



# AFGS

American-French Genealogical Society  
Woonsocket, RI



Volume: XXI I

No. 4

July - August 2011

## AFGS HAS EXPANDED HOURS FOR THE SUMMER

AFGS has expanded its hours for the summer. **THE LIBRARY WILL NOT BE OPEN ON SATURDAY DURING THE MONTH OF JULY.** The library will, however, be open on Saturday during the month of August. We did have many visitors during the month of June. We wish to thank everyone who has volunteered their time to make these expanded hours possible.

## THANK YOU

We want to thank all of our members who have sent in their mailing labels and who have indicated that they wish to join us in our monthly drawing. There is still time to join. The first drawing will be on August 1.

## AFGS MEMBERS APPEAR ON LOCAL NEWSCAST

You may have heard that the Boston Bruins won the Stanley Cup - first place trophy in the world of hockey. Since it has been quite a few years since this has happened, you can imagine that there was quite a lot of excitement leading up to the final game or two.

We were surprised by a request from the local television station to come and interview some of our members. It proved to be a lot of fun for members, staff and the news crew! Here is the link if you would like to see what happened.

<http://www2.turnto10.com/news/2011/jun/14/2/ri-american-french-society-pulling-bruins-ar-539923/?referer=None&shorturl=http://bit.ly/l3snmP>

## ADVICE FROM OUR WEB GUY BY BILL POMMENVILLE

### Discover Family Search Wiki Sites

A great free resource for genealogy research is available from Familysearch.org and is called FamilySearch Wiki. The FamilySearch Wiki has over 59,920 pages about records, localities, subjects and methods that can help you find your ancestors. Each page has information and most times, links. Important: a wiki site is not just links to Internet Web Pages but information on the actual Family Search site. AFGS has a page with information on the Family Search wiki. [https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/American-French\\_Genealogical\\_Society](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/American-French_Genealogical_Society) This AFGS site has wiki links to New England States, Canada and its Provinces and Europe. All these are on the Family Search wiki site.

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

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You can search the full site by subject, place or keyword. Plus you can browse by country or subject. Here is a short listing of what you can find: instructions on how to find, use, and analyze records that are genealogically useful. Included are historical definitions of legal terms, occupations, and other terms useful to genealogists. Images of records used as examples of the kind of information a type of record will contain, etc. Please read the full list in the tour below.

Here also is a short listing of what you will **not find**: A place to post (or find) information about a specific ancestor; a place to post data sets and genealogical records such as obituaries, military histories or a collection of product reviews, etc. Please read the full list in the tour below.

For the complete listing of information take the tour at <https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Help:Tour>

### CAN YOU HELP

Robert Collins wrote: Can you tell me where I can find information describing railroad travel by emigrants from Canada to the US? Like, which RR's were used, what the trip was like, what did it cost, traveling etc. Contact him at bobalouis@optonline.net if you can help.

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

#### WHAT IS IN A REPERTOIRE?

When using a repertoire, a collection of vital statistics, you should always examine the book before you begin. I think you will be surprised at what you might find.

Of course you will find a listing of birth, marriage, and/or burial statistics, but you will find other important information as well. For example, you may find directions on how to read the information in the book. It may surprise you to know that not all books are set up in the same way. You may find a list of abbreviations used for that particular book. Some books have a history of the town or parish. Perhaps some names were left out of the original manuscript and are placed in a separate list in the back of the book. You may find a list of name variations used in that particular area.

If you pick up a repertoire and go directly to the vital statistics, you may be missing out on some important information.

### WHAT'S COOKING BY JANICE BURKHART

Ah, Summer. One of the best things about Summer is all of the fresh fruit that is so delicious and juicy. When I think of fruit, I think of crisps, cobblers and pies. Yum. They never taste as good as they do in the Summer. I have given you a basic crisp topping and some ideas about different fruit you can use. Good eating!!

#### BASIC OATMEAL CRISP TOPPING

2/3 c. all-purpose flour  
2/3 c. oatmeal  
1/2 c. brown sugar  
1/2 c. butter

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 11 AM - 4 PM Tues 1 PM - 9 PM Sat. 10 AM - 4 PM

### Page 3

1/2 tsp. cinnamon  
1/4 tsp. nutmeg  
1/4 tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Prepare your choice of fruit mixture as indicated below. Cover bottom of a buttered, 8 inch square pan with fruit mixture. Combine flour, oats, brown sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt together in bowl. Cut butter into dry ingredients until mixture is crumbly. Sprinkle topping over fruit and bake at 375 for about 30 minutes or until topping is nicely brown and fruit is bubbling. Serve warm, plain, with whipped cream or ice cream.

#### **RHUBARB CRISP:**

3 c. fresh or frozen rhubarb peeled or thawed, sliced  
1/3 c. brown sugar

#### **BLUEBERRY CRISP:**

2 c. blueberries or 1 (10 oz.) pkg. frozen blueberries, thawed  
1/4 c. sugar  
2 tsp. grated lemon rind  
2 tsp. water

#### **CHERRY CRISP:**

2 (14 oz.) cans red pitted cherries  
1/2 c. juice from cherries  
Drain cherries and use only the amount of juice indicated.

#### **APPLE CRISP:**

4 to 5 medium apples, peeled and cored  
1/3 to 1/2 c. brown sugar  
1 tbs. lemon juice  
Slice apples and place in a baking dish. Add brown sugar and lemon juice. Blend well.

#### **RHUBARB CRISP:**

3 c. fresh or frozen rhubarb peeled or thawed, sliced  
1/3 c. brown sugar  
Combine together rhubarb and brown sugar in baking dish.

#### **PEAR CRISP:**

5 pears, peeled and cored  
1/3 c. brown sugar  
1 tbs. lemon juice  
Slice pears and combine with brown sugar and lemon juice in baking dish.

If you like peaches, you must try this simple and delicious summer soup.

### **COLD PEACH SOUP**

1 sliced, peeled peach  
1 cup sliced strawberries  
1 (8 oz.) carton peach or strawberry yogurt  
1-2 Tablespoons sugar  
2 Tablespoons lemon juice

lemon slices

Garnish with a sprig of mint, a lemon slice or extra strawberries.

1. In blender, combine first 5 ingredients until smooth.
2. Pour into a bowl and cover. Refrigerate 1-2 hours until chilled.
3. Spoon into bowls. Garnish with your choice of strawberries, mint sprig or thinly sliced lemon. This will make about two 1 cup servings.

### WEB SITES YOU MIGHT ENJOY

**Warning!!** The web sites recommended in this newsletter have been explored by AFGS. We have not however explored any of the links found on the sites and cannot vouch for what you may find if you explore links found there. Explore at your own risk.

Here is a video recommended by Mitch Conover. This film, made by a 15-year old girl, puts to shame the output of a number of Hollywood producers and/or directors. All I can say is WOW! It is the hottest thing on the Internet. There have been over 3,000,000 hits as of this morning. In case you missed it, here it is. <http://www.youtube.com/v/ervaMPt4Ha0&autoplay=1> If site does not come up, Google "Remember Me" by Lizzie Palmer.

Did you know that there is a new CPR technique that does not require mouth to mouth resuscitation? Check out this important information It could save a life. <http://tinyurl.com/2fx8r59>

### ACADIAN ROOTS ?

Try these web sites.

<http://www.bayougenealogy.com/shiplists.html> Here you will find a list of ships that transported the Acadians from Canada. There is also some information on where the deportees were sent

To see the list of Acadians who fought in the American Revolution please see the article by Stephen A. White:

<http://stephenwhite.acadian-home.org/american-revolution.html>

The following site is a direct link with information about the Deportation ships researched by Albert Lafreniere of Connecticut.

<http://www.acadian-home.org/deportationships.html>

The following is a link to the ships themselves - the name of the ships, from where they left, port of arrival, the date they sailed and the date they arrived. It also includes the number of Acadians on each ship.

<http://www.acadian-home.org/deport-ships-table.html>

Lucie LeBlanc Consentino has a very wonderful site for Acadian researchers

<http://www.acadian-home.org/frames.html> ;

### QUICK TIP OF THE MONTH FOR PRESERVATION DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

by Curt B. Witcher

Reprinted from Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library No. 86, April 30, 2011

All the horrible weather that has plagued such a large part of the country reminds us again of how important disaster preparedness is for our genealogical materials and family heirlooms. Typically we don't think about what to do with these items until it's too late. When you're in a tornado shelter or being evacuated because a critical dam or levy just broke--that is not the time to begin your disaster planning.

Many have heard the acronym LOCKSS, which stands for Lots Of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe. And that is the best way to prepare for a disaster when it comes to your genealogical documents. With the ease and low cost of scanning and digital technology, and the high quality of the scanned images, think very seriously about creating a digital archive of your family photograph albums and other important family documents. And then don't store that digital archive right next to your computer, or even in the same house! Send it to a relative in another town, or create a space for your family history on WeRelate.org and post your digital documents there. You can also consider what many thousands of people are doing--using cloud storage such as Mozy, Dropbox, and Carbonite. Most offer significant storage space at a reasonable cost. Prepare to preserve your family treasures before disaster strikes.

### **NEW CALENDAR INCLUDED WITH YOUR NEWSLETTER**

Please note that your current calendar has been included with this mailing. It informs you of the days when AFGS will be closed and also gives you some important dates. Please keep it in a handy place.

### **SPEAKER PROGRAM TO BE CONTINUED**

AFGS will continue with its popular free genealogy classes. A complete schedule will come with the next newsletter and will be posted on the AFGS web site. If you have a class you would like us to present, please let us know as we want the classes to be helpful to you.

The first three classes are as follows: August 6, 2011 at 9:00 AM - How To Use the AFGS Library presented by Janice Burkhart. September 17 at 9:00 AM - How To Read the Various Repertoires presented by Janice Burkhart. October 1, 2011 at 9:00 AM - Internet Research and Improving Your Online Search presented by Bill Pommenville. October 22, 2011 at 9:00 AM - Importance of Genealogy Programs presented by Bill Pommenville.

### **A CANADIAN FOLK LEGEND**

TRANSLATED BY RICHARD AND GEORGE CHRISTIAN

#### **WILL-O'-THE-WISPS**

Will-o'-the-wisps have played a considerable role in the popular imagination of the previous century. The current generation is ignorant of even the names of these fearful beings. Some 50 or 60 years ago, people young and old, especially in rural areas, feared the will'o-the-wisps as much as Beelzebub himself. Littré, [the man] who knew everything, defined 'wild fire' as an erratic flame produced by clouds of gas which, rising either from swamps or from areas where animal remains were decomposing, spontaneously ignites but is very short-lived.

Poor Littré; he was so wrong. Our ancestors, even those who had never been to school, would have informed him that wild fire is actually the wandering soul of a deceased person begging for the prayers which his heirs had forgotten or had refused to give him. In certain regions, the will-o'-the-wisp was inoffensive. He traveled only at night, or at least, he was never seen during the day.

Sometimes a late-night traveler saw it ahead, at other times it was following him. Sometimes even it flew at his sides and even touched him. The will-o'-the-wisp did not inflict a burn and did no harm to whomever it was accompanying. And besides, there was a very simple way of getting rid of it: one had only to pray for its intentions.

An older man from a neighboring parish has even told me that his father, while walking on a dark night and leaving a forest, was followed for several miles by two will-o'-the-wisps. The unfortunate and fearful man was running more than he was walking, yet the will-o'-the-wisps never abandoned him. In order to return home, the man had to cross a fairly deep stream whose two banks were linked by a narrow and wobbly plank. When about to cross that bridge, the man hesitated. It was so dark that the slightest misstep could doom him. Having lost hope, he made the sign of the cross, commended his soul to God, and continued onto the shaky bridge. At that very moment, the two will-o'-the-wisps took their stand on both ends of the plank and thus allowed him to see the passage to take as clearly as in daytime. Barely had he crossed the stream when the will-o'-the-wisps suddenly disappeared, leaving the traveler in deepest darkness.

But will-o'-the-wisps were not always so benevolent. In other regions, they sought to entice travelers toward cliffs or lakes and rivers in order to make them topple.

Will-o'-the-wisps did not originate in Canada. These legends came to us from old France, brought here by our ancestors from Normandy. Even today, in certain regions of Normandy, there is a belief strong as steel in will-o'-the-wisps which follow late-night travelers. But there, except for some rare exceptions, the will-o'-the-wisps venture out only during Advent, on the nights before Christmas.

**ACADIAN MUSEUM OF ERATH, LOUISIANA, INDUCTS MARIA PLACER  
Living Legends Induction of Maria Placer, TV Personality, Journalist, Community and Child  
Activist**

The Acadian Museum of Erath inducted Maria Placer into its Order of Living Legends on Sunday, July 3, 2011.

Ms. Placer is best known as the first woman news anchor in southwest Louisiana and first female television news director on the Gulf Coast. In the State of Louisiana, Maria Placer is synonymous with child advocacy. In 1982, she launched "Wednesday's Child," a regularly scheduled program aimed at finding homes for children released for adoption which continues its success to the present. She was a founder of the Acadiana Chapter of "Big Brothers-Big Sisters", and began a "Child Find" chapter in the Acadiana area. She was part of the formation of a "Teen Pregnancy Prevention Task Force" which has now gone statewide, and has personally produced and aired over 30 series regarding families in crisis and teen pregnancy, including "Concern", which dealt with the special needs of children.

Maria Placer is beloved in Acadiana's Veteran community. She holds a special bond with Vietnam Veterans of America, Acadiana Chapter # 141. During the Vietnam War, she read the names of the Vietnam War casualties from Acadiana during the nightly KLFY-TV 10 telecast, and she continues to play an integral part of local Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs with VVA # 141. Each year to this date, Maria reads the names of Acadian's fallen soldiers from Iraq/Afghanistan during the Memorial Day Tribute.

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In July of 2008, Maria retired from KLFY-TV 10 after 42 years of service. She currently serves as Executive Director of 232-HELP.

Congratulations to this very fine person.

### **UP** Sent To US by George Buteau

This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is '**UP**.' It is listed in the dictionary as an [adv], [prep], [adj], [n] or [v].

It's easy to understand **UP**, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake **UP**?

At a meeting, why does a topic come **UP**? Why do we speak **UP**, and why are the officers **UP** for election and why is it **UP** to the secretary to write **UP** a report? We call **UP** our friends, brighten **UP** a room, polish **UP** the silver, warm **UP** the leftovers and clean **UP** the kitchen. We lock **UP** the house and fix **UP** the old car.

At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir **UP** trouble, line **UP** for tickets, work **UP** an appetite, and think **UP** excuses.

To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed **UP** is special.

And this **UP** is confusing: A drain must be opened **UP** because it is stopped **UP**.

We open **UP** a store in the morning but we close it **UP** at night. We seem to be pretty mixed **UP** about **UP**!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of **UP**, look **UP** the word **UP** in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes **UP** almost 1/4 of the page and can add **UP** to about thirty definitions.

If you are **UP** to it, you might try building **UP** a list of the many ways **UP** is used. It will take **UP** a lot of your time, but if you don't give **UP**, you may wind **UP** with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding **UP**. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing **UP**. When it rains, it soaks **UP** the earth. When it does not rain for awhile, things dry **UP**. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it **UP**, for now . . . my time is **UP**!

Oh . . . one more thing: What is the first thing you do in the morning and the last thing you do at night?

**U P!**

Did that one crack you **UP**?

Don't screw **UP**. Share this with everyone you look **UP** in your address book . . . or not . . . it's **UP** to you. Now I'll shut **UP**!

**A TEST  
SENT TO US BY LUCILE MCDONALD**

Jot your answers down on a sheet of paper. No fair peeking.

1. Johnny's mother had three children. The first child was named April. The second child was named May. What was the third child's name?
2. There is a clerk at the butcher shop, he is five feet ten inches tall and he wears size 13 sneakers. What does he weigh?
3. Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?
4. How much dirt is there in a hole that measures two feet by three feet by four feet?
5. What word in the English Language is always spelled incorrectly?
6. Billy was born on December 28th, yet his birthday is always in the summer. How is this possible?
7. In California, you cannot take a picture of a man with a wooden leg. Why not?
8. What was the President's name in 1975?
9. If you were running a race, and you passed the person in 2nd place, what place would you be in now?
10. Which is correct to say, "The yolk of the egg are white" or "The yolk of the egg is white"?
11. If a farmer has 5 haystacks in one field and 4 haystacks in the other field, how many haystacks would he have if he combined them all in another field?

**Here are the Answers**

1. Answer: Johnny of course.
2. Answer: Meat.
3. Answer: Mt. Everest; it just wasn't discovered yet.
4. Answer: There is no dirt in a hole.
5. Answer: Incorrectly
6. Answer: Billy lives in the Southern Hemisphere
7. Answer: You can't take pictures with a wooden leg. You need a camera to take pictures.
8. Answer: Same as is it now - Barack Obama



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9. Answer: You would be in 2nd.

10. Answer: Neither, the yolk of the egg is yellow

11. Answer: One. If he combines all of his haystacks, they all become one big stack.

# American-French Genealogical Society

www.afgs.org

Library Sessions 2011-2012

Info@afgs.org

## August 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
.	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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28	29	30	31			

Mon 1,8,15,22,29  
 Tues 2,9,16,23,30  
 Sat 6, 13,20,27



## February 2012

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25	26	27	28	29		

Mon 6,13,20, 27  
 Tues 7,14, 21, 28  
 Sat 4, 11,18,25  
 AFGS Class

## September 2011

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Mon 12,19,26  
 Tues 6,13,20,27  
 Sat 10,17,24  
 AFGS Class  
 Labor Day 5th

AFGS Hall of  
 Fame  
 Friday October  
 14th

## March 2012

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Mon 5, 12, 19, 26  
 Tues 6, 13, 20, 27  
 Sat 3,10,17,24,31  
 AFGS Class

## October 2011

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Mon 3, 17, 24, 31  
 Tues 4, 11, 18, 25  
 Sat 1,15, 22, 29  
 AFGS Class  
 Columbus Day 10th

**ANNUAL  
 MEETING/  
 ELECTION of  
 BOARD of  
 DIRECTORS**  
 Oct. 25, 2011 at  
 7 PM

## April 2012

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29	30					

Mon 2, 9,16, 23, 30  
 Tues 3, 10, 17, 24  
 Sat 7,14,21, 28  
 AFGS Class  
 Easter 8th

## November 2011

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27	28	29	30			

Mon 7,14,21,28  
 Tues 1, 8,15,22, 29  
 Sat 5,12,19,26  
 AFGS Class  
 Thanksgiving 24th

**HOURS**  
 Mondays  
 11 am - 4 pm  
 Tuesdays  
 1 pm - 9 pm  
 Saturdays  
 10 am - 4 pm

## May 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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Mon 7, 14, 21  
 Tues 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
 Sat 5, 12,19  
 AFGS Class  
 Memorial Day 28th

## December 2011

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Mon 5, 12  
 Tues 6, 13  
 Sat 3,10,17

**Closed Christmas and  
 New Year's Weeks**  
 12/19/2011 thru  
 01/02/2012

## June 2012

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Mon 4, 11, 18, 25  
 Tues 5, 12, 19, 26  
 Sat 2, 9,16,23, 30

## January 2012

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29	30	31				

Mon 9,16,23,30  
 Tues 3,10,17,24,31  
 Sat 7,14,21,28  
 AFGS Class

**AFGS**  
 78 Earle St.  
 Woonsocket, RI  
 -  
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 Fax 401-597-6290

## July 2012

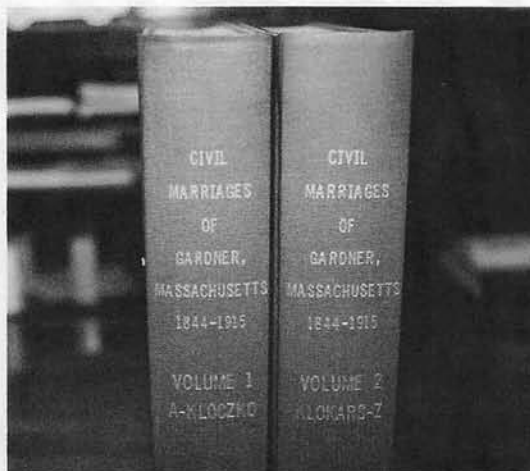
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Mon 2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
 Tues 3, 10, 17, 24,31  
 Closed Saturdays  
 in July

The American-French Genealogical Society announces publication of the latest in our "Marriages of the Blackstone Valley" series of repertoires:

## Civil Marriages of Gardner, Massachusetts (1844 – 1915)

2 volumes, 906 pages, hard bound



**PRICE \$71.00 (\$100.00 CANADA)**

Send request to AFGS, PO Box 830, Woonsocket, RI 02895

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

RI RESIDENTS MUST ADD \$4.55 PER SET FOR STATE SALES TAX

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_\_.

VISA/MASTERCARD ACCEPTED.

Visa # \_\_\_\_\_

Mastercard # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(Marriages of Gardner, MA July, 2011)