



AFGS

American-French Genealogical Society
Woonsocket, RI



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OFFICERS/BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED FOR 2012

The board of directors recently elected the organization's officers. Their one year terms were effective November 12, 2011

Normand T. Deragon was elected president. He was previously the Society's vice president and chaired the organization's Building Fund Committee and French Canadian Hall of Fame Committee. Deragon has served on the AFGS board of directors since 2000 and has been a member of the organization since 1979.

Rob Gumlaw was elected vice president. He also is a member of the Society's building fund committee. Gumlaw has served on the board of directors since 2005.

Dorothy F. Deragon was re-elected secretary. She has served on the board of directors since 2010.

Roger Beaudry was reelected treasurer. He is a charter member of AFGS and served as president between 1994 and 2000. He has been the Society's treasurer since 2001.

Alice Riel was reelected assistant treasurer. She has served on the board of directors for the past 12 years.

Janice Burkhart, Rob Gumlaw, Becky Keegan and Alice Riel were reelected to three year terms at the AFGS annual meeting on October 25th.

HOLIDAY RAFFLE WINNERS

The Annual holiday raffle drawing was held at the Society in November.

The first prize winner of \$1,000 is Louis R. Leveille of Dayville, Conn.; second prize of \$500 went to Andrea M. Bicki of Woonsocket, R.I.; third prize and fourth prizes of \$250.00 each went to Donna Green of Westwood, Mass. and Mark Watson of Essex, Conn.

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all who participated. Proceeds from the drawing benefit the AFGS Building Fund.

AFGS RECEIVES \$100,000 GRANT FROM THE CHAMPLIN FOUNDATIONS

The AFGS will soon realize energy savings and better climate control in its Franco-American Heritage Centers as a result of a \$100,000 grant from The Champlin Foundations.

The grant is for phase I of a three-phase heating and air conditioning project for the three story building. Engineering work has already begun and construction is expected to begin in the spring.

The first phase includes an upgrade to the electrical system, conversion of the new library annex and lunch room from steam heat to a hot water system, and the installation of air conditioning in the main library. The Society is also exploring converting the building heating system from oil to natural gas.

An application for Phase II of the project will be submitted to The Champlin Foundations in March., Phase II includes converting from steam heat to hot water heat and the installation of air conditioning on the second floor.

Phase III, which converts steam heat and adds air conditioning on the third floor will be addressed in 2014.

CABANE A SUCRE (SUGAR SHACK) SCHEDULED IN APRIL

Mark your calendar. AFGS is hosting a traditional French-Canadian Sugar Shack (Cabane a Sucre) on Saturday, April 18 at the Elks Lodge on Social Street in Woonsocket, R.I. Details are not yet finalized, but this promises to be a fun-filled evening. There will be a buffet featuring maple glazed ham, baked beans, pea soup, tourtiere, coffee, tea, dessert, and later in the evening maple on snow.

Live entertainment will also be featured that we guarantee will keep your feet stomping and your hands clapping all evening long. So start practicing the spoons now and be ready.



From the Librarian's Desk

by
Janice Burkhart

I want to remind everyone of the valuable collection of journals that AFGS has. These journals, like *Je Me Souviens*, contain many interesting articles. You might find information about your ancestors and their families, or an article about the area in which your ancestors settled. There could also be articles about general historical events, Native Americans, slavery, strikes, even revolutions or uprisings.

Our periodicals are indexed so we can quickly determine if we have a particular volume and number. They are indexed by Society and by the name of the journal so we can find the issue you are looking for if you only know the name of the Society or if you only know the name of the journal.

I am pleased that we have been able to purchase indexes which list the article of certain journals by author, subject, Municipality and by year and number of the volume. This makes your search much easier.

Listed below are our latest indexes.

Echos genealogiques 1984-2009 - St-Jerome
La Feuille de Chene 1997-2009 - SGSE - St-Eustache
Dans l'Temps 1990-2009 SGSH - St-Hubert
L'Entraide genealogique 1978-2009 - SGCE - Sherbrooke
Cherchons 1997-2009 - SGB - St-Georges-de-Beauce
L'Estuaire 1973-2009 - SHBSL - Rimouski
L'Outaouais genealogique 1979-2008 - SGO - Gatineau
Saguenayensia 1959-2009 - SHS - Chicoutimi
Memoires 1944-2009 - SGCF - Montreal
L'Echo des Basques 1980-2009 - SHGTP - Trois Pistoles
Nos Sources 1981-2009 - SGLe - Lanaudiere
Cap-aux-Diamants 1985-2009 - CAD - Quebec
Entre-Nous 1991-2009 - CGL - Longueuil
L'Ancetre 1974-2009 - SGQ - Quebec
Au Pays des chutes - 1992-2009 - SHGS - Shawinigan
Le Bercail 1991-2009 SGHR - Thetford Mines

I urge you to check out these new tools.

ENERGY-EFFICIENT GLASS BLOCK WINDOWS INSTALLED



Just in time for the New England winter months, AFGS has replaced the original 90 year old, single pane windows in the lower level of the building.

The glass block windows are over three inches thick and each block is vacuum sealed to provide increased insulation value—an extremely important feature when the steam boiler that heats the library annex burns 18 gallons of oil an hour!! A portion of the \$12,400 replacement cost was funded through a grant from the Rhode Island Senate.

GOOGLE PLUS FOR GENEALOGY

By Bill Pommenville - AFGS Webmaster

There is a new social networking service from Google called Google Plus (Google+). It can be a great tool to help communicate with people who share your interests, as well as communicate with family, friends and co-workers. This is a free service with the focus of bringing people together.

The service has a number of features too numerous to mention. As for its part in Genealogy, users can create what is called a circle (it is like a room) where participants can communicate in real time with the people brought together in that circle. The AFGS website has information on Google Plus and possible ways to use it by visiting http://www.afgs.org/afgs-google_plus.html. Visit the AFGS Google Plus site at <https://plus.google.com/112713748978904042120/about>.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The following individuals have recently joined AFGS. The Society now has 1485 members.

- Janis Bartlett, Massachusetts
- James Beauvais, Rhode Island
- Raymond Boucher, Rhode Island
- Nancy Filgate, Massachusetts
- Alfred Fonteneau, Massachusetts
- Joanne Freitas, Rhode Island
- Christopher Grossi, Rhode Island
- Richard E. Heon, Rhode Island
- Donna Jacques, Massachusetts
- Devere Jansen, Utah
- Richard R. Lalime, Sr., Rhode Island
- Debra LaVergne, Massachusetts
- Jacqueline London, Florida
- Alfred L. Lussier, Massachusetts
- James R. Morgan, Utah
- Henry A. Ouellette, Michigan
- Maureen Vertefeuille, Rhode Island

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 50/50 DRAWING WINNERS

Congratulations to the fifth and sixth month drawing winners, Clyde Decorie and Janet Dube.

AREA RADIO/TV STATIONS TO BROADCAST AFGS INCLEMENT WEATHER CLOSINGS

Find out if the Society is affected by inclement weather by tuning in to one of your local radio or television stations to check for cancellations.

AFGS participates in the storm and emergency cancellation notification program operated by the Rhode Island Broadcasters Association. If a winter storm forces the Society to close, a notice will be broadcast by 21 Rhode Island radio stations and six television stations. Many of these stations' signals cross into Massachusetts and Rhode Island. If a radio station does not broadcast the cancellations, a listing will be posted on the various radio station web sites.

Regular library visitors may also register to be notified of library closings by e-mail. Send your e-mail address to misskoko@aol.com.

CLAIRE BRISSON-BANKS TEACHES HOW TO GET A BOOK PUBLISHED

Valuable information about how to get a book published was the topic of a workshop presented at the AFGS in November.



The workshop was presented by Claire Brisson-Banks, a Rhode Island native now living in Utah, who also is a Family History Library senior researcher. She used her recently published book, *The Social Media Guide for Ancestral Research: Using Web 2.0 Strategies*, as an example to explain the steps used to get the book published.

AFGS VOLUNTEERS HONORED AT ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



AFGS Librarian Janice Burkhardt hands out holiday treats to AFGS volunteers.

Society volunteers were honored at a holiday luncheon at the Franco-American Heritage Center in early December.

Each year the Society dedicates an afternoon to paying tribute to the many individuals who give of their time for a variety of functions which include research assistance and data entry.

POPULAR NATIONAL ARCHIVES WORKSHOPS VIDEOS NOW ONLINE

For the first time, the National Archives has launched online videos of its most popular genealogy “how to” workshops. These videos cover “hot topics” in genealogical research such as census, immigration and military records. Now, these popular workshops led by National Archives experts are available on the National Archives YouTube channel www.youtube.com/user/usnationalarchives.

The National Archives-produced *Know Your Records* video shorts cover the creation, scope, content, and use of National Archives records for genealogical research. "The National Archives is proud to make our most popular genealogy lectures available online and ready for viewing by anyone, anywhere, at any time," said Diane Dimkoff, Director of Customer Services.

The National Archives holds the permanently valuable records of the Federal government. These include records of interest to genealogists, such as pension files, ship passenger lists, census and Freedmen's Bureau materials. The Know Your Records Program offers opportunities for staff, volunteers, and researchers to learn about these records through lectures, ongoing genealogy programs, workshops, symposia, the annual genealogy fair, an online genealogy tutorial, reference reports for genealogical research, and editions of *Researcher News* for Washington DC area researchers.

MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL SEEKS SPEAKERS

The Massachusetts Genealogical Council is seeking historians or genealogists who might be interested in speaking at the Council's annual seminar. The seminar will be held on Saturday, July 21, 2012 at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass. The major theme for the seminar is "Ethnicity and Genealogy."

For more information contact Philip Hermann, the co-director of programs at program@massgencouncil.org.

WE NEED YOUR STORIES

The JMS editor is always looking for stories from our members and friends. If you have an interesting story to tell let us know. Send an e-mail with your story idea to nderagon@afgs.org.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER?????

This is an incredible story as told by AFGS treasurer Roger Beaudry. Roger is also our “postmaster” who retrieves the Society mail from the Woonsocket post office.

“When picking up the mail on December 23rd, I noticed a rather scruffy, dirty envelope in the mix. I also noted the cancellation on the envelope was September 12th. I assumed it was just another lost letter that found its way.

“I opened it and saw it was a membership renewal. I planned to send a message to ask if the sender had eventually paid with another check since this one hadn't come until three months after mailing.

“While looking at the application I noticed that they the person paid \$32 (Dues are now \$35). I wondered why and read the list of renewal options and noticed they also were out of date.

“Upon closer inspection, I noticed that the check was written on September 8, 2001. I assumed the envelope was cancelled this year, but in looking at it again I noticed that it was postmarked September 12, 2001!”

The amazing fact about this story is that the letter was mailed in North Smithfield, R.I., the town adjacent to Woonsocket. Incidentally, the lady who sent in the application has never been listed on our membership rolls. Our guess is that she was upset at never receiving her membership card.

"FINDING YOUR ROOTS," A 10-PART SERIES ON PBS

Another genealogy series is about to be launched on television in the U.S. "Finding Your Roots" with historian Henry Louis Gates Jr. will launch on March 25. That will be the first episode of a 10-part series on PBS stations.

The new series will feature two people in each one-hour episode, including husband-and-wife actors Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgwick, who jokes she's afraid they might turn out to be cousins. "They are indeed distant cousins," revealed Gates. "Talk about six degrees of separation, right?"

Check your local listings for the exact time and channel in your area