



AFGS

American-French Genealogical Society
Woonsocket, RI



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UPGRADE OF AFGS FRANCO-AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER HEATING SYSTEM SET TO BEGIN

With the end of the heating season at hand, AFGS is about to begin the \$100,000 upgrade to the building's inefficient heating system. The project will be funded through a grant from The Champlin Foundations.



Engineers expect to upgrade the heating system on all three floors of the Franco-American Heritage Center. The upgrade includes converting the larger steam boiler to hot water and converting the entire system from oil to gas. According to the engineers the steam-to-hot water conversion should result in an immediate 25 percent energy savings. The smaller boiler will be removed. The larger boiler has sufficient capacity to heat the entire building.

The iron radiators will be removed on all floors and more efficient baseboard will be installed. The building's electrical service also will be upgraded to support the new heating system, future air conditioning installation, and sufficient power to support a future lift or elevator installation.

The Society expected to make the upgrades in three phases but now expects to complete the work in two years.

ACADIAN GENEALOGIST STEPHEN WHITE LECTURES AT AFGS



On Sunday, March 25th, the AFGS hosted Centre d'études acadiennes Anselme-Chiasson, Université du Moncton genealogist Stephen A. White at our Franco-American Heritage Center. He is the author of the two-volume Dictionnaire généalogique des familles acadiennes familiar to those researching their Acadian ancestors.

More than 120 visitors heard him speak about "The Acadians in Canada During the 18th Century". He gave accounts of individuals and families leaving the Maritimes to make a new home in Québec prior to 1755.

White also focused on those families that fled to New France during Le Grand Dérangement - the forced exile of the Acadians by the British beginning in 1755. Because these people shared a common language and religion, they soon assimilated with established families of Québec.

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From the Librarian's Desk

by
Janice Burkhart

We have several collections at the library that are sometimes overlooked. The first collection is the Petite Drouin books. The second collection is the Drouin Hard To Find Marriages. The third collection is HISTOR.

The Petite Drouin Collection is a set of books that list Quebec marriages that fill in the spaces between 1780 and 1840. These are marriages that might not be in the Red Drouin Books and are also not in the Blue Drouin Books. Very often we are able to find missing marriages in this set of books. The names are listed alphabetically by the groom's name and the information includes the names of the bride and groom, the names of their parents, and the date and place of the marriage. These are good books to check when you are stuck.

The Hard to Find Marriage Collection is on the Society's computers. Bill Pommenville has arranged them so that different letters are found in specifically labeled folders. For example, the "A" folder will have all the names beginning with the letter "A". Once in the "A" folder, you will find other folders like "AL", "AU" "AM", "AN" and so forth. Then inside each of those folders you will find specific names. These marriages were researched at the Drouin Institute after the "Blue Books" and the "Women Drouin" books were published and contain information not found in the other series. Mr. Jean-Pierre Pepin digitized the information and it is quite easy to use.

The third collection is HISTOR. These books are photocopies of the cards that Rene Jette used when he was writing PRDH. The cards contain information such as occupation, ages and place of residency. The cards are hand written and it takes a little practice to know what information is being presented but all in all, I think you will find the information useful.

Check out these tools when you visit the library.

STEPHEN WHITE VISITS AFGS

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Many with families from Lanaudière, Beauce, St-Gervais-de-Bellechasse, St-Jacques-de-l'Achigan, St-Grégoire-de-Nicolet, L'Acadie and the Gaspé peninsula will have Acadian ancestors.

He also spoke on "The Acadian Exiles Who Remained in Massachusetts and Connecticut". He said the list of people who remained were few in number. He also detailed the French neutrals in Massachusetts who remained.

There are the Robichaud brothers, Pierre (Peter) and Joseph, who both fought for their new country in the American Revolution, members of the Dugas family who lived in the central part of the state, and others from Marshfield and Gloucester. The Michel family who remained in Connecticut later became known as Mitchell.

White's lecture was made possible through a generous gift to AFGS by the former Acadian Cultural Society. We offered the program free of charge. Guests donated nearly \$850 to the AFGS Building Fund. Thank you to all who donated.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS IN WOONSOCKET OFFERS DISCOUNT TO AFGS MEMBERS

If you are planning a research trip to AFGS this year we have good news. The Society has reached an agreement with the Holiday Inn Express in Woonsocket to offer room discounts to AFGS members.

Members will receive a 20 percent discount off the regular room rate of \$119.00 per night. Members must show their membership card when checking in to receive the discount. To make reservations call the hotel number in Woonsocket. Do not call the national Holiday Inn Express toll-free number.

Call (401) 769-5000. The hotel is located at 194 Fortin Drive Woonsocket, RI 02895. There is a diner adjacent to the hotel that is open 24-hours a day.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Sandra M. Allard	Florida
Claire M. Antaya	Massachusetts
Lawrence A. Aubin	Massachusetts
Chris Cox	Missouri
Frances Rodrigues, Stacy Rodrigues	Botelho Massachusetts
Ronald Gabriel	Florida
Rachel Goodrich	Massachusetts
Raymond Gousie	Massachusetts
Sheree Greenwood	Rhode Island
Richard and Julie Jaquish	Connecticut
Paulette Renee Laperche	Rhode Island
Paul M. Leclerc	Rhode Island
Madeleine Longpre Betz	Washington
Susan Madigan	Massachusetts
Pauline McCue	Massachusetts
Marc and Susan Meunier	Connecticut
Donald Trinque	California
Janine Vanderburg	Colorado
Jean Francois Vinuesa	Saint Michel de Lanes AUD

AFGS WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

The series of free workshops will continue at the Franco-American Heritage Center through August 28th. The workshops cover a variety of research and historical topics.

The workshops will be held at the AFGS Franco-American Heritage Center library at 78 Earle Street in Woonsocket. All workshops begin at 9:00 a.m. The dates and topics include:

April 28	Genealogy and DNA
May 5	Doing Research at Home
May 19	Using the Family History Resources at AFGS
June 16	Genealogy for Beginners
August 18	Using the AFGS Library Resources

For more information about the workshops contact Bill Pommenville at wpommenville@afgs.org.

DNA PROJECT NEEDS RECRUITS

BY THOMAS ALLAIRE

The society has established a DNA project for members. AFGS has affiliated with the Family Tree DNA Company of Texas and offers testing on the strict paternal line, the strict maternal line, general kinship tests, and a few other assorted tests. Details are at www.FTDNA.com.

AFGS members receive a discount and the society earns a portion of the fee. A table is compiled of numbers based on the test results on areas of the DNA called markers and posted along with hundreds of thousands of others. At mutual option, close matches can contact each other and compare notes. The closer the numbers are, the closer the kinship.

One member discovered close relatives who carry an Anglicized version of his surname. French-Canadians sometimes changed their names to fit in better with the English-speaking society (or the clerks did that for them). These changes are often forgotten after a couple of generations and their descendants may not be aware of their original name. DNA crosses this barrier.

Another project member from the U.S. matched closely with a Canadian who is his eighth cousin once-removed on paper, with a common ancestor that pre-dates the settlement of New France. They had 63 out of 67 markers in common. This means two things: first, they now know the value of 63 of those markers that the common ancestor had with as much accuracy as they could get if they dug up his bones and tested them. More samples could establish the other markers.

The DNA project will accept any AFGS member for any test and we will also accept relatives of members whose samples are necessary to study lines not accessible through routine testing of the member. Slightly less than half of the project members are relatives of AFGS members. Please sign up under the links on our homepage at www.AFGS.org, or email tomallaire@afgs.org and get the proper discounts.

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 about an ancestor or your research findings, let us know. Send an e-mail with your story idea to nderagon@afgs.org. We are gathering stories for the Fall 2012 issue.

HELP WANTED

As AFGS continues to plan for more activities in our Franco-American Heritage Center, it is important that we seek out volunteers among our members and friends for anticipated responsibilities. If you have some of the skills mentioned below, we'd like to hear from you.

Audio/Video Manager: Responsible for recommending purchase of equipment for presentations, performances and recording such activities.

Program Manager: Responsible for managing Society-produced activities at the Franco-American Heritage Center. Setting up the auditorium for lectures, ceremonies and entertainment programs by AFGS or organizations/individuals who rent the facility for such events

Publications Editor: Responsible for the production of the Society's bi-annual *Je Me Souviens* journal and the bi-monthly newsletter *AFGnews*. Individual will manage the content and coordinate the editing of the publications' content. Editor will coordinate the printing of JMS and the newsletter.

Public Relations/Marketing: Responsible for media relations to generate publicity about AFGS and its programs and activities. Individual will develop collateral printed material for the various operations within the Society.

If you are interested in discussing any of these positions, please contact Norm Deragon via e-mail at nderagon@afgs.org or call (401) 524-7315.

MARCH AND APRIL SPLIT THE POT WINNERS

Congratulations to the seventh and eighth month drawing winners, Dorothy L. Proulx and Yvette Lussier.

INTERESTING WEBSITES

A special thank you to AFGS member Lisa Atherton for sending along these interesting Websites.

Check out the penny postcards from where you live now, where you grew up, or places you visited as a child. What did your hometown area look like according to Penny Postcards? Visit this site and find out:

<http://www.usgwarchives.org/special/ppcs/>

This is a very helpful website for genealogists who have family ties to Connecticut.

<http://public.fotki.com/GCDOUGHERTY/>

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? ONLINE

Missed an episode of *Who Do You Think You Are?* on NBC? You can also watch it online on NBC's web site. The programs become available on the web site a few hours after they have been broadcast. The episodes are available online for about six months.

The online versions are available at any time and in some cases the commercials have been deleted.

Learn more about watching *Who Do You Think You Are?* Online at <http://www.nbc.com/who-do-you-think-you-are/>

POTENTIALLY FATAL FRENCH CANADIAN GENETIC DISORDER

Read more at the following link: http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2012/02/french-canadian-genetic-disorder-can-cause-killer-cholesterol-levels-in-even-the-healthiest-person.html

AFGnews is a publication of the American-French Genealogical Society. News items concerning Franco-American genealogy and history are welcome. Please send them to Norm Deragon at nderagon@afgs.org.