



A F G News

American-French Genealogical Society
Woonsocket, RI



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AFGS ONLINE LIBRARY COMING SOON

We are planning to provide select research information online to all AFGS members.

The AFGS Online Library Branch will be for AFGS members only and will provide members with the ability to access select Society library resources at any time on the Internet via our web site. The resources we plan to make available in the AFGS Online Library Branch would normally be available only by visiting the AFGS library or ordering them from AFGS. For example, we plan to offer Cemetery Headstone pictures from over 90 cemeteries, in the US and Canada. The resources we would make available to members online have been produced by AFGS volunteers and staff. We will announce more details in the next newsletter.

MONTHLY 50/50 RAFFLE RETURNS IN JANUARY

The AFGS 50/50 raffle returns for members beginning in January 2013. The drawings are held during the first week of each month. As the name implies half of the jackpot goes to the winner and the rest to the AFGS Building Fund.

Drawings will be held between January and June. Participants get three chances for \$1.00. If you wish to play for the six months send your payment of \$6.00 along with 18 mailing labels. Make checks payable to AFGS. Our staff will attach your labels to three tickets each month. Also send us your phone number and e-mail address so we can contact you if you win.

2012 AFGS FRENCH CANADIAN HALL OF FAME CLASS INDUCTED



Class of 2012 inducted on October 19th. From left, AFGS president **Normand T. Deragon**, inductees **Stephen White**, **Romeo Berthiaume**, **Dr. Claire Quintal**, former Rhode Island Lt. Governor **Roger Begin**, and committee chair **Sylvia Bartholomy**.

HOLIDAY RAFFLE WINNERS

The annual AFGS Holiday Raffle winners were drawn on November 24th. Congratulations to our winners and thanks to all who participated. The proceeds benefit the AFGS Building Fund:

1st Prize—\$1,000

William R. Guevremont, Jr., Florida

2nd Prize—\$500.00

Ray and Jeanne Adams, Rhode Island

3rd Prize—\$250.00

Robert McCormick, Rhode Island

4th Prize—Afghan and Two Pillows

Charlotte Carr, Massachusetts

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DURING 2013

The year 2013 marks the 350th anniversary of the arrival of first contingent of the Daughters of the King (Les Filles du Roi) in New France.

Several events are planned in France and Quebec to commemorate this event. Here in the USA, AFGS is planning a celebration of its own. Nearly every individual of French Canadian ancestry has at least one of these pioneer women in their lines.

If you have any of the King's Daughters in your line begin documenting them now. We will hold our commemoration event sometime during 2013. All AFGS members will be invited to participate. Details are being finalized and we expect to make an announcement about our celebration in early 2013.

AFGS will enhance the year-long celebration by offering our King's Daughters commemorative ornament for the discounted price of \$12.00 each. That's a \$3.00 discount off the regular price!

The ornament is an intricately detailed depiction of the women who landed in Quebec between 1663 and 1673. Nearly 1,000 women were recruited by King Louis XIV to go to New France to marry and populate the colony.

The King's Daughters ornament is an exquisitely produced 24 kt gold electroplated collectible handcrafted of solid brass. The women are depicted in full color.

The ornament is beautifully gift boxed with the AFGS logo embossed on the cover and includes a brief history of the King's Daughters and the important role they played in the growth of the French settlement in Quebec.

To order the King's Daughters ornament or the entire three ornament set of collectibles, visit the AFGS website at www.afgs.org.



Dennis Boudreau conducted the Beginning Genealogy class recently in the **AFGS Franco-American Heritage Center** auditorium. More than 50 persons attended the three hour workshop.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE READY TO ASSIST MEMBERS

The AFGS Research Committee will conduct ancestral research for a fee. Although the Society focuses on French Canadian research, we do have the capability to search the vital records in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont with certain year limitations.

The Society does not conduct adoption research.

You may fill out an application online at our website, www.afgs.org, or download the form, complete it and mail it to us at PO Box 830, Woonsocket, RI 02895-0870.

Online submissions are limited to AFGS members. Non-members must submit the research request by mail. Members may also fill in a five-generation chart on the website and insert question marks in blanks where you are seeking information.

The committee will notify you that we received the request and the date it was received.

The rates and the types of research we will conduct are posted on the Society website. Please direct questions to wpommenville@afgs.org.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The AFGS family continues to grow. Here are the names of our newest members. Welcome aboard!

Janet	Barry	RI
Roger N.	Begin	RI
Romeo	Berthiaume	MA
Irene	Blais	RI
Raymond J.	Brodeur	MA
Thomas and Nancy	Brummett	CT
Diane	Brunelle	MA
Nichole	Cardillo	RI
Edwin C.	Deschamps	MA
Ronald E.	Gauthier	RI
Thomas	Graves	MA
Penelope	Harvey	MA
Grace C.	Jordan	MA
Jean	O'Donnell	RI
Michael	Pare	RI
Jeannine	Peterson	RI
Francis E. and Janine D.	Petrin	RI
Stephanie	Roberts	RI
Harvey and Andrea	Rondeau	MA
Roger R.	Savaria	MA
Craig	Siulinski	ME
Ernestine	Tulumello	MA
Judith L.	Uthoff	MA
Lori	Valois	MA
Stephen A.	White	NB
James F.	Wilman	MA

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

The Society is seeking individuals with writing and editing skills to become part of a publications committee. Volunteers need not live locally. All you need is a willingness to help us produce our newsletter (soon to be delivered electronically as e-briefs) and either write or edit articles for the bi-annual *Je Me Souviens*.

If you are interested in learning more about the committee and discussing how you can help, contact Norm Deragon by e-mail at nderagon@afgs.org.

AFGS VOLUNTEERS HONORED



AFGS Librarian Janice Burkhart addresses more than 40 attendees at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

JOSÉE VACHON CDS NOW ON SALE AT AFGS

The Society has CDs from Franco-American singer and songwriter Josée Vacon.

Vacon's traditional and original songs in French are performed with guitar, spoons, clogging, energy and charm. She has performed hundreds of traditional, educational and holiday concerts for audiences of all ages.

CD titles available are her latest release *Parlez-Moi d'Amour*. Others available from AFGS are *Déracinée*. And two of her Christmas CDs *Noël...mes souvenirs* and *Rêve de Noël*.

CDs are \$15.00 each plus \$4.00 shipping and handling each. R.I. residents add 7% sales tax. CDs may be ordered online at www.afgs.org.



SAVE THE DATE

AFGS FRENCH CANADIAN SUGAR SHACK SOIRÉE

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON

NEW BEDFORD ACA TO HOLD 'FÊTE DES ROIS' EVENT

The Association Canado-Américaine (ACA) has been involved in preserving French Culture since its inception. The organization addressed the needs of the French Canadian community which was formed as early as the mid 1860's in this area. Several observances are held annually, but one which always stands out is the "Fête des Rois., The Feast of the Three Kings. The feast is named after the three wise men who, according to tradition, travelled from the Orient to find the lowly stable in Bethlehem and pay their respects to the new born Christ child.

In France the celebration of the feast forms the basis of the traditional Epiphany celebration, now celebrated on the first Sunday after New Years Day. To mark the occasion statues of the three kings are placed in the Nativity scenes or "Crèches", and a special cake is served after lunch or dinner. The high point of the day is when the Epiphany cake is brought out and the accompanying ceremony begins.

The cake is divided into pieces and distributed to all the "convives". In breathless silence, each person tastes his or her piece of cake, keeping an eye on the neighbor, until one of the assembled company proudly displays the "bean" and is proclaimed "King", or a "pea" to be proclaimed "Queen". The King and Queen are crowned with a gilded and decorated circlet of some sort.

The ACA will celebrate "La Fête des Rois" on Epiphany Sunday, January 6, 2013. This year's celebration will include a typical French-Canadian Dinner, Tourtiere, pea Soup and Creton, served at Century House Restaurant

The Fleur de Lis Band will provide French Canadian favorites and Collette Fournier will call Quadrilles.

For more information contact Ray Patenaude at (508) 995-3792.

NEW ENGLAND GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE IN MANCHESTER

The 12th New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC) conference will be held at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Manchester, N.H. April 17-21, 2013.

AFGS is one of the NERGC conference sponsoring organizations.

The theme for the conference is Woven in History: The Fabric of New England.

NERGC 2013 will help attendees "explore" the mysteries their ancestors wove as they traveled throughout New England and beyond. It is an opportunity to learn about the ethnic genealogy of all types and new approaches to discovering their ancestors' worlds through directories, maps, atlases, gazetteers, and online imagery.

NERGC will help bring together genealogists and family historians from a variety of backgrounds.

Whether you are just beginning the search for your family, are already an advanced researcher, or perhaps even a professional genealogist, the NERGC 2013 conference will provide you with an ideal opportunity to advance your knowledge and research skills.

In addition to the educational sessions, there will be opportunities to explore the exhibit hall and make new connections at the Society Fair, Special Interest Groups, and Ancestors Road Show. There will be many opportunities to meet hundreds of other attendees at the conference who share your love of genealogy.

For more details about the conference, including hours, programs, workshop agenda and registration information, visit the NERGC website at www.nergc.org.