



# AFGS

*American-French Genealogical Society  
Woonsocket, RI*



**Volume: XXI I**

**No. 1**

**Januaryr - February 2011**

**NEWS FROM 78 EARLE STREET**  
**Norm Deragon**  
**Chair, Building Fund Committee**

Another year has passed us by and it was a very good year for AFGS and our Franco-American Heritage Center. We completed several important projects and are now looking ahead with anticipation of what we hope to accomplish during 2011.

Over the past couple of months committee members are completing the finishing touches to several projects. They include paint touch ups in several rooms, replacing electric outlet cover plates, cleaning out storage closets and installing shelves.

Upcoming projects include the replacement of entrance doors on the parking lot side of the building, conducting an engineering study of our heating and ventilation systems to determine more efficient ways to heat and cool the building, and finding the source of several small leaks that seem to appear whenever we have heavy rain. This despite the replacement of the roof on both sides of the building and the sealing of masonry around the structure. It has truly been frustrating because neither the AFGS staff nor the roofing professionals have been able to find the source. But we aren't giving up and are confident the mystery will be solved soon.

We launched Phase III of our building fund campaign in October. The economy has definitely impacted our efforts and donations and pledges have been slower than anticipated. We are hopeful that the new year will bring us the additional support we need to finish renovating our heritage center. The goal is \$250,000. This will enable us to renovate the restrooms on the first and second floors, replace old, energy wasting windows in the lower level, upgrade our heating system and install air conditioning in the research center, and other renovation projects. Members

received a color booklet detailing our past accomplishments and plans for the future. If you misplaced the booklet, visit our building fund page on the AFGS website ([www.afgs.org](http://www.afgs.org)) and download a copy.

To supplement our fundraising outreach we are planning a number of fundraising events and will be submitting grant applications to a number of foundations and organizations seeking support for our various projects. We are confident that we can reach our goal and in turn develop a number of exciting programs to fulfill our mission of providing cultural and historical programs to augment our vast genealogical resources.

The American-French Genealogical Society  
P. O. Box 830, Woonsocket, RI 02895-0870  
Editors: Jan Burkhart and Lucile McDonald

## **DUES ARE DUE**

By now you have probably received your third and final renewal notice. We thank everyone who sent in their dues already. For those who have not yet paid, your name will be removed on February 1st. Thank you for your kind remarks and your generous donations. Sometimes our notices and your responses cross in the mail. **If you receive a notice and your dues have been paid, please let us know.** We apologize in advance and will respond right away.

## **AFGS ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 2011**

At the November Board Meeting, The following officers were elected: Janice Burkhart - President; Normand Deragon - Vice President; Roger Beaudry - Treasurer; Alice Riel - Assistant Treasurer; Dorothy Deragon - Secretary. Also Marguerite Pommenville and Dorothy Deragon were elected to the Board of Directors. The resignations of long term Board members Lucile McDonald and Eugene Arsenault were accepted with sadness. These two members have donated more than 30 years of service to AFGS. We thank them and wish them well.

## **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!

## **A TIP FROM YOUR "BOOKIE" BY JANICE BURKHART**

### **THE DROUIN COLLECTION**

AFGS is very fortunate to own the Drouin collection of films. Of course, everyone knows that this collection contains the images of the birth, marriage and death acts for the Provence od Quebec and other French speaking parts of Canada. This collection also includes many other categories of information that often go unused. There are Notary records of all kinds of contracts such as wills, inventories, passports for voyagers, sale of land, building contracts, sale of buildings and much more. You can also find old newspapers written in the 1700s - some in English and some in French. You can find old maps. There is a list of midwives. You can also find Acadian papers and biographies. It is worth exploring the various indexes and discovering the many benefits and surprises of the Drouin Collection.

## **WHAT'S COOKING BY JANICE BURKHART VENUS DE MILO SOUP**

Winter has really settled in. I wonder why I complained about all that warm summer weather of July and August? But, that is all part of the New England experience. Four distinct seasons and four very different types of weather!

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

When I was a child, my Mom always had a pot of soup on the stove. When we came home from school at lunchtime, on those cold winter days, the kitchen would be warm and inviting and the smell of freshly baked bread and soup would start to warm us even before we could get our boots and mittens removed.

Here is an easy but delicious soup named after the soup served at the nearby Venus de Milo Restaurant. Serve it with a loaf of crusty boule bread and you have a delightful meal!

**Ingredients:**

2 quarts water  
1 lb lean hamburger or lean ground turkey  
1 sm. onion peeled and diced  
1 stalk celery, sliced thin  
1 cup orzo or other soup pasta  
1 (14.5 oz.) can diced tomatoes  
1 (14.5 oz.) can stewed tomatoes  
1 bag frozen mixed vegetable (string beans, carrots, peas, corn, lima beans )  
garlic powder to taste  
1/4 teaspoon crushed black pepper - salt to taste  
1 sm. can tomato paste

**Directions**

Use a large pan. Add water and bring to a boil. Break the (raw) meat into small chunks and add to the boiling water. Add onion and celery and boil for about 15 minutes or until onion and celery are soft and meat is cooked. Add in frozen vegetables, tomatoes, tomato paste, garlic powder and pepper. Cook for about approximately 10 more minutes. Stir occasionally. In a separate pan, cook the soup pasta of your choice (orzo, alphabets, small shells etc.) When soup is done, add the cooked pasta. (I usually add the pasta to each bowl as I serve it because the pasta tends to absorb the liquid when you store the left over soup.) I hope you will try this recipe.

**WONDERFUL NEWS!**

The Board of Directors of AFGS is very pleased to announce that AFGS has been designated as a Family Search affiliate library. This means that our patrons will have greater and more convenient access to the wealth of genealogical resources available through FamilySearch.

FamilySearch is the world's largest repository of genealogical records and manages the famous Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. It has amassed billions of birth, marriage, death, census, land and court records of genealogical significance from over 130 countries. It is a priceless resource for us. You will now be able to access films from France and 1290 other countries right here at AFGS.

Less than 5% of the world's genealogical records are available online and traveling to other countries can be expensive. Now, if FamilySearch has filmed the records, the furthest you will have to travel is 78 Earle Street, Woonsocket, RI!

This is fabulous news for our members and is sure to open many new avenues of research.

**AFGS DRAWING WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

We are pleased to announce the winners of our Holiday Drawing. First place went to Ernest Pain from Florida. Second Place went to Arlene Brown from Massachusetts. Third place went to Larry Hacker from Nevada. Fourth place went to Roland Magnan, from Maine. We thank all of you who made our drawing such a success.

**WEB SITES YOU MIGHT ENJOY**

Following will be the web site addresses for two free newsletters. The first is the Eastman Newsletter. This newsletter keeps you informed about the latest news in genealogy. It even reviews software and hardware.

[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/standard-edition.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/standard-edition.html) Mr. Eastman is really very knowledgeable.

The second is the **Genealogy in Time** Newsletter. This site has the latest genealogy sites as well as genealogy hints. It is very interesting.

<http://www.genealogyintime.com/index.html>

How well do you know the geography of the United States? Check out this site. It is a map of the United States and you must drop the states in the correct locations. **BEWARE!** This site may become addictive.

<http://jimspages.com:80/States.htm>

Rob Gumlaw sends in this site where you will find a recipe for Acadian meat pie. This traditional recipe is very different from the traditional Quebec meat pie.

[http://bostonherald.com/entertainment/food\\_dining/food/view/20101215canadian\\_pie\\_actress-author\\_myriam\\_cyrs\\_meaty\\_treat\\_is\\_just\\_like\\_grandma\\_used\\_to\\_make/srv=home&position=also](http://bostonherald.com/entertainment/food_dining/food/view/20101215canadian_pie_actress-author_myriam_cyrs_meaty_treat_is_just_like_grandma_used_to_make/srv=home&position=also)

ROOTS 2011- An International Conference on Family History Research will be hosted by the Quebec Family History Society. This event will be the largest **English-language genealogical conference** ever held in Quebec. There will be numerous well-known speakers discussing all aspects of family history research, computer demonstrations, and a book fair. All lectures and events are in English. It will be held on June 3rd, 4th, & 5th 2011 at McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. For complete program details and registration forms visit the QFHS website at: [http://www.qfhs.ca/roots\\_program2010.shtml](http://www.qfhs.ca/roots_program2010.shtml)

You may also write to: ROOTS 2011, Quebec Family History Society, P.O. Box 1026, Pointe Claire, QC, Canada H9S 4H9 or call: 514-428-0236

**ACADIAN ROOTS ?** submitted by Rob Gumlaw Louisiane-Acadie, Inc. is aiming to encourage all Acadians to participate in the continued expression of the native French language and culture by announcing a grand gathering of Acadians in Louisiana called the "Grand Réveil Acadien / Great Acadian Awakening".

Hosted by Louisianians, the entire region of South Louisiana is opening their doors to welcome family and friends who want to celebrate and help maintain the culture, customs, traditions and history of the Acadians. This celebration will be held October 7th through 16th, 2011 in four Acadian regions. New Orleans, Houma, Lake Charles, and Lafayette will host events and celebrations closing with a huge renewal of pride on the last day at Festivals Acadiens et Créoles at Girard Park in Lafayette.

<http://gra2011.org/en.html>

Have you ever wondered if you could marry your cousin? Lisa Atherholt sent in this interesting site.

[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2010/11/can-you-marry-your-cousin.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2010/11/can-you-marry-your-cousin.html)

**ADVICE FROM OUR WEB GUY  
BY BILL POMMENVILLE  
FREE U.S. CENSUS AND OTHER RECORDS AT HOME**

The U.S. Census Records and other information may be available **Free** at home. A number of US public libraries offer this service from ProQuest Heritage Quest online.

The collection consists of, U.S. Federal Census records from 1790 through 1930. Genealogy and local history books deliver more than 7 million digitized page images. Periodical Source Index (PERSI), published by the Allen County Public Library, is recognized as the most comprehensive index for genealogical and local history periodicals. Revolutionary War records of more than 80,000 American Army, Navy, and Marine officers and enlisted men from the Revolutionary War era. are available plus many other records.

Information about libraries offering this service is available at The Encyclopedia of Genealogy, a free-content encyclopedia created by its readers. <http://www.eogen.com/>

A listing of States offering this service is available at The Encyclopedia of Genealogy By States A to E at <http://www.eogen.com/HeritageQuestOnlineStatesAtoE>

To view the States starting from F to M, go to this link <http://www.eogen.com/HeritageQuestOnlineStatesFtoM>

To view the States starting from N to R, go to this link  
<http://www.eogen.com/HeritageQuestOnlineStatesNtoR>

To view the States starting from S to Z, go to this link  
<http://www.eogen.com/HeritageQuestOnlineStatesStoZ>

**BE AWARE**

I received a letter from Elizabeth Botten. She informed me that in the book **Our French Canadian Ancestors Index for volumes 1-30**, the actual index for volumes 27-30 has been omitted. When using the index make sure you check these four volumes as there may be useful information in them that is not included in the index.

**AFGS VOLUNTEERS HONORED**

On December 12th, AFGS volunteers were honored at a luncheon held in the Huff Room at the Society. It was a fun gathering and an opportunity to thank our wonderful volunteers who work so hard for the Society. We really could not function without them.

Also present were members of the former First Universalist Church. These wonderful people made it possible for us to purchase our beautiful building.

**FRANCOIS REBELLO VISITS WOONSOCKET**

AFGS hosted a gathering of representatives from various Franco-American groups in RI who met to meet Francois Rebello a Deputee of the Assemblée National of Quebec. Mr. Rebello was in RI to attend a conference and took time out to visit us in Woonsocket. We discussed ways that a cultural exchange could be initiated.

**NERGC CONFERENCE COMING TO SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS IN APRIL**

The 11th New England Regional Genealogical Conference will be held in Springfield, Massachusetts from April 6th - April 10th. This is a wonderful conference sponsored by nearly two dozen New England genealogy societies. Check it out at <http://www.nergc.com>

### A. A. A. D. D. KNOW THE SYMPTOMS

Thank goodness there's a name for this disorder. Somehow I feel better even though I have it!! 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 Pepsi I'd been drinking. I'm going to look for my checks, but first I need to push the Pepsi aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over. The Pepsi is getting warm, and I decide to put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold. As I head toward the kitchen with the Pepsi, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye. They need water. I put the Pepsi 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 Pepsi 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. I realize this is a serious problem, and I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail. Don't laugh! If this isn't you yet, your day is coming!!

### RI GENEALOGISTS ON DANISH TELEVISIONS WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Danish Broadcasting Company's recently aired Who Do You Think You Are? with Danish celebrity Anne Marie Helger, featured the work of two Rhode Island genealogists, Cherry Fletcher Bamberg and **Shellee Morehead**. Cherry Fletcher Bamberg, a fellow of the American Society of Genealogists and editor of the Rhode Island Genealogical Society's quarterly magazine Rhode Island Roots, and Shellee Morehead, PhD, a professional genealogist specializing in RI and Italian immigrant family history, researched Ms. Helger's immigrant relatives in Boston and Providence. Dr. Morehead was involved in the filming this summer, when the Who Do You Think You Are? crew from Denmark and Miss Helger were in the U.S. She appears in segments filmed at the Rhode Island School of Design and the Old North Burial Ground, in Providence, describing the lives of Otto Sonne, his wife Harriet Rothe and their children.

The episode with Anne Marie Helger and the work of Cherry Bamberg and Shellee Morehead can be viewed, in Danish and English, online at <http://www.dr.dk/DR1/ved-du-hvem-du-er/Udsendelser/udsendelser.htm>.

You may recognize Shellee as the Editor of **Je Me Souviens**

**THERRIEN FAMILY- HENRYVILLE, QUEBEC**  
**BY ED SPAETH**

In an article titled "**James N. Williams, DD., Missionary Among the French Catholics in New England**" in the Spring, 1994, issue of **Je Me Souviens**, there was mention of a Therrien family who lived in Henryville, Quebec, and that had become members of the Baptist church there under Rev. James N. Williams. There was no mention of any given names. There was just a mention of one of the sons, A. L. Therrien, later becoming a minister.

I had always been curious about this family, as my mother's Therrien ancestors were from this area of Quebec. Could there be a connection? However, at the time, in 1994, my household wasn't connected to the Internet and I had little time or incentive to pursue my curiosity much further than just noting the article in my research. Having resurrected the old magazine in November, 2010, in little over an hour, with access to the Internet and Ancestry.com, I was able to discover more particulars about this Therrien family. The family is not directly aligned with my Therrien ancestors, but it is connected many generations back.

First, I searched for Rev. James N. Williams and family at Henryville, Quebec as that was the only full name given in the article, with the hope that the Therriens might be near neighbors. I did find more information about Rev. James Williams and his family as they moved about in Canada and the USA, but no luck with any Therrien neighbors. Then I searched for the Therrien name alone with a qualifier of Henryville, Quebec. No luck on that score. Then I searched for the name A. L. Therrien with qualifiers of a general birth date and Henryville, Quebec. Nothing directly related to those points came up, except Ancestry.com showed a US Passport application for a Theodore Therrien (TERRY) of Philadelphia, PA., whose father was Rev. A. L. Therrien. Ah! Ha! this was the key to this family. With that as my opening, I was able to discover the following:

Theodore Fisk Therrien was the son of Rev. Alphonse DeLiguori Therrien and Sarah Fisk Alphonse DeLiguori Therrien was the son of Guillaume Therrien and Emerante Carreau. Guillaume Therrien was the son of Jean Baptiste Therrien and Rosalie Moreau. Jean Baptiste Therrien was the son of Pierre Noel Therrien and Marie Marthe Destroismaisons.

When I attempted to verify these connections, the various Canadian censuses proved that Guillaume and his family were indeed "Baptists." So, if you have an old genealogical brick wall that has seemed insurmountable in the past, take a new fresh look at the clues and with the help of today's better search tools you just might find your long lost relative or the elusive connection to the family.

**SAVING HOLIDAY GREETINGS**  
**BY CURT B. WITCHER**  
**GENEALOGY GEMS: NEWS FROM THE FORT WAYNE LIBRARY**  
**NO. 81, NOVEMBER 30, 2010**

'Tis the season when many will be receiving Christmas cards and other holiday greetings. If you're like me, every year I receive a few cards that are really special and other greetings that are wonderfully personalized. I like to save these items. How to do that successfully is a matter of personal taste, but there are some basics to keep in mind.

Remember that the vast majority of holiday greetings are printed or written on paper that contains acid; indeed,

some are very acidic. So saving them will mean segregating them from photographs and other valuable keepsakes and heirlooms. If you like scrap booking, you can glue an acid-free envelope on a scrapbook page with acid-free adhesive. Use that envelope as a pocket for your cards. If you're more of an "archiver" or filer, you can use the same acid-free envelope for storing the cards and then place the envelope in an acid-free folder.

Of course, digitizing the cards and greetings is a great way to save holiday mementos. Remember to scan at a dpi of at least 300 and save as tiff images. Be sure to integrate these new 2010 holiday images into your back-up and media refreshment schedule.

**CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF CD-ROMS AND DVDS  
GENEALOGY GEMS: NEWS FROM THE FORT WAYNE LIBRARY  
NO. 82, DECEMBER 31, 2010**

During the holidays, you've likely taken a number of digital pictures, and perhaps even exchanged information electronically with a family member. As your thoughts turn to backing up that data and you plan to use CD-ROMs or DVDs, we have a couple of commonsense tips for you.

- \*Use a soft marker to label the disks.
- \*If you're going to use a label, use one that covers the surface evenly. Don't use something like a return address label, as it will make the disc off-balance in today's high-speed drives, causing damage to the disc and/or the drive.
- \*Burn more than one copy, and store a copy in a different location than the computer. If your house burns down, the back-up disk doesn't do you any good if it was laying next to the compute!.
- \*Check your media periodically, perhaps once every six months. If something is wrong, immediately burn another copy from one of the other backup disks.
- \*Use only high-quality media. In most cases, you do get what you're paying for.
- \*Don't use re-writable CDs or DVDs. The chemical process that allows the recording media to be written onto repeatedly is not as stable over the long term.