Our 42nd Year
MEMBERSHIP

- Individual: $40.00 ($50.00 outside U.S.A.)
- Family $50.00 ($60.00 outside U.S.A.) for 2 members plus $10.00 for each additional family member
  **Note:** All family members listed in a Family Membership must reside in the same household.
- Institutional: $45.00 ($50.00 outside U.S.A.)
- Lifetime: $600 ($800 outside U.S.A.)

U.S. residents: Make checks payable to AFGS in U.S. funds or use a credit card.
Non-U.S. residents: Must use a credit card.

LIBRARY

The library is open for research on Mondays from 11 AM to 4 PM, Tuesdays from 1 PM to 9 PM and Saturday from 10 AM to 4 PM. The library is closed on designated holidays. There are no Saturday sessions in July. For closing dates, please check our website at [www.afgs.org/site](http://www.afgs.org/site).

RESEARCH

The Society conducts research for a fee. Please see our research policy elsewhere in this issue.

ARTICLES

Original manuscripts are welcomed. Please see our author’s guide elsewhere in this issue.

ADVERTISING

Please contact AFGS at [JMSeditor@afgs.org](mailto:JMSeditor@afgs.org) for information on advertising in *Je Me Souviens*.

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ABOUT OUR COVER

An illustration of the Peshtigo Fire from Harper's Weekly, November 25, 1871. *Wisconsin Electronic Reader*

Fires were a fearsome occurrence in the lives of our ancestors. The stories of two such fires are featured in this issue: *Noël Bissonette and the Great Peshtigo Fire* by Paul Vilmur and *Marie-Josèphe Angélique and The Montreal Fire of 1734* by Janice Burkhart.

The Great Peshtigo Fire of 1871 in Wisconsin was one of the worst recorded fires in the United States. Some two-thousand people lost their lives, many of them French-Canadians working in the lumber business. It was, and still is, the highest single fire loss in the United States.
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Welcome to the 2020s. Retrospectives are popular in the media with the yearly calendar change. As a genealogy society, we like old stories and history. We look back to our accomplishments and remember the contributions of our many volunteers over the years. We also look forward to what the future holds for our members. New approaches and technology work well with our trusty pencil and paper.

The focus of this issue of Je Me Souviens is disasters. Large or small, our ancestors dealt with natural and man-made disasters with mixed results. While doing research, life events like these can help shape our understanding of an ancestor’s family and add context to their choice of location, occupation, military service, etc. Why did Uncle Larry stop working at the mill? Did it burn down? Did the mill owner pass away? Was there a flood in the area? Disastrous events were often captured in town reports, journals, and newspapers. Finding them can answer some of our questions.

Articles of note in this issue include “Setting the Record Straight” by Dennis Boudreau, “Migrations of North American Buteau Families” by George Buteau, and the startling “Hidden in Plain Sight” by Annette Mimeault Smith.

I had the good fortune of being interviewed about the AFGS by Claire-Marie Brisson for The North American Francophone Podcast. The episode is “Preserving Woonsocket, Rhode Island’s Francophone Past” and it also features Calvin Fox, a student at Concordia University in Montréal, who is starting a project to help preserve Woonsocket’s Francophone past. You can find it at https://www.thefrancophone.com/listen-1

The results of our recent Talent Survey have been tabulated. Members from near and far have volunteered to assist with 59 different tasks. The extensive list of tasks is in this issue.

Please see Norm Deragon’s article about our workshop videos. There are a wide variety of subjects to choose from and most are less than an hour. More videos are added as they are made available after completion of the editing and production process. Instead of watching reruns on television, why not try one of our videos for a change?

Have fun,
Our complete issue of *Je Me Souviens* is available to our members in our Members Only Online Library.
These photos illustrate the lives and times of our ancestors who came from Canada to work in the mills of New England. Photos above are selected from the Henry Dursin Collection at the American-French Genealogical Society.

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