



AFGS

American-French Genealogical Society
Woonsocket, RI



Volume: XXX

No. 3

May-June 2009

NEWS FROM 78 EARLE STREET

Spring has sprung and that usually means yard cleanup time for most of us. That was true of AFGS too. We extend a big thank you to the many volunteers from the board of directors and membership who turned out in force to rake leaves, trim shrubs and trees and pick up trash that accumulated over the winter months.

The Society continues to seek funding for building renovations and repairs through grants from several foundations and government agencies. Projects on the drawing board include the rebuilding of the restrooms in the lower level and climate control in the lower level that would provide energy efficient heating and air conditioning in the existing library and the planned

library expansion. The building fund committee hopes to have funding in place before the next heating season.

Proposals are being reviewed to install much-needed signage on the exterior of the building. One proposal under consideration would spell the society's name across the upper portion of the building in 18 inch letters, which would be visible from Social Street, one of the busiest streets in the city.

AFGS has been invited to participate in the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission Footsteps in History program. The annual celebration is held over the Columbus Day weekend and features activities at designated locations throughout the Congressionally designated corridor which includes 24 cities and towns between Worcester, Massachusetts. and Pawtucket, Rhode Island The Society has not yet determined which activities it will host during the weekend



**Back Row: Tom
Allaire**

**Middle Row:
Rob Gumlaw, Jan
and Bob Burkhart,
Sylvia Bartholomy**

**Front Row: Roger
Beaudry, Norm
Deragon, Suzanne
and Joe Musual,
Dorothy Deragon and
Bill Beaudoin**

A TIP FROM YOUR BOOKIE
by Janice Burkhart

Reprinted with permission from **Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library: No. 60, February 2009** and written by Curt B. Witcher

It is said that one can find anything and everything on the Internet, and sometimes from the most unlikely sources. Did you know the National Park Service (NPS) publishes technical leaflets to help one preserve, repair, and conserve documents and other artifacts? Their publications, available for free online, are called "Conserve-0-Grams." They cover a wide range of topics with simple, easy-to-understand procedures. Intended for NPS staff, they have wide applicability for many everyday preservationists. A number of the leaflets are a bit dated, but sound advice and strategies never really go out of date. Check out the www.nps.gov/history/museum/publications/conservogram/cons_toc.html website.

WHAT'S COOKING?
STRAWBERRY RHUBARB SAUCE

Spring is the time when those great big stalks and leaves of the rhubarb plant begin to emerge from the ground. When I was a kid, my Grandfather Paille grew both rhubarb and strawberries on his farm. I would pick the young stalks of rhubarb and dip the ends in sugar before munching on them like carrots. The tartness of the rhubarb and the sweetness of the sugar made a nice combination. My parents, more discerning in taste, liked to cook the rhubarb first. My Mom would make strawberry rhubarb pie but her favorite was strawberry rhubarb sauce. She liked it on her toast in the morning. As a matter of fact, my Mom liked strawberry rhubarb sauce right up to the time she died at age 89. I still have a rhubarb plant from my Grandfather's farm. The plant is at least 70 years old. So, since strawberries and rhubarb will soon be readily available, I thought you might like to try this recipe.

This recipe will take you about 10 minutes to prepare the ingredients, 45 minutes to cook and will make

about 3 cups of sauce.

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup sugar, (more if you like it sweeter or if the rhubarb is very tart)
- 1/3 cup water
- 1 pound rhubarb stalks, cleaned and diced (My mother peeled it if the skin became tough later in the season. Do not use the leaves!.)
- 1 quart strawberries, cleaned, hulled and halved
- 1/2 tablespoon lemon juice

Directions

In a heavy saucepan over medium heat combine sugar and water. Stir until sugar is dissolved. Add rhubarb and simmer for 15 minutes or until the rhubarb is tender. Add strawberries and lemon juice. Simmer for 10 minutes more. Allow mixture to cool for about 10 minutes.

If you want a smooth sauce puree mixture in a blender. (My Mom liked it chunky.) **DO NOT BLEND MIXTURE WHEN IT IS HOT AS IT CAN SPLASH AND BURN YOU!!** Use a submersion blender if you have one. Add water if mixture appears too thick.

Serve on toast, drizzle over yogurt or ice cream or serve as a sauce with baked pork or chicken.

I hope you enjoy this sweet/tart sauce!

Having said all that, here is a quick cooking joke. **TEACHER:** Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating? **SIMON:** No sir. I don't have to. My Mom is a good cook.

AFGS AND LEFOYER HOST SECOND ANNUAL CABANE A SUCRE

It wasn't what one would expect as the setting for a traditional French Canadian sugar shack event. The second of what we hope will be an annual Cabane a sucre was held on April 18 at the St. Ann Arts and

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www.afgs.org
e-mail - newsletter@afgs.org
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Cultural Center in Woonsocket. The center is in the former St Ann Roman Catholic Church, which was closed in 2000.

Nearly 200 fans of traditional French Canadian folk music and home-style ethnic fare turned out for a fun-filled evening. Entertainment was provided by Daniel Boucher and Friends. The proceeds for the evening were split between AFGS and LeFoyer, the Pawtucket-based Franco-American organization founded in 1936. The menu included pea soup, salad, pate chinois (French Canadian shepherd's pie), maple roast ham, baked beans with apple slices, boulettes (meatballs in white sauce), French-Canadian potato/cheese casserole and crepes for dessert.

GENEALOGY CLASSES TO CONTINUE NEXT YEAR

Our free monthly genealogy classes have proven to be very popular. They will continue next year. We know we will do a beginners class but the rest of the lineup is wide open. **What classes would you like to see us teach? Is there a specialty that you would like to teach?** Please let me know at misskoko@aol.com as we are already at work on our schedule and calendar for the Fall.

MANCHESTER CONFERENCE WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

AFGS participated in the NERGC conference held in Manchester, NH. It was a great success and we were happy to meet so many of you there. Thank you for stopping by our booth and giving us such wonderful compliments about the Society, our programs and our booth. Once again we could not have done this conference without all the people who participated and lent us a hand. I want to thank all of you but especially **Fran Tivey** and **Becky Keegan** who were our conference representatives and spent many hours attending organizational meetings. I really appreciated everyone's help and enthusiasm very much. Plans are already underway for the next conference to be held in Springfield, Massachusetts in 2011.



We were happy to meet so many of you at the conference! Our booth was beautiful and the hit of the show.



Many attendees joined us for an informative evening. Patty Locke and Sylvie Tremblay gave us all helpful information about French genealogy.

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**TIP FROM OUR WEB GUY
BY BILL POMMENVILLE**

At Bill's Computer Class this month, he spoke about two neat programs that we thought you might be interested in. The first is **AVG FREE** an antivirus software for Windows XP and Windows Vista. AVG Free provides you with basic antivirus and antispymware protection for Windows and is available to download for free. It is fast, effective security that is kind on resources. <http://free.avg.com/> The second is a free online translator that translates and speaks the translation. Featured at Demo SitePal Virtual Interpreter. Type anything you want in the text box and the animated character will translate and speak your translated text in one of 14 languages. Languages you can choose including English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Swedish and a number of others! Check out what is available. Remember, however, that most of these sites are pretty literal and may not always translate the more subtle aspects of the language. Still, not bad in a pinch if you cannot speak the language.

[http://www.oddcast.com/home/demos/tts/tts tran exam ple.php?sitepal](http://www.oddcast.com/home/demos/tts/tts_tran_exam ple.php?sitepal)

**EMAILS YOU WANT TO AVOID - AND NOT
FORWARD
ADVICE FROM SNOPE'S**

(This email seemed like good information to pass along to all of you. Jan) .

Here is a nice little tidbit of information that came my way this morning. So if any of you are wondering why I didn't return something to you that said something like 'if I don't get this back I'll' or, 'See how many flowers you can get back', or 'Forward this to 10 people in the next 5 minutes or something bad will happen to you', etc., here are the reasons.

Advice from [Snopes.com](http://snopes.com) <<http://snopes.com/>>

1) Any time you see an email that says "Forward this on to '10' of your friends," or "Sign this petition or you'll get bad luck, good luck, or whatever," it almost always has an email tracker program attached that tracks the cookies and emails of those folks you forward it to. The host sender is getting a copy each time it gets forwarded and then he is able to get lists of 'active' emails to use in SPAM emails, or sell to other

spammers.

2) Almost all emails that ask you to add your name and forward on to others are similar to that mass letter years ago that asked people to send business cards to the little kid in Florida who wanted to break the Guinness Book of Records for the most cards. All it was, and all any of this type of email is, is a way to get names and 'cookie ' tracking information for telemarketers and spammers. They are used to validate active email accounts for the originators own profitable purposes.

You can do your friends and family members a GREAT favor by sending this information to them. You will be providing a service to your friends, and will be rewarded by not getting thousands of spam emails in the future!

If you have been FORWARDING the above kinds of email, now you know why you get so much SPAM!

Do yourself a favor and stop adding your name to those types of listings regardless of how inviting they might sound! You may think you are supporting a great cause, but you are not. Instead, you will be getting tons of junk mail later! Plus, you are helping the spammers get rich!

Also: email petitions are NOT acceptable to Congress or any other organization. To be acceptable, petitions must have a signed signature and full address of the person signing the petition. Read the full story here:

<http://www.snopes.com/inboxer/petition/internet.asp>

OLD TIME RADIO SHOWS

Here is a really fun site you might enjoy if you grew up in the days when radio was king! Check out the link below If you're interested in listening to these great programs.

<http://www.archive.org/browse.php?field=subject&mediatype=audio&collection=radioprograms>

You can download and copy these programs and make your own MP3 CDs.

AFGS DEDICATES LUNCHROOM TO ROBERT BURKHART

The AFGS building committee voted to honor Robert Burkhart by dedicating the new lunchroom in his name. Bob volunteered an extraordinary amount of his time to wash the walls and woodwork, scrape loose paint, stain and wax wood and paint walls, ceiling and floor in the former lower level kitchen. Thanks to his hard work and commitment to the Society, members and visitors now have a suitable place to eat their lunch, enjoy a cup of coffee, or simply take a break from researching. If you haven't already done so, next time you visit the library, take a moment to check out **Café Robert**.



From left to right: Bill Pommenville, Robert Burkhart and Normand Deragon.

GUIDELINES FOR AFGS MEMBERS E-MAIL MAILING LIST

The AFGS Members e-mail Mailing List is an e-mail method of communicating with other members of AFGS on genealogical research and other interesting topics. It also will allow AFGS members to discuss the resources available at the society library and

suggest ways to improve the American-French Genealogical Society. It is open and available to all current members of the Society. We are eager to make this a useful tool for our members. Won't you join and help us make it a chatty, friendly place where our members can get to know other members and offer a helping hand to those folks who might have a problem to resolve?

See the AFGS website for more information on AFGS e-mail List. <http://www.afgs.org/maillist.html>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are compiling a list of people who might like to serve on the AFGS Board of Directors. To qualify, you must be willing and able to attend monthly Board Meetings at your own expense and you must be a member in good standing of AFGS. If interested please contact Janice Burkhart at misskoko@aol.com. I will send you an application form to complete.

TRANSLATION SERVICE OFFERED

Have you ever received an original document only to find that it is not written in English? When we first begin gathering original documents from Quebec, we often forget that they will be written in French and sometimes even Latin. This can pose a very big problem if you read neither! AFGS has the ability to translate these documents for you at reasonable rates. If you have an original birth, marriage or death certificate that needs to be translated, please contact us and we will make arrangements for your document to be translated.

WERE YOU OR YOUR PARENTS BORN IN CANADA?

Lucille Martineau Proulx, a member from Massachusetts and California, sent us this information about dual Canadian/American Citizenship. It might be something you would like to further investigate.

Hello everyone. Exciting news! Canada has passed and enacted C-37 that grants Canadian Citizenship to

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many of us children of Canadian parents born in the USA and other countries. Read all about it at: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123993183347727843.html?mod=yhoofront>. Here's part of the article: Thanks to a new law, Canada will bestow citizenship Friday on what its government believes could be hundreds of thousands of unsuspecting foreigners, most of them Americans. The April 17 amendment to Canada's Citizenship Act automatically restores Canadian nationality to many people forced to renounce it when they became citizens of another country. It also grants citizenship to their children. The Canadian government doesn't know the precise number or location of individuals affected by the legislation, but it believes most are U.S. citizens, a spokeswoman for Canada's immigration office said. U.S. Department of Homeland Security records show 240,000 Canadians were naturalized in the U.S. from 1948 to 1977; the new law fixes problems that occurred during those years. To reach that amorphous group of beneficiaries, the Canadian government has turned to YouTube. It's running an ad there titled **"Waking up Canadian,"** in which a man awakens on April 17 to a room festooned with red-and-white Canadian flags. He's met by a welcoming committee consisting of two stuffed plush moose, a hockey player, and a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Eligible individuals automatically become Canadian citizens. But they don't get proof of that citizenship unless they apply for it, meaning other

countries -- including those that allow people to be citizens of only one nation -- won't be alerted, according to the immigration office spokeswoman. Those people also may renounce their citizenship rights, she said. The citizenship bonanza is the byproduct of a decades long struggle by a motley group of people who claim they were unfairly denied or lost their Canadian nationality.

Canadian families who crossed the border in 1947 to 1977 to have their babies in a U.S. hospital found those children weren't recognized as Canadians unless the families registered them with the government. Some foreign brides of Canadian World War II

servicemen lost their citizenship if they stayed out of the country for a decade or more. Then there are the Canadian Mennonites who moved to Mexico in the 1920s to the 1960s. When their children and grandchildren returned to Canada, many found their nationality unclear. Some such cases languished in litigation for years. Others surfaced in 2007, when new U.S. rules requiring passports for travel between Canada and the U.S. uncovered significant numbers of people who thought they were Canadian, but weren't.

The old rules were "quite intricate," said Bill Janzen, an immigration lobbyist in Ottawa for the Mennonite Central Committee of Canada. The new law offers citizenship to many individuals now in limbo. It also stops the previous practice of granting citizenship in perpetuity to children of Canadians born abroad, limiting eligibility to children of parents born in Canada.

A Book Review

by Roy F. Forgit

"MICHEL SARRAZIN 1659-1735 A CANADIAN BIOLOGIST HIS LIFE, HIS WORK AND HIS TIMES"

Authored by Arthur Vallee, Prof. of Medicine, Laval University, Quebec, 1925.

Why a son of a judge came to New France at the end of the 17th century is not easy to explain. The assumption must be that his professional curiosity regarding the plants of the New World was what drove him. He accompanied a contingent of marines which took the name Richelieu, in honor of the French Cardinal and Minister. He was age 26 when he braved the primitive living conditions of Quebec.

Sarrazin came from the small city of Nuits-sous-Beaune, one of the old centers of the Cote d'Or, known in history for the invasions of barbarians and many times ravaged during the wars of religion before 1591. The future biologist was born on 05 Sep 1659, the son of Claude Sarrazin and Madeleine de Bonefon. Families of these surnames are found back to the 14th and 15th century at Champdoiseau near Montbart in

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the Haut Bourgogne.

Sarrazin occupied himself in writing about the differences in herbs between the two countries. He notes that a danger of poisonous plants existed, and that it was a risk.

In 1697 he was with a cadre of soldiers commanded by Monsieur Nemond, and completed much research work. It was while de Saint Vallier was governor that an epidemic broke out, and many passengers on the ship "Gironde" were gravely ill, including the bishop. He was later to write that it was "un Monsieur Sarrazin" who saved him. The likely illness was scurvy, in French "purpura". Eight hundred people contracted the illness, 1694-1702, and many left their posts. By the end of 1700 only one priest, Abbe Pocquet, was left to give the sacraments and bury the dead.

By 1700 Dr. Sarrazin served three sites : L'Hotel - Dieu, L'Hopital General, and the Community of Ursalines. He also did his research. In a letter of 1726, he referred to certain difficulties at the hospital. There was not always agreement among the doctors. Some bickering was heard , which he felt was not good for the patients. There follows an interesting section regarding Doctors and charlatans.

On March 4, 1699, Sarrazin was named to the Royal Academy of Sciences by Louis XIV. He joined a list of names that included the elite : Tournefort, Reaumur, the Bernouillis, Halley, Varignon, Roemer, Marchant, et al.

Two works of Sarrazin's became well known. These are his writings on the beaver and the muskrat. After 25 Oct 1700, he became a correspondent of Tournefort, writing to him with detailed facts. He wrote precisely of the muscles, glands and anatomy of these animals, giving their rapport and dimensions, nose to tail. He also used data provided by "coureurs de bois", as to their secretions : *calamus aromaticus*.

In 1709 Dr. Sarrazin returned to Paris from New France, possibly for health reasons. The next year he "took the waters" at Forges, where he remained for three months. In May of 1710 he was back in Canada. There he wed at Montreal on 20-June-1712 to Mlle. Marie-Anne Hazeur, age 20. She was a student of the Ursalines, having left Quebec City after the death of her parents. She lived with an uncle, her mother's brother, named Soumande, and her grandmother. The bride's family, the Hazeurs, were originally from Tours, and were active in commerce. They resided in a beautiful house in the lower city. Monsieur Hazeur was a member of the Superior Council in 1703 and was *Seigneur de la Malbaie*. He owned a slate quarry and a porpoise fishery.

This is an interesting tale of a well educated, well situated man who lived his life between Canada and Paris. I think you will enjoy it.

TEMPORARY ADDRESSES

We want you to receive all of your mail! Won't you help us? During the winter months, and the summer months too, we get so much mail returned with "**TEMPORARILY AWAY**" written on it. We, of course have to pay the Post Office a return charge. Then if I mail it to you, we have to pay postage again. You can help prevent this by sending us your summer or winter address and the dates you will be away. That way we will direct your mail to you. It will only take a few minutes and will insure that you are kept up to date on everything that is happening here in Woonsocket. You can email me the changes at misskoko@aol.com or mail them to the Society at AFGS, PO Box 830, Woonsocket, RI 02895. For those who have already sent in these addresses - thank you.

ARE YOU A PLOURDE?

If you are, try this site [La Plourderie.com](http://LaPlourderie.com) You might not go directly to the page but look for it under "pour le web." It is a very nice site about the Plourde ancestors.

LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED ON SATURDAYS FOR THE SUMMER

remember, the AFGS library will be closed on Saturdays starting the first week of June. We will reopen on Saturdays in September. Also be aware that the library will be closed on Memorial Day weekend.

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to the people who have volunteered to help with the obituary project. They are Gerald Tremblay and Alice Gorman. A third person named Connie also volunteered but somehow her email got deleted and I do not have her name. If you are reading this, please contact misskoko@aol.com and please accept my apologies!!

HAS THIS EVER HAPPENED TO YOU?

Recently, I was diagnosed with A.A.A.D.D. - Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder. This is how it manifests: I decide to water my garden. As I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car and decide it needs washing. As I start toward the garage, I notice mail on the porch table that I brought up from the mail box earlier. I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car. I lay my car keys on the table, put the junk mail in the garbage can under the table, and notice that the can is full. So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the garbage first. But then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the garbage anyway, I may as well pay the bills first. I take my check book off the table, and see that there is only one check left. My extra checks are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find the can of Diet Coke I'd been drinking. I'm going to look for my checks, but first I need to push the Diet Coke aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over. The Diet Coke is getting warm, and I decide to put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold. As I head toward the kitchen with the Diet Coke, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye--they need water. I put the Diet Coke on the counter and discover my reading glasses that I've been

searching for all morning. I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers. I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water and suddenly spot the TV remote. Someone left it on the kitchen table. I realize that tonight when we go to watch TV, I'll be looking for the remote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers. I pour some water in the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor. So, I set the remote back on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill. Then, I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day: the car isn't washed, the bills aren't paid, there is a warm can of Diet Coke sitting on the counter, the flowers don't have enough water, there is still only 1 check in my check book, I can't find the remote, I can't find my glasses, and I don't remember what I did with the car keys. Then, when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day, and I'm really tired. Don't laugh -- if this isn't you yet, your day is coming!

DON'T YOU JUST LOVE KIDS?

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

DONALD: H I J K L M N O.

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

TEACHER: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

MARIA: Here it is.

TEACHER: Correct. Now class, who discovered America?

CLASS: Maria.

ARE YOU BEING SERVED?

Please let us know if there is something more AFGS can do to help you. If you have some ideas about how to make your Society more user friendly, drop us a line. We are eager to please.