



# A F G S

*American-French Genealogical Society  
Woonsocket, RI*



Volume: XXI

No. 3

May - June 2010

## **NEWS FROM 78 EARLE STREET Norm Deragon Building Committee Chair**

The AFGS Board of Directors has approved a recommendation from the building committee that the flat roof on our building be replaced rather than patching sections. Ultimately the Society would have to replace the roof in the future. Based on discussions with roofing contractors, it was decided that replacing the roof now would be less expensive in the long run. The committee also believes that the replacement of the roof and repairs to flashing around the bell tower would eliminate spot leaks around the structure, particularly in the former sanctuary. The roof work will also include removing the crucifix from the roof, which is rusted and becoming an eye sore.

Another important project approved by the board last month was the replacement of pipes that feed the water and gas lines in the building. Presently, water pipes are located under the cement flooring in the lower level and are starting to leak. This is a recipe for disaster should a pipe burst, particularly when the Society is closed. New piping will be installed above ground and all the old gas pipes in the walls (from the 1920s when gas light fixtures were on the walls) will be deactivated. This will provide us with a much safer environment within the entire structure.

The Society is also upgrading the emergency exit doors on the Earle Street side of the building (first floor). New crash bars and a new lock will be installed making for easier egress from the building in the event of an emergency.

Much has been done to improve the appearance and integrity of our building over the past two plus years. We have replaced the roof over the "new" section of the building, repaired and reset the masonry around the outside, installed new fire and security alarm systems, constructed new ADA-compliant rest rooms in the lower level, upgraded emergency lighting and exit signage throughout the building, renovated first floor rooms into a meeting/training area, and special collections study.

Prior to purchasing the building the second phase of fund raising was launched. The campaign ultimately raise over \$100,000. That combined with the money raised in phase one enabled us to purchase the building outright and execute the repairs listed above. Despite all those expenditures, we still have about \$3,000 left in the building fund!

However, \$3,000 will not pay for the projects that are on the drawing board. The building committee is interviewing engineering firms to conduct an efficiency study for our heating system to determine the most efficient and environmentally-friendly means of upgrading the system throughout the building to include climate control to prevent mold and other potential damage in the library, particularly during the humid New England summers. We also continue to explore the best means of providing full accessibility to the building. This will involve some sort of lift system, for those who are not able to negotiate stairs. We will also address new flooring in the lower level and a number of cosmetic upgrades (in other words painting and polishing where needed).

Out of town members and local members who haven't been to the Society in a while are amazed at what we have done in such a short period of time. Nonmember visitors have nothing but praise for the structure and the potential it presents. There is no question that we have a "diamond in the rough," and are working hard to develop the Franco-American Heritage Center that the board of directors had in mind when it created the Vision Plan for the AFGS three years ago.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our donors. The majority of the contributions came directly from AFGS members. If you have not visited AFGS, we invite you to stop and see firsthand why we are so enthusiastic about the Society's future.

### **ARE YOU A COMPUTER PROGRAMMER?**

We are working on a very big project. This work has been going on for a long time. We are thinking that the program needs to be rewritten so that more modern software programs could be used to record the data. Could any of our members help us with this programming issue?

### **DO YOU HAVE SKILLS THAT COULD HELP US AS WE RESTORE OUR BUILDING?**

We would welcome any help. Just write or e-mail us a note with your skills or interests and we will be in touch.

### **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, Massachusetts and of course the Drouin collection. 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.

### **WHAT'S COOKING BY JANICE BURKHART Cold Strawberry and Peach Soup**

By the time you receive this newsletter, it will be close to strawberry time. Don't you just love strawberries? They are so pretty, they smell wonderful, and they taste great especially if you have just picked them and they are still warm from the sun.

I can still remember how wonderful strawberry shortcake tasted when one of our local churches served it at little tables set up on the lawn under the big elm trees. Nothing can beat strawberry shortcake but here is another recipe that I think you will make time and again once you try it. It is a great summer lunchtime treat - strawberry and peach soup!

**Ingredients:**

1 cup of sliced strawberries	1 sliced peeled peach
1 8 ounce carton strawberry yogurt	1-2 Tbls. sugar (depending on the fruit's sweetness)
2 Tbls. lemon juice	thinly sliced lemon rounds - optional
fresh mint sprigs - optional	extra thinly sliced strawberries (optional)

**Directions:**

Combine sliced peaches, strawberries, yogurt, sugar and lemon juice in a blender and blend until smooth. Pour into a bowl, cover and refrigerate 1-2 hours until well chilled. Spoon into bowls and garnish with lemons, mint or extra sliced strawberries.

This will make 5 half cup servings. I'll bet you will want more.

### Strawberry Sauce

Here is an easy and good recipe. Use it on cheesecake, angel food cake or ice cream.

**Ingredients:**

1 pint of strawberries, cleaned, stemmed and sliced	1/3 cup white sugar
1 teaspoon of vanilla	

**Directions:**

Set aside 1/4 of the strawberries

Put remaining strawberries and sugar in a saucepan and cook over medium high heat until sauce thickens - about 5 - 10 minutes. Stir frequently.

Remove from heat. Add vanilla. Place in a blender and blend until smooth.

Add remaining berries and stir to mix. This is a simple and delicious sauce for your dessert.

### HOW TO PROPERLY CLEAN STRAWBERRIES

Here is a very interesting video concerning the proper way to clean strawberries. Apparently, they host very tiny white insects that are found around the seeds and under the greens near the stem. It is recommended that you wash them in soapy water, rinse very well and cut away the stem and green leafy part. I never knew this. It is worth watching. <http://www.star-k.org/cons-appr-vegetables-videos10.htm>

### WHAT'S NEW ON THE AFGS WEB SITE

By Bill Pommenville

### OBITUARY INDEX DATABASE NOW ON LINE

The American-French Genealogical Society obituary project was started in 1978 and continues to this day. Over the years, newspaper obituaries were submitted to AFGS by members from the US and Canada. These Obituaries were compiled into Volumes and are available at the AFGS library as a research aid. Currently there are over 150 volumes in this collection with over 400,000 listings. We would like to thank all the volunteers who, over the years, have contributed to this collection and continue to work on this project This index is now online at [afgs.org](http://afgs.org).

At the online site, you will find a searchable index of these 400,000 plus listings. It is important to note that the actual newspaper obituaries are NOT online. This is the index only. Actual newspaper obituaries are available only at the AFGS Library.

With the addition of the obituary index, AFGS now has two searchable databases on line The Obituary Index and the Head Stone Index. Please note: neither of these have the actual obituary or headstone picture on line.

## **NEW SERVICE OFFERED BY THE AFGS**

**By Fran Tivey and Bill Pommenville**

We understand that it may be difficult to visit our library to access some of the information we are now showing in the searchable indexes.

Also we have a number of microfilms of vital records including Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire as well as the Drouin microfilm collection of Canadian records from 1606 to 1935.

We are pleased to announce that we are offering an **AFGS Copy Service**. This service will provide copies of actual obituaries, head stone pictures or copies of birth, marriage or death records contained on one of the microfilms. This service is available to AFGS members and nonmembers alike. Please check the site [http://www.afgs.org/forms/Film\\_Room\\_Request.html](http://www.afgs.org/forms/Film_Room_Request.html) to find out which records are available and also to find the form which must be completed.

For AFGS members, a number of copies of obituary and head stone pictures will be available for free. Also, AFGS members will receive a reduced price for copies of events from the microfilms. Nonmembers can receive the obituary, head stone pictures and microfilm copies for a small fee.

**Very important - PLEASE NOTE:** This is a copy service only. It is not a research request service. You must provide the necessary information on the provided form in order for the request to be processed. Also, all transactions will be by e-mail. None will be handled by regular mail.

### **HEARING IMPAIRED RESEARCHER NEEDS YOUR HELP**

We have received a letter from Ghislain Champion ([g.Champion@hotmail.com](mailto:g.Champion@hotmail.com)). She writes, "I am deaf. I want to find a genealogist doing work on the families Champion and Harvie (Harvey) on Cote Nord in Québec. Thank you. Ghislain Champion" If you can help, please contact her.

### **ACCESS TO MASSACHUSETTS RECORDS MAY BE IN PERIL**

Pauline Courchesne provides the following information which was sent to her: The National Genealogical Society UpFront blog is reporting on another threat to vital records access, which could make it harder for genealogists to learn about their Massachusetts ancestors. Massachusetts Senate Bill 820 would close the state's birth and marriage records dated after 1841, the year statewide record keeping began, so only the person named in the record or his parent, guardian or attorney could see it or get a copy.

From the UpFront blog: "The Bill's text eliminates the current section that closes out-of-wedlock births and replaces the entire section with text that closes all births and marriages. The last sentence states, 'The provisions of this section shall not apply to such records, returns or notices recorded or filed prior to January first, eighteen hundred and forty-one or to such copies thereof.'"

Right now, you can order certified copies of vital records dated 1841 to 1915 from the Massachusetts State Archives It's unclear how Senate Bill 820, if passed, might affect that service.

Some post-1841 Massachusetts vital records and indexes are available at sites such as the NewEnglandAncestors.org subscription databases and in the free FamilySearch Record Search pilot, as well as on Family History Library microfilm.

Many states restrict records for up to 100 years, after which the person in the record is likely to be deceased but closing 169-year-old records seems unnecessary. See the UpFront blog for information on to whom you can address your concerns regarding the legislation.

## **AFGnewS READY TO GO ON LINE**

### **BY BILL POMMENVILLE**

This will be the first newsletter sent to members who have requested that we no longer send the newsletter by snail mail. We thank those members very much.

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.

### **DNA**

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 site at [www.afgs.org](http://www.afgs.org) Also, the following site will give you a neat slide show regarding the routes man used as he spread out across the globe and found new homes <http://www.bradshawfoundation.com/journey/>

### **WEB SITES YOU MIGHT ENJOY**

With all the news concerning cars that cannot be stopped, we thought that this might be a good site for you to check out. It gives advice about what to do if your car accelerates and cannot be stopped.

<http://video.consumerreports.org/services/player/bcpid1886192484?bclid=0&bctid=48234862001>

Lawrence ( Larry) Bergeron, member # 6227, writes "This link will explain the thinking of those who stand to determine the final form of the 2010 Census that will be on view in future years (72 years) for genealogists and family history researchers alike.

Apparently the US Census Bureau once again has decided to retain only the data from the census and not microfilm the forms. You can read about it here: Be informed and consider the opportunity to make your views heard on the subject before the decision has been made for perpetuity.

<http://blog.capecodgensoc.org/2010/02/save-2010-census-no-images-to-be.html>

Fran Tivey writes: Google now offers a new translation tool for users who want to translate a web site written in languages other than English. It will translate the entire site for you. Go to the Google search page. On the right hand side of the search button you will see Language Tools. Click on this button. You will have a choice between Automatically selected languages or Specific languages. If you select Specific languages, a list of languages will come up. Pick the language you want and Google will do the rest. This could open up a whole new world for you!

I've been in contact with a person who lives in Rouen, France and he has sent me a few great French links. (Use the Google program to translate the sites). On one of these sites you'll see that you can order BMD documents of your ancestors for the price of \$0.00. In the past I've spent \$75.00 for a 4 page contract of a marriage. I even supplied them with the sources. Here's a list of a few of the sites. requests per month and there is about a one month waiting period.

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<http://www.entraidegenealogique.net/index.php>

On this site there is a list of volunteers who will look up the documents you want. There is a small fee for the cost to copy the record and shipping it. You're allowed 2

<http://www.francegenweb.org/entraide.php>

This is the FranceGenweb which contains self-help and mutual aide.

<http://www.ucghn.org> This site contains information of the department of Normandy.

<http://fr.groups.yahoo.com/search?query=genea&sort=relevance> This site contains web sites of the different departments in France.

**Here is an example of the old French records you could receive,**

Are you doing British Columbia research? Try this site. It contains some very good information:  
<http://search.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/sn-2635371/gbsearch/Births,Marriages,Deaths>

The link below is a virtual wall of all those lost during the Vietnam war with the names, biographies and other information on our lost heroes. Those who remember that time frame, or perhaps lost friends or family, can look them up on this site. First click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city and the names will appear. Then click on a name. It should show you a picture of the person, or at least the person's biography and medals.

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

Robert McCormick wrote: I found this web site while looking for descriptions of occupations listed on census forms and thought it might be helpful to other members. [www.rmhh.co.uk/occup/](http://www.rmhh.co.uk/occup/)

Here are 4 excellent sites for Nova Scotia that were found on the Acadian-French-Canadian Rootsweb site:  
St. Hyacinth's D'Escousse, N. S. Church Records:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~grose/church.html>

Cheticamp, Nova Scotia:

<http://cheticampns.com/genealogy.html>

Pomquet, Nova Scotia:

<http://www.pomquet.net/church.htm>

N-D de L'Assomption Parish Records, Arichat, N. S.

<http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/j.josse/ArichatRecords.htm>

### **DO YOU LIVE IN CALIFORNIA?**

The Southern California Genealogy Society is planning a great conference. One focus will be on Canada. Check it out at their Jamboree site. <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/2010jam-home.ht>

## FAMILY ASSOCIATIONS

Remember, if you have a family association you would like us to know about, send the information to [misskoko@aol.com](mailto:misskoko@aol.com).

### 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. 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.

### PRESERVATION TIP OF THE MONTH

by Becky Schipper

Reprinted with permission from Genealogy Gems:

News from the Fort Wayne Library

No. 73, March 31, 2010

Over the course of a year I am asked many questions about preservation and conservation topics. Two of the more frequently asked questions and my responses are listed below.

**How is conservation different from restoration?** There is some confusion regarding the terms "restoration" and "conservation." Restoration is one type of conservation treatment. Restoration specifically refers to an attempt to bring an item closer to its original appearance. The other type of conservation treatment is stabilization. Stabilization refers to an attempt to maintain the integrity of an item by minimizing or arresting deterioration.

#### **How and where can I get something appraised?**

Conservation professionals can identify or provide more information about an item, but they should not appraise it for monetary value. The American Institute for Conservation recommends that you solicit appraisals from a designated appraisal expert. Two recommended sources are the Appraisers Association of America <[www.appraisersassoc.org](http://www.appraisersassoc.org)> and the American Society of Appraisers <[www.appraisers.org](http://www.appraisers.org)>

### VAN GOGH GENEALOGY REVISITED AGAIN

Apparently, the Van Gogh family is bigger than we first thought it to be. Our friend John M. Dauray wrote: I have located several more relatives for the Van Gogh family. There is the aunt who is addicted to gambling in church basements. Her name is Bin Gogh. There is the nephew Lo Gogh who does commercial advertising, Also there is Man Gogh - the family fruit importer and Cit Gogh, the brother who owns the gas station. Mr. Dauray hopes the Van Gogh family is happy with all the work that has been done on their family tree.

### THE NEXT NERGC CONFERENCE IS BEING PLANNED

**Don't forget to join us April 6 -10, 2011, in Springfield, MA, for the 11th New England Regional Genealogical Conference!** Check out the NERGC web site, [www.nergc.org](http://www.nergc.org), sign up for the free E-Zine and mark your calendars now. You will love this conference.

### COULD YOU QUALIFY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE DAR OR SAR?

On the Acadian-French-Canadian Rootsweb site I found this interesting note from Lucie Consentino: Some of you may not realize that some Acadian ancestors fought in the American Revolution. If you descend from one

of the Acadian Patriots you are eligible for membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) or the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR).

Stephen A. White put a list together of the names of the Acadian men who fought under Captain Isaie Boudreau. That list can be found here:

<http://stephenwhite.acadian-home.org/american-revolution.html>

To inquire as to whether or not your ancestor has been approved already you can go to the National DAR site at [http://www.dar.org/natsociety/pi\\_lookup.cfm](http://www.dar.org/natsociety/pi_lookup.cfm) and a volunteer will check to see if he has been approved. Even if your ancestor has not been approved you can apply and be the first to have him approved.

I do not know if the SAR provides the same service but they do have a site: <http://www.sar.org/>

### WHO WERE THE RECOLLETS?

This question was recently asked on one of the genealogy forums. Here are the answers. From Renee - The Récollets were a Roman Catholic religious order founded in France in the 16th century. The order sent the first missionaries to the Huron in 1615. The Récollets were replaced by the Jesuits after 1626 and left New France. They returned later during the 17th century, but played a secondary role in the missionary work. From Father John: The Récollets were a branch of the Order of Friars Minor (OFM), more commonly called Franciscans. Recollection houses were, strictly speaking, friaries to which friars desirous of devoting themselves to prayer and penance could withdraw to dedicate their lives to spiritual recollection. By the late 18th century, the French Récollets had 11 provinces with over 2500 friaries. The Order was suppressed in France during the Revolution. In other European countries they were -- and still are -- known as "Capuchin Friars."

### CLASSY INSULTS

The exchange between Churchill & Lady Astor: She said, "If you were my husband I'd give you poison."  
He said, "If you were my wife, I'd drink it."

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A member of Parliament to Disraeli: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease." "That depends, Sir," said Disraeli, "whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."

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"He had delusions of adequacy." Walter Kerr

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"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire. Winston Churchill

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"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure." Clarence Darrow

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"He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary." William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway).

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"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it." - Moses Hadas

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"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." - Mark Twain

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"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends." Oscar Wilde

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"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend.... if you have one."  
George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

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"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second .... if there is one."

Winston Churchill's response  
=====

"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here." Stephen Bishop  
=====

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator."

John Bright  
=====

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." Irvin S. Cobb  
=====

"He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others." Samuel Johnson  
=====

"He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up."

Paul Keating  
=====

"In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily." Charles, Count Talleyrand  
=====

"He loves nature in spite of what it did to him." Forrest Tucker  
=====

"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" Mark Twain  
=====

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." Mae West  
=====

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." Oscar Wilde  
=====

"He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lampposts ... for support rather than illumination." Andrew Lang (1844-1912)  
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"He has Van Gogh's ear for music." Billy Wilder  
=====

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it." Groucho Marx  
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## KIDS IN CHURCH

3-year-old Reese : 'Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen.'

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A little boy was overheard praying: 'Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am.'

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After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, 'That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys.'

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One particular four-year-old prayed, 'And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets.'

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A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, 'And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?' One bright little girl replied, 'Because people are sleeping.'

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A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. 'If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.' Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, ' Ryan , you be Jesus !'

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A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand. "Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked. 'He died and went to Heaven,' the Dad replied.

The boy thought a moment and then said, 'Did God throw him back down?'

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A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, 'Would you like to say the blessing?' 'I wouldn't know what to say,' the girl replied. 'Just say what you hear Mommy say,' the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, 'Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?'