine, "pâté chinois" is referred to as "Chinese Party" -- phonetically more similar to the French term.

My mother made this dish quite often but she called it "Surprise Dish". I guess because there was a surprise under the mashed potatoes! Of course we always knew it was going to be peas or corn but that did not seem to matter. When Mom used regular whole kernel corn, she added some beef gravy to the hamburger. Try this really good, very traditional dish!

### Pâté Chinois

#### INGREDIENTS:

1 pound ground beef (previously browned with some onion, salt and pepper)  
1 can cream-style corn, peas or nibblets  
mashed potatoes (mashed with butter, milk, salt and pepper) about 7 potatoes

#### METHOD:

Spray a 9 inch baking dish with nonstick spray.

In baking dish, layer ground beef, then cream corn, then mashed potatoes. Sprinkle potatoes with paprika (optional). Bake 30 minutes at 350°F.

#### YIELD:

For all ingredients and seasonings, adjust amounts to your liking, and to the number of people you are serving. For example, . 1 lb beef + 1 can cream corn + 7 potatoes for 5-6 people.

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SERVING: In Quebec, it is often served with Ketchup. and pickled beets.

### WEB SITES YOU MIGHT ENJOY

If you think of this world as New York, Boston, London, Paris or Rome, look at this awesome video made by the BBC. It puts our world into perspective.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=2HiUMIOz4UQ&vq=large](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=2HiUMIOz4UQ&vq=large)

Do you remember those innocent days of the 1950's? If you do check out this website. It is nostalgia at its best.

<http://oldfortyfives.com/TakeMeBackToTheFifties.htm>

Or try <http://objflicks.com/TakeMeBackToTheSixties.htm> if you remember the 1960's more.

Space Station - Look at what happened from 1998 until 2008. In just ten years it has grown and grown. Watch the pieces come together as they are sent up from Earth. This is the International Space Station (ISS) Assembly diagram, piece by piece. I had no idea the Space Station had grown to this size.

[http://i.usatoday.net/tech/graphics/iss\\_timeline/flash.htm](http://i.usatoday.net/tech/graphics/iss_timeline/flash.htm)

**Are you interested in our environment? We offer this site in honor of Earth Day. Admittedly it is one side of the bottled water controversy but worth looking at if you are interested in recycling, oil usage, good quality water for everyone and saving money.**

<http://flickamag.com/2010/03/31/'the-story-of-bottled-water'-environment-video/>

And last on the list: A Day Of Glass! You won't believe this vision of what the future holds. I hope I will be able to use all this new technology! [http://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=6Cf7IL\\_eZ38&vq=medium](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=6Cf7IL_eZ38&vq=medium)

### ACADIAN ROOTS ?

If you have Acadian roots, you are invited to visit our Acadian pages at AFGS.org. This is a wonderful site where you will find many links and a lot of information. Most French-Canadians do have some Acadian lines in their genealogy so this is a very good place to explore.

### ADVICE FROM OUR WEB GUY BY BILL POMMENVILLE

#### HISTORICAL VIDEO LINKS ON THE AFGS WEBSITE

We are pleased to announce that we have links on the AFGS website to over 30 historical videos. Some are by the (NFB) National Film Board of Canada, and some are from You-tube and others. Now you can see and hear reenactments and most are professionally produced. Here is a partial list of the videos:

**Québec History:** Battle of Carillon, 1608; Samuel de Champlain; The British Conquest 1759; The French-Indian Alliance; British Invasion of Québec; The Fall of Huronia; Jesuit' The Battle on the Plains of Abraham; The End of the Iroquois Wars; Battle of Ste-Foy and Pontiac; French and English Rivalry; The American Revolution; Great Peace of Montreal 1701; The Lower Canada Patriots; French and Indian War; The Patriots Rebellion 1837; The Battle of the Monongahela; The Acadian Deportation; Act of Union and Louis Riel; Battle of Fort William Henry; Depression and the Métis ; Native American History; Métis North West Rebellion; History of Canada; The Voyageurs; and more. **Note these are not all Acadian videos.**

## NERGC CONFERENCE AT SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS A GREAT SUCCESS

Nearly 900 people joined us at the most recent NERGC Conference in Springfield this April. It was so much fun. The speakers were excellent. The vendor area had a variety of booths to visit. The Road Show, Society Meetings, and Special Interest Groups were very well attended. And there was lots of time to visit with other people who share your passion for genealogy. Our next conference will be in Manchester, NH in April of 2013. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. You will have the time of your life.



### 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!

### NEW ENGLAND CAPTIVES CARRIED TO CANADA

by Cynthia Theusch

Reprinted from **Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library No. 85, March 31, 2011**

Conflicts with Indian tribes native to New England made life for colonial settlers a sometimes hazardous affair. During times of high tension or open hostilities, men moved their families to a nearby fort, if available, and took turns going to work in the fields. But otherwise settlers remained vulnerable when at home on their farms and many fell victim to Indian attacks. The historical annals of many New England towns list the names and relate the stories of those who were killed, captured, and ransomed, or who managed to escape.

Curious about the ultimate fate of those who never returned, two women, C. Alice Baker and Emma Lewis Coleman, decided to trace the unredeemed captives. Drawing on published histories and eyewitness accounts – some related by the captives themselves – the pair made several trips to Quebec to search archives and parish registers for evidence of the missing. They discovered that some captives were baptized, given new names, married and stayed in Quebec, while others were sent to France. Three volumes contain the fruits of their investigations and should be of interest to anyone with colonial New

England roots. Baker’s “True Stories of New England Captives Carried to Canada During the Old French and Indian Wars” was published in 1897 and is now available in a reprint edition with an added every name index. Coleman’s indexed volumes, “New England Captives Carried to Canada Between 1677 and 1760 During the French and Indian Wars,” appeared in 1925.

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These books are filled with harrowing accounts of those who suffered. Coleman relates the story of Ebenezer and Mary (Harnden) Preble who lived at George Town in Maine between Day's and Sagadahook Ferries. On the 8th of June 1758, Ebenezer was surprised in his field by four Indians and shot dead. His wife died defending the house, and their six children along with two young servants, Sarah Fling and Simon Gurdy, were taken captive. Rescuers found that the youngest child, William, and the servant boy had been killed shortly after capture. The others were taken to Quebec and sold to the French. One daughter, Mehitable, was later found to have been taken to France. Daughters Rebecca and Mary were recovered in 1759 and sons Samuel and

Ebenezer in 1761. Their grandfather, yeoman Jonathan Preble, poor and infirm, had exhausted his resources and personally journeyed to Canada in his efforts to recover them.

Besides vivid tales of captivity, these accounts contain useful genealogical information. For example, Ebenezer Preble was born in 1725 and was third in descent from Abraham of Scituate and York. His father, Jonathan, came from York to Arrowsic in 1716. Ebenezer's wife, Mary, was the daughter of Captain Samuel Harnden.

(AFGS has both of these books at the library. Many of us have a captive in our Quebecois line. These are very interesting books. Jan)

### **QUICK TIP OF THE MONTH FOR PRESERVATION - SCAN AND SHARE**

**by Dawne Slater-Putt**

**Reprinted from Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library No. 85, March 31, 2011**

Perhaps the best way to preserve photographs is to ensure that the ones you have are not the only copies in existence – scan and share! With improved scanning technology, it takes very little time to scan a photograph. Scanners allow you to choose a file format (tif, jpg, etc.), scan your photos and save them on your computer.

Once photos are scanned, the possibilities for sharing them are endless, ensuring that the images are preserved for future generations. Consider the possibilities: \*E-mail them to relatives \*Upload them to an album in Facebook or to another social media or photo sharing location \*Use a different ancestral photo as your Facebook profile picture each month \*Post them on a blog \*Upload them to a family website \*Print them and mail to relatives \*Include them in a print or online family newsletter \*Include them in a print or online local or state genealogical society newsletter \*Mass produce mugs, tee shirts, calendars, mouse pads ... with ancestral photos and give as gifts or give away/sell at family reunions \*Include them in a family history book \*Insert them into your genealogy computer program \*Upload them to Ancestry.com's family tree area \*Create a photobook using computer scrapbooking software

Scanning photos can seem like an overwhelming task. Prioritize! Perhaps handle your oldest photos first, or those of your direct ancestors. Or tackle one side of the family, then the other. By scanning just a few photos at a time on a regular basis, you can make significant progress in a short period of time.

(At the recent NERGC conference, I purchased a FlipPal scanner. It is small, lightweight, runs on batteries and is easy to use. Check out the various scanners available. They really are fun to use. Jan)

**LUCIE LeBLANC CONSENTINO'S CLASS A BIG SUCCESS**

AFGS members and friends were treated to a wonderful class led by Lucie LeBlanc Consentino. Lucie spoke and answered questions for about two hours. Her knowledge of Acadian genealogy is superior and she certainly imparted wonderful information to her audience. The more than 50 attendees were very pleased with the class.



**A CANADIAN FOLK LEGEND  
TRANSLATED BY RICHARD AND GEORGE CHRISTIAN  
THE WEREWOLF**

According to French legend, the werewolf is simply a person condemned by Satan to assume the form of an animal and to wander through seven districts during the night of its transformation. At dawn, absent a mortal accident, the werewolf returns home. Under its assumed form, the werewolf ridicules men, and fears no dangers which would kill any other man. The slightest blow from a weapon or a blessed projectile returns it to its original form. A new attack ends its existence.

In our Canadian countrysides, the werewolf was, rather, a condemned person, who after death, was changed into a werewolf because of misdeeds committed during his lifetime. The punishment was prolonged for seven years and seven months; the principal reason for it was the neglect to perform one's Easter duties or some notable scandal which had saddened the whole parish. The werewolf ran through the fields at night; anyone who crossed his path could free the unfortunate soul by tracing a large sign of the cross. But the scalawag was not easily approached. Moreover, our good countrymen had such fear of werewolves that they took to their heels as soon as they saw one.

The legend, or rather the superstition, about werewolves lasted a long time in Canada. Even well-educated people believed in them. Indeed, such a serious journal as *The Gazette de Québec* informed its readers that werewolves roamed the countryside along the river in Kamouraska.

(Even here in my small town, werewolves were not unfamiliar to the French population. My uncles told me that as boys they always got home before dark because they were convinced that there was a werewolf that roamed the woods. **I'd say I had a pretty smart Grandmother!!** Jan)

**OUR STRANGE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

We hear and use strange words and phrases everyday but normally do not even think about them. Think about these.

1. Is it good if a vacuum really sucks?
2. Why is the third hand on the watch called the second hand?
3. If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?
4. If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words?
5. Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?
6. Why does "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?
7. Why does "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing?
8. Why do "tug" boats push their barges?

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9. Why do we wash bath towels? Aren't we clean when we use them?
10. Why are they called "stands" when they are made for sitting?
11. Why is it called "after dark" when it really is "after light"?
12. Doesn't "expecting the unexpected" make the unexpected expected?
13. Why are a "wise man" and a "wise guy" opposites?
14. Why do "overlook" and "oversee" mean opposite things?
15. Why is "phonics" not spelled the way it sounds?
16. If work is so terrific, why do they have to pay you to do it?
17. If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?
18. If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?
20. Why is bra singular and panties plural?

## Book List

Put a check next to each book you wish to purchase. We will contact you if your order can be filled. Send no money now. Orders will be drawn on June 1, 2011.

\_\_\_\_\_ Notaries of French Canada 1626 - 1900 **\$14.95** Good reference when working with Notary records

\_\_\_\_\_ King's Daughters and Founding Mothers - The Filles du Roi 1663 - 1673 2 Vol. Excellent short biographies of those women who populated Quebec. We all have a few. **\$57.95**

\_\_\_\_\_ Before the King's Daughters - The Filles a Marier 1634-1662 **\$34.95** Biographies of those brave women who came to Quebec without a sponsor

\_\_\_\_\_ The Notaire As An Agent of Dynamism and Culture in Quebec Society. **\$10.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ The "Dit" Name: French-Canadian Surnames, Aliases, Adulteration and Anglicizations . This is an essential book for researchers. "Dit names are so common and cause many roadblocks. This book will help. **\$22.95**

\_\_\_\_\_ Metis Families by Gail Morin - 6 Volumes This genealogical Compendium is a must for those who have Metis families to research. **\$373.95** (Only one set left.)

\_\_\_\_\_ La Grande Recrue de 1653 - The Colonists Who Saved Montreal (In English) **\$44.95** Great book! Discover who these carpenters, barrel makers, gunsmiths etc. were.

\_\_\_\_\_ Searching Through the Old Records of New France. Notes from Father Cyprien Tanguay's research when the Tanguay Dictionary was being written. Details concerning some of the included families. **\$34.95**

\_\_\_\_\_ Research and Reference Guide for French-Canadians - Excellent book for researchers! How to read the reference books; French-English names; Parishes in New England and Quebec; Counties in New England; meanings of words you may encounter during research; and more. Comes with a Quebec map and sample charts. **\$35.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ Red Drouin Books Volumes 1 and 2. Helps you trace your ancestors back to France. Starts with marriages circa 1760. Books are GBC bound. **\$120.00**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**AFGS Number** \_\_\_\_\_