



AFGnews

American-French Genealogical Society
Woonsocket, Rhode Island



January-February 2015

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

BY NORMAND DERAGON

Welcome back to the printed version of AFGnews. It has been a year or so since we decided to eliminate the printed version for the high resolution, full-color digital version. At the time it seemed like the right move to make since we are living in the digital age and many organizations had made the same decision.

As we began soliciting e-mail addresses from the membership, we discovered that over a year or so we had gathered e-mail addresses from only about a third of the membership. If we stayed with our decision to remain "digital only," we would not be corresponding with the majority of the membership. Thus we decided to reinstate the printed version in the old format at least temporarily.

Our biannual journal, *Je Me Souviens*, is professionally oriented and distributed by mail. That will continue. However the cost of producing and mailing JMS continues to rise. The cost of producing and mailing both the AFGnews and JMS exceeds \$10,000 annually.

I am exploring the possibility of combining the publications into a magazine-type format that would be mailed to the membership quarterly. We would include news items, guest columns and articles like those that are printed in JMS. I am meeting with printers and discussing options. Stay tuned for more details.

I am pleased to see our new library wing taking shape. Hopefully we will be holding a ribbon cutting ceremony in the coming months. We are also working to renovate our existing wing and may be adding new library tables and chairs and adding computer terminals to accommodate our members and guests.

VISIT US

If your summer vacation includes a trip to New

England, plan to visit us. We would love to meet you and show you around your Society. The welcome mat is always out.

A TIP FROM YOUR BOOKIE

BY JAN BURKHART - AFGS LIBRARIAN

I would like to focus on a set of books called the **Petit Drouin** which was written by Noël Allaire, Benoît Charette and Lucien Pépin. This valuable series of books covers the period 1760 - 1825 and has many marriages that come right after the Red Drouin books end. Many times hard to find or missing marriages can be found in these volumes.

The volumes are arranged alphabetically by the groom's name. The first line of each entry contains the names of the bride and groom. The second line contains the names of the bride and groom's parents. The third line contains the date and place of the marriage. You will also find a reference to tell you where the information was found.

If you are having difficulty finding a marriage in this time frame, I highly recommend that you try this set of books.

BEGINNERS CORNER

BY DENNIS M. BOUDREAU

TIPS ON READING THE RECORDS

Although the following is usually covered during our beginners' course, it was suggested that a sort of "cheat sheet" to help you read the various types of records would be helpful to our novice researchers. So, let's start with the baptismal records.

Most baptismal entries start with the date (either the year followed by the day and month, or the day and month followed by the year). In some of the earliest records one will find the following abbreviations: **7bre**, **8bre**, **9bre** and **Xbre**. These refer to the months September, October, November and December. One will also find Roman numerals for the

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years in the registers of Île d'Orléans, so review your early math classes on how to read this early numeral system.

We always find this expression or something similar: "**nous le prêtre (curé, vicaire, missionnaire) soussigné ont baptisé**" which means "we, the undersigned Priest (pastor, assistant, or missionary) have baptized".

This is followed by the name of the child and birth data. Sometimes the date of birth will be given straightforwardly: e.g. **le onze du courant** (11th of the current month) or **le treize du mois précédent** (13th of the preceding month). But as a rule, one oftentimes sees the following words: **hier** (yesterday), **la veille** (last night), **la surveillance** or **avant veille** (the day before yesterday or two days ago). These are the most ordinary notations one will see.

One next sees the words: **né** (1e - male) or **née** (2es - female) (born) "**de légitime mariage**" (of the legitimate marriage of) followed by the names of the child's parents, sometimes the father's occupation, and the place of residence (of this parish, or from a neighboring parish) of the family.

This is followed by **parrain** and **marraine** (names of godparents), who have signed below or who were unable to write (**ne su signer** or **illétré**, unlettered, a polite form of illiterate). Sometimes one find the words "**représenté par**" which means someone else is standing in as a proxy for a missing godparent.

In some baptismal records one will find the term "**ondoyé à la maison**" (this means baptized in danger of death by a layperson, shortly after birth), and some priests have actually inserted into the record the person performing the ondoisement (usually a **sage-femme** or midwife, or an elder of the family). When this happens and when a child lives, it was required by the Church to bring the child to church to receive the rest of the prayers and anointings performed during the baptismal ceremony, so the record will read "**j'ai supplié les cérémonies du baptême**" (I have supplied the ceremonies of baptism). This usually occurs after a valid baptism at home, which may sometimes be called "**conditionnel**" (conditional, if the priest had doubts, and thus, a rebaptism of the

child with water and words).

One finds many baptismal records for children born "**des parents inconnus**" (of unknown parents). These are usually illegitimate children or children born of couples who are not Catholic, and thus, not legally married in the eyes of the Catholic Church (e.g. Anglicans or other Protestants). If you're lucky enough, you'll find a later record identifying the parents of the child, or perhaps one of the godparents is a relative, although this is not always the case. Usually, unrelated godparents were chosen from the parish to stand up as godparents in these situations.

One will also find baptisms of Native Americans, signified by the words: **sauvage**, **sauvagesse**, or the name of a tribe: **de la nation Abénaki, Algonquin, Huron, etc.**

In records from France, it is good to familiarize yourself with the names of months of the Revolutionary calendar (also known as the French Republican calendar) (1792-1806). The year starts in October and ends in September. These birth records give the parents' names, other identifying information, names of witnesses to the birth, and even the time of the day when a child was born.

In future issues of AFGnewS, we will give more helpful hints when reading marriage and burial records.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT RESEARCH BY THOMAS ALLAIRE - HEAD RESEARCHER

The American-French Genealogical Society research committee consisting of several experts with years of experience in French Canadian genealogy. We have at our disposal several large record groups we can use to find the answers to you genealogical questions. We have thousands of repertoires for Quebec towns and churches and the French areas of other provinces. We have similar books for Rhode Island, Massachusetts New Hampshire and elsewhere in New England and New York. We have extensive indexes of many jurisdictions both in Quebec and the US for certain time periods. We have specialized collections such as the Drouin films of Quebec churches compiled in the 1940s and extensive Rhode Island Catholic Church films. We have the Drouin marriage index books, not to mention Loiselle, Fabian,

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Rivest, Jette and several others. We have full access to the Internet services. We take requests from both our members and the public. We will research your questions using all the resources this library has to offer. If we don't have the record, chances are we know where you can go to get it. Rates are reasonable and are detailed at afgs.org.

ON LINE LIBRARY BRANCH

BY WILLIAM POMMENVILLE "THE WEB GUY"

The American-French Genealogical Society now has an online Library Branch known as the **AFGS-OLB**. The AFGS Online Library Branch contains a collection of research information from our Library and will allow our members around the world to access research information normally only available at our library. When new items are available on the AFGS-OLB they will be announced in the newsletter and on our website.

Members who would like to USE the AFGS-OLB must request access by filling out the required information on the website. The link is on the home page at afgs.org. You will be asked: 1. for the e-mail address which you listed on your AFGS membership form; 2. to select a username for your AFGS-OLB account; 3. to select a password; and 4. to retype the password.

Your e-mail address will be matched with what you have listed on your AFGS membership form. If you are a current AFGS member and the information (your name and e-mail address) matches with your membership information you will be granted access to the AFGS-OLB and an e-mail will notify you that you have access.

Currently the following information is in the AFGS-OLB: cemetery headstone pictures, obituaries from newspapers; milestones (number of years married etc.) from newspapers; weddings from newspapers; funeral prayer cards; **Je Me Souviens** back issues; and research information help sheets. Recently, AFGS volunteers scanned over 42,000 index cards with marriage and baptism information. This information contains location, dates, parents, spouse, with locations from Florida to Canada. Volunteers are preparing the scans for this online library branch. This

project will take time to complete but it is scheduled to be put on line as sections are completed.

"WHAT'S COOKING"

BY JANICE BURKHART

Recently we received the following note from Kellie: "Hello. Growing up in the 1960s, I remember my grand-mere making a recipe pronounced "gleesods". (Grandmere lived in Minnesota at a logging camp.) My internet research has been unsuccessful. I vaguely remember small pieces of dough flattened in a circle, like a small pancake. Then a dollop of meat mixture placed in the middle of the dough. The dough was formed around the meat to make a ball and then I think boiled. I don't know what the meat was -- chicken, pork or beef most likely. Or any combination of those leftovers! We did not have fish very often, unless someone went ice fishing. Perhaps you can help?"

We did an extensive search and we think "gleesods" are a traditional Acadian recipe called **Poutine Râpée** which is a dumpling popular in New Brunswick. The dough is made from grated raw and mashed potatoes and wrapped around salt pork. It is then boiled in water, sometimes wrapped in a cheesecloth. Poutine Râpée can be eaten plain or with brown sugar or maple syrup.

This got us thinking about Quebecois Poutine which is very popular in Québec. Very different from Poutine Râpée, Quebecois Poutine is basically French fried potatoes, covered with cheese curd and then covered with gravy. (Basically a heart attack on a platter.) Seriously though, this dish is very popular in Québec. We have decided to include both recipes. Let us know if you had either of these dishes growing up and for our friends out in Minnesota, let us know if you ever heard of "gleesods."

Poutine Râpée

Ingredients:

1 lb fatty salt pork
10 potatoes
4 potatoes (cooked, mashed and seasoned with salt and pepper).

Directions:

Soak the salted pork in cold water overnight to remove

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the excess salt. Cut into cubes. Grate the uncooked potatoes and extract the water from them by squeezing them in a cloth. Mix the grated potatoes with the mashed, seasoned potatoes, adding more seasoning if necessary. Make a hole in the center of the potato ball with your thumb and add a tablespoon of the salted pork. Close up the hole and roll the poutine in white flour and gently lower the poutine into a large pot of boiling, salted water. Keep the water boiling and simmer the poutines for 2-3 hours. Serve hot with butter, salt and pepper, or as a dessert with sugar, maple syrup or molasses. They are also yummy with mustard.

Poutine Quebecois

In the basic recipe for poutine, French fries are covered with fresh cheese curds, and topped with brown gravy. You can see a video on how to prepare this recipe by [goggling youtube quebecois poutine recipe](#).

WEBSITES YOU MIGHT FIND INTERESTING BY OUR READERS - YOU

afgs.org Have you explored the web site for your own society? You will find a wealth of information there. Check out the "dit" name section or sign up for the members only page. You can browse through old issues of "Je Me Souviens" your society's journal or explore the section that will help you plan a visit to the library. There is a lot to see so check it out.

<http://francolib.francoamerican.org> Franco American Library is an online resource dedicated to the study of Franco American history, literature, and life. Containing an annotated subject bibliography for Franco American Studies, a community map of location-specific resources, and a collection of internet links, this project is an online tool for community and scholarly research.

This section is reserved for you. If you have a favorite site you would like to share with other members, send it to misskoko@aol.com. We will try to feature it in an upcoming issue.

IN OUR MAILBOX BY OUR READERS - YOU

This section of the newsletter will be reserved to answer any mail sent to us. We will answer your non-research questions and print your comments. So let us hear from you.

NAVIGATING THE PAST: SAILING INTO THE FUTURE - NERGC CONFERENCE SAVE THE DATE

The New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc. (NERGC) invites you to join us at our thirteenth genealogical conference 15-18 April 2015 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, Rhode Island. The Convention Center offers outstanding facilities, amenities, and service in an easy-to-reach location. It is conveniently located in the heart of historic Providence -- the only US city to be named "one of the Top Ten Up-and-Coming Travel Destinations in the World" by the Wall Street Journal.

The conference theme, "Navigating the Past: Sailing into the Future", has strong nautical connections, in keeping with the distinctive flavor of Rhode Island, while also focusing on methodology with "navigating the past" and looking towards the changes of the future (technology, passing on information, and getting kids involved in genealogy).

With over 95 lectures to choose from in two and-a-half days, and with levels ranging from beginner to expert NERGC 2015 will help attendees "navigate":

- New research pathways, methodologies, and strategies, including technology and online resources
- Ethnic genealogy of all types
- Maritime and military topics including privateers, pirates, and other sea-faring folk
- New approaches for navigating and utilizing record sources (such as religious, civil, cemetery, military, and newspapers)
- New uses of sources (such as religious, civil, cemetery, military, and newspapers);
- Photography and family heirlooms
- New England's repositories (archives, libraries, historical societies)
- Successful research planning and project implementation; and
- Ways to engage youth in genealogy

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NERGC 2015 will help bring together genealogists and family historians from a variety of backgrounds. Whether you are just beginning the search for your family, are already an advanced researcher, or perhaps even a professional genealogist, the NERGC 2015 conference will provide you with an ideal opportunity to advance your knowledge and research skills. In addition to the wealth of knowledge shared by expert genealogists, there will be opportunities to explore the Exhibit Hall and to "navigate the past" at the Society Fair, Special Interest Groups, and Ancestors Road Show -- and plenty of opportunities to meet hundreds of other attendees at the Conference who share your love for genealogy.

Go to www.NERGC 2015 for more information.

Join us at the AFGS booth and plan to attend our Society Soiree on Thursday evening. We will look forward to seeing you!

LE GRAND RÉVEIL ACADIEN: 250 YEARS IN THE MAKING

This fall, Cajuns will awake to Le Grand Réveil Acadien — The Great Acadian Awakening — a nine-day event in October to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the arrival of the Acadians to south Louisiana.

Events and celebrations, scheduled for Oct. 3-12, will be held in Lake Charles, Houma, Lafayette and New Orleans. Although details are still being worked out, the celebration will go deeper than area festivals do with emphasis on family reunions, Acadian history, genealogy studies and Acadian connections around the world. It all begins in begins in Lake Charles and then moves to Houma, Lafayette and New Orleans, as well as all of the towns in-between. This year marks the second Le Grand Réveil Acadien; the first was held in 2011. In general, the idea is to hold the celebration in-between Congrès Mondial, which is held every five years.

Le Grand Réveil Acadien – The Great Acadian Awakening

•Oct. 3-4 Opening Ceremony, Lake Charles
Opportunity for tours of the area communities special activities will be offered

- Oct. 7 Houma
Main Attraction - International "Acadian Cross Monument," activities and tours
- Oct. 8 Rayne Frog Capital of the World
Murals, antique tour , coking demonstration how to make frog cookies, Cajun music and concerts
- Oct. 8-11 Lafayette
Traditional boat building conference, Vermilionville (Oct. 8)
- Oct. 9 - Acadian focused activities at Lafayette Convention Center
- Oct. 10 - Family reunion
- Oct. 11 - Tintamarre, French Mass, music and cuisine, Festivals Acadians et Creoles, Girard Park
- Oct. 12 - New Orleans
Closing ceremony with the 250th anniversary of the Acadians' arrival in south Louisiana
Sounds like a good time.

AFGS VOLUNTEERS HONORED AT HOLIDAY GATHERING

In December, 45 volunteers were honored at a holiday party held at the AFGS Center. A delicious luncheon was served in a beautifully, snowman decorated room. The volunteers received a service pin and a holiday favor. Many beautiful gift baskets were given away and a fun filled time was had by all.

We are so proud of our volunteers. Many of you may not realize that **AFGS is an all volunteer organization**. No one is paid for their services. Without the efforts of our volunteers, we could not function. Our volunteer help allows us to spend all funds earned on projects that enhance our Society such as purchasing new library books, plowing the parking lot, heating,, electricity, landscaping, building improvements, computer programs, educational programs and speakers, telephones and postage.

We are always eager to have new volunteers help us out. **Would you like to be a volunteer?** You do not have to come to the center to help. You do not have to live in the area to help. We can always use data entry people, people who are willing to work on our Obituary project, write articles for our journal, or do research. If you live closer, you might want to help with library duties such as research, greeting new members, helping new members, checking the library

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shelves, etc. There are many ways you can help. We are willing to train you and help you get started. Just drop a line to misskoko@aol.com and we will be in touch!

“DAUGHTERS OF THE KING” CERTIFICATE AND PIN PROGRAM CONTINUES

Since July of 2013, AFGS has been celebrating the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the first “Daughters of the King. To date we have issued over 1000 certificates and pins to members and nonmembers who have sent in a line connecting them to one or more of these brave young women who populated Quebec in the late 17th century. Since interest in the program remains so high, we have decided to extend the program for as long as pins and certificate paper remain available. To find out more about this program, please go to afgs.org and look for the picture of a “King’s Daughter.” Click on the link and you will find all the information you need. If you still have questions, please contact misskoko@aol.com.

AFGS BAZAAR PLANNED

In the Fall, AFGS plans to hold a craft bazaar. To that end, we are asking if any of our members would like to donate a craft for us to sell. We would welcome handmade Christmas ornaments, gift baskets, knitted and crocheted articles, painted slates, etc. Anything handmade would be very welcome. For members living closer to the library, we will have a bake table so cookies, fudge, breads, cupcakes etc., would be welcome as well. In a later issue of AFGnewS, we will be announcing the date and place of the bazaar.

REMEMBRANCE TREE BEING PLANNED

The new wing of our library will have a decorated remembrance tree. The top of the tree will read “Je Me Souviens.” The tree will be decorated with various ornaments such as doves, hearts and angels. On each ornament will be the name of a deceased member of AFGS. We are compiling a list of deceased members now, so if a relative or friend fits into this category, please let us know so that name can be included. We owe so much to our membership. This is a way we can

honor those who have passed away and remember them with respect.

BOOKS FOR SALE

AFGS has many books for sale. These books contain vital records - both civil and church records. Go to afgs.org and click on publication list. You may be pleasantly surprised at the variety of books you will find there.

A LITTLE FUN FOR LEXIPHILES

To write with a broken pencil is . . . pointless.
When fish are in schools they sometimes . . . take debate.
A thief who stole a calendar . . . got twelve months.
When the smog lifts in Los Angeles , . . . U.C.L.A.
The professor discovered that her theory of earthquakes . . . was on shaky ground.
The batteries were given out . . . free of charge.
A dentist and a manicurist married. . . . They fought tooth and nail.
A will is a . . . dead giveaway.
If you don't pay your exorcist . . . you can get repossessed.
With her marriage, she got a new name . . . and a dress.
Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft and I'll show you . . . A-flat miner.
You are stuck with your debt if . . . you can't budge it.
Local Area Network in Australia : . . . The LAN down under.
A boiled egg is . . . hard to beat.
When you've seen one shopping center . . . you've seen a mall.
Police were called to a day care where a three-year-old was . . . resisting a rest.
Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off? . . . He's all right now.
If you take a laptop computer for a run you could . . . jog your memory.
A bicycle can't stand alone; . . . it is two tired.
In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, . . . it's your Count that votes.
When a clock is hungry . . . it goes back four seconds.
The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine . . . was fully recovered.

Two Great Books That Should Be In Your Library

AFGS is proud to offer two wonderful books that all genealogists doing French-Canadian research should have in their library. These two books, written in English, by Peter Gagne, are treasure troves of historical, genealogical and biographical information.

Before the King's Daughters: The Filles a Marier; 1634-1662 is the story of the first single women who came to New France. They came before the Daughters of the King and unlike these women and girls, they were promised nothing but the possibility of a better life. These courageous women worked hard, suffered much and are our ancestors. You will find a wealth of information about these women and will find many of them in your line as they were the first settlers.

King's Daughters and Founding Mothers: The Filles du Roi, 1663-1673 is a two volume biographical dictionary of the nearly 800 women and girls sent from France to populate Quebec between 1663 and 1673. This work gives an overview of who the Filles du Roi were and then presents comprehensive biographies of all the "King's Daughters" including a wealth of information never before available in English! This set also includes biographies of women falsely identified as "King's Daughters" as well as a glossary, a thematic index, and an index of husbands.

These two books are extremely popular at our library. Every French-Canadian has multiple "King's Daughters" in their line. In fact, it is not unusual to have 20 or more of these women in your line. For these reason's, we have decided to offer these books for sale to you as we know that you will be delighted with them. Quantities are limited at this time but we are making arrangements to purchase more as sales are expected to be brisk. Please order right away and give yourself a well-earned gift.

Please send me:

___ copies of Before the King's Daughters @ 50.00 _____
___ copies of King's Daughters and Founding Mothers @ \$65.00 _____

RI residents add 7% sales tax _____

Subtotal _____

For US sales only. Foreign sales, email RDBeaudry@AFGS.org for postage quote.

Shipping \$6 for "Daughters" \$4 for "Before Daughters" \$9 for both _____

Grand Total _____

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Street: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Master Card/Visa # _____ Exp Date: _____

Make Checks payable to AFGS.

Mail to AFGS, P.O. Box 830, Woonsocket, RI 02895-0870

RESIDENTS OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES MUST USE CREDIT CARD ONLY. 10/14