



# AFGS

American-French Genealogical Society  
Woonsocket, RI



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November - December 2010

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

By the time you read this column the AFGS will be celebrating three years of building ownership. We've come a long way since the day during Thanksgiving week of 2007 when we gathered in our lawyer's office with the elders of the First Universalist Church to sign the paperwork (and the check, of course) making us building owners. With the transfer came big challenges and many more dreams about our growth potential.

I am pleased to report that we have met many of those challenges and are realizing at least some of the growth potential for our Society.

Watch your mail for the **AFGS Franco-American Heritage Center Building Development Plan**. With this publication we launch the third phase of our building fund with a goal of raising \$250,000 to complete all of the remaining renovations and improvements to our Heritage Center Building. Much has been accomplished as you'll see. You will also have the opportunity to review the work yet to be completed. I'm pleased to report that with the completion of the new roof on the older section of the building the exterior is sealed and much more energy efficient.

If you can't wait until your mail carrier arrives with the booklet, you can read it on our web site, [www.afgs.org](http://www.afgs.org).

We have come this far primarily through the generosity of our members who together donated more than \$250,000. We need an equal amount to help us complete the work of creating a Franco-American Heritage Center that will not only house the invaluable genealogy and historical holdings of our Society, but will also allow us to begin the renovation

of the upper two floors. This will allow us to host activities that will further spotlight our rich French-Canadian heritage.

As we approach the season for giving, I hope you will keep AFGS in mind. We will keep you updated on our progress. As always, we welcome your thoughts and suggestions.

### DUES ARE DUE

By now you have probably received your second renewal notice. We thank everyone who sent in their dues already. For those who have not yet paid, a third notice will be coming in December. Thank you for your promptness, 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 will respond right away.

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

### HUGUENOT WORKSHOP VERY SUCCESSFUL

On October 16, 2010, Pauline Courchesne gave a very fact filled and interesting account of who the French Huguenots were and a glimpse at how they came to Canada. We had many favorable comments about this intriguing subject and workshop.



### CAN YOU HELP?

Would you share your stories with us? **Je Me Souviens**, our semi-annual 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 members. Please send your articles to Jan Burkhart at [misskoko@aol.com](mailto:misskoko@aol.com) and to our Editor, Shellee Morehead at [Shellee@shelleemorehead.com](mailto:Shellee@shelleemorehead.com). We would really appreciate any help you can give us.

### A TIP FROM YOUR “BOOKIE” BY JANICE BURKHART

### USE THE LIBRARY GUIDE

We have a wonderful library guide at the library that lists all of our books. It is divided into sections such as PQ, Canada, The United States, History, Biographies, Family Histories, Reference and Europe. Each section is alphabetical and tells you the code number for the book you are looking for. A map of the library will quickly tell you where to find the section you want. Someone on the floor will always be available to help you use this guide. For your convenience, the guide is also posted on our web site. You can browse this from home and write down the books you want to use before even coming to the library. You will find many interesting books in our diverse collection.

The American-French Genealogical Society  
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**WHAT'S COOKING  
BY JANICE BURKHART**

Thanksgiving will soon be here and many people will be making the popular sweet potato and marshmallow dish that often appears around the holidays. This sweet potato recipe is quite different. I tried it last year after watching Joy Philbin prepare it on TV. It is very delicious. Even the kids liked it! Give it a try.

**INGREDIENTS:**

4 Large Sweet Potatoes  
2 Oranges  
1 Stick of Butter  
1 Cup of Light Brown Sugar  
1/2 Cup of Chopped Pecans (more if you want)  
1 Tbsp. of Cornstarch  
1 Cup of Orange Juice  
3 Tbsp. of Maple Syrup  
1/8 Tsp. Cloves

**DIRECTIONS:**

Cover potatoes in water and boil until tender, approximately 25-30 minutes. Remove the potatoes and peel while still warm. Cut into 1/4" slices and set aside. Peel, then slice the oranges into 1/4" slices. Mix gently with potatoes.

Coat a 9x13" casserole dish with cooking spray and add the potato/orange mixture.

Meanwhile, melt butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Add brown sugar and pecans. Simmer 3 minutes. Evenly pour sugar/pecan mixture over the top of the potato/orange mixture.

In a saucepan, mix the orange juice, cornstarch, maple syrup and cloves. Cook and stir until thick. Evenly pour over potatoes and bake at 375° for 15 minutes. (Serves 4-6 as a side dish)

Let me know if you try this. It really is good!

May your stuffing be tasty  
May your turkey plump,  
May your potatoes and gravy  
Have never a lump.  
May your yams be delicious  
And your pies take the prize,  
And may your Thanksgiving dinner  
Stay off your thighs!

Happy Thanksgiving from the Board and Officers of AFGS

**HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

On October 15th, AFGS held its annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. As usual, this recognition evening was a wonderful opportunity to meet and celebrate the accomplishments of our fellow Franco-Americans. Following are the biographies of this year's inductees.

**Raymond H. Bacon:** Raymond H. Bacon was born in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. He attended St. Ann Parochial School in the city and later, in 1954, graduated from St. Francis High School in Biddeford, Maine. He is a veteran of the United States Army and served in Iceland. After his discharge from the service, Raymond enrolled in Providence College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1962. He was in the American History Fellowship Program at Illinois State University and received his master's degree in American History. He also holds a MAT in History from Rhode Island College. Bacon began his teaching career at Woonsocket High School that same year and remained there as a history teacher until his retirement in 1992. During those years he was involved in the introduction and teaching of local history. He has also authored and co-authored works dealing with Woonsocket history, including multimedia presentations. For many years Raymond has been involved with several civic and community activities. He was a member of the Woonsocket Bicentennial Committee and the Woonsocket Centennial Committee. He is a member of the Woonsocket Historic Districts Commission. In 1989, he was appointed by Woonsocket Mayor Charles C. Baldelli to examine the feasibility of creating a museum in the city. Bacon participated in a series of workshops and seminars about the project and eventually was charged with selecting a designer and creating a story line for the proposed Museum of Work and Culture. Ray was later hired as a consultant to help gather artifacts and material for the exhibits and media productions. In 1997, Bacon was appointed by the Rhode Island Historical Society as the first manager of the Museum of Work and Culture. He currently shares that position with Anne Conway. Raymond is married to Simone (Bousquet) Bacon. They have four children and eight grandchildren.



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**Napoleon Lajoie:** Napoleon “Larry” Lajoie was born on September 5, 1875 in Woonsocket, R.I. As a young man he worked in a cotton mill and drove a wagon for City Lumber for \$1.50 a day. His baseball career started in Woonsocket when he played for the Globe Stars in the early 1890s. He played his first professional games for a Fall River minor league team in 1896. During that year he won the New England batting title with an average of .429. After that outstanding season, Lajoie was acquired by the Philadelphia Phillies and played with that club until he “jumped” to the new American League Philadelphia Athletics in 1901. It was during that season that Napoleon not only led the league in home runs with 13, but he also set the still-standing American League record batting average of .422. He was the American League batting champion in 1901, 1903, and 1904. Lajoie was so feared as a hitter, that he was the first player to be intentionally walked with the bases loaded. In 1902, Lajoie was traded to the Cleveland Indians where he played the majority of his 21 years in professional baseball. During his impressive career Napoleon accumulated a .339 lifetime batting average--hitting .350 or better during ten seasons. As a fielder, he was equally outstanding and no second baseman was his equal. In 1908 Lajoie set an American League record for the most chances accepted by a second baseman in one season--988. Napoleon was so popular in the early part of the 20th century that his fans voted to change the name of the Cleveland team to the Naps (after Napoleon), before the team was again renamed the Indians. Lajoie's 1901 baseball card is reportedly worth thousands of dollars, and one sports historian has called him the first modern American sports celebrity. In 1937, when he was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, his plaque singled him out as a “great hitter and most graceful and effective second baseman of his era.” Napoleon Lajoie died at the age of 83 on February 7, 1959 at Daytona Beach, Florida. He is buried in that community at Cedar Hills Cemetery.



**Aram J. Pothier:** Aram Jules Pothier served as Governor of Rhode Island from 1909 to 1915 and again from 1925 until his death on February 7, 1928. Born and educated in Quebec, Pothier joined his family in Woonsocket in 1872 at the age of 18 and took a job as a grocery store clerk. Three years later he was offered a position at the Woonsocket Institution for Savings. He learned all facets of the banking business and worked his way up from teller to president of the bank in 1913. He held a similar position with the Union Trust Company in Providence. Pothier began his political career in 1885 as a member of the Woonsocket School Committee. After

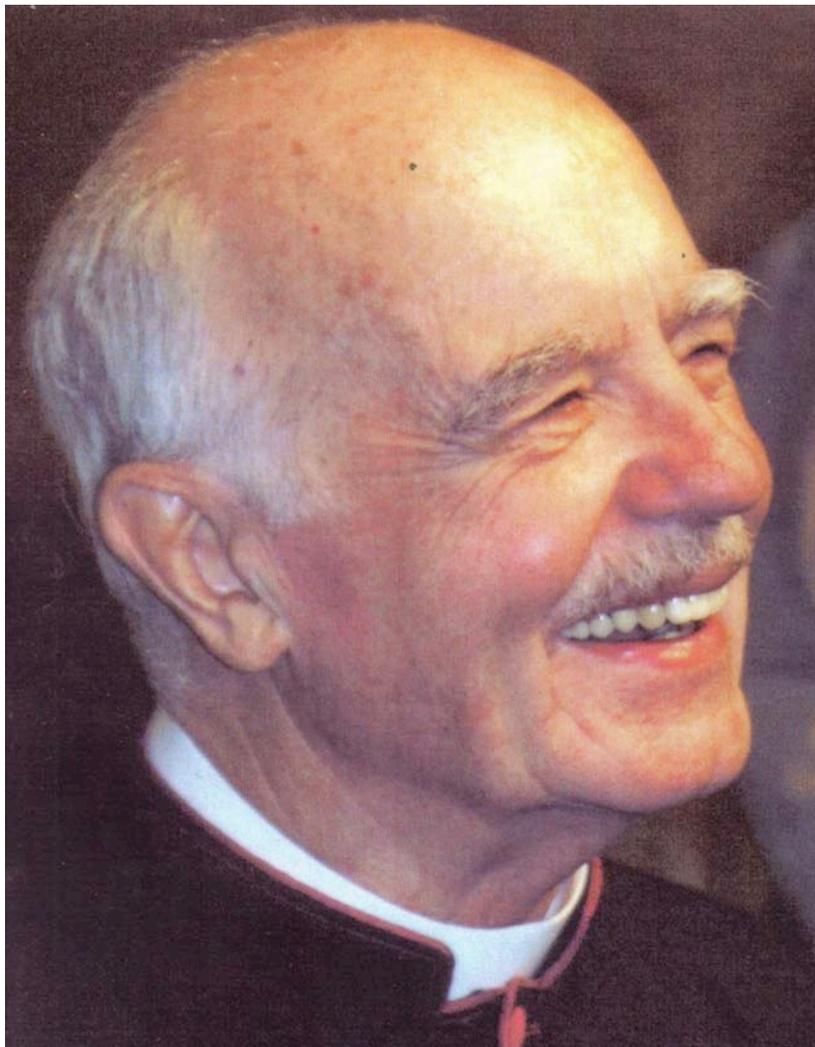
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two terms in the Rhode Island House of Representatives, Pothier was asked by Governor Taft to be the Rhode Island delegate to the Paris Trade Exhibition. Pothier believed that foreign investment was essential to the industrial growth of Woonsocket. During his first trip to Paris, he reportedly met Joseph Guerin. That meeting led to the establishment of the Guerin Spinning Company, the first large scale spinning plant in the city. Guerin also built several other mills in the city. Pothier also met with the Lepoutre family in France. That family opened the Lafayette Worsted Company on Hamlet Avenue in 1899. Pothier resumed his political career upon his return from Paris. He served several terms as Woonsocket City Auditor. After several unsuccessful bids for Mayor, Pothier was finally elected in 1893. He was the first French Canadian to be elected to that office, and served two terms as mayor before being elected Lt. Governor in 1897. In 1897, Pothier was again appointed Rhode Island delegate to International Trade Exposition in Paris. There he met his future wife M. Francoise de Charmigny. He also met important French manufacturers which led to the establishment of the huge French Worsted Company on Hamlet Avenue. In all, he is credited with bringing \$6,000,000 in foreign investments to Woonsocket. Pothier was inaugurated as governor in 1909 and was reelected a total of seven times until 1915. He was elected again in 1925 and served until his death. While governor, Pothier had a profound impact on the state. He reorganized the state's financial structure, revamped the Port of Providence, and established the Rhode Island State Police. He lived most of his life at his Pond Street house in Woonsocket, and is buried in the Pothier Mausoleum in Precious Blood Cemetery.



**Rev. Msgr. Gerard O. Sabourin:** Father Gerard O. Sabourin was born in Woonsocket. The son of Ovila Sabourin and Berthe Cournoyer, he was educated at St. Anne School in the city, where he was an altar boy and a member of the parish Boy Scout Troop. He graduated from Our Lady of Providence Preparatory Seminary in Warwick, and St. Paul Seminary in Ottawa, Canada, where he earned degrees in Philosophy and Theology. Father Sabourin was ordained to the priesthood on June 4, 1960. Since his ordination, he has served in pastoral ministry in a number of parishes around the Diocese of Providence, including St. Patrick in Providence, St. Charles in Woonsocket, his home parish of St. Anne in Woonsocket, and St. Bernard Parish in Wickford. Most notably, he has served for more than 40 years as director of the diocesan apostolate for handicapped persons. In that ministry, Father Sabourin has been a recognized leader in promoting the best possible quality of life for men and women who suffer from a variety of physical and emotional handicaps. While director from 1971 to

1981, Father Sabourin also served as chaplain to the Ladd School, a now-closed state residential facility for developmentally challenged children and adults. In recent years he has resided and assisted in the direction of a small group home for such individuals. He has also assumed leadership in the diocesan apostolate to the deaf and hearing impaired. Since 1981, Father Sabourin has been associated with a small parish mission in Exeter that he has been instrumental in developing into the Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Community. He presently serves as administrator of the community while continuing as director of the apostolate for the handicapped. In January 2009, Father Sabourin was among ten diocesan priests elevated to the rank of Monsignor by Pope Benedict XVI. The largely honorific title recognizes service and commitment to the Catholic Church. He was recommended as a “chaplain to his Holiness” by Bishop Thomas J. Tobin.



We congratulate all of the gentlemen for their great contributions.

#### **WEB SITES YOU MIGHT ENJOY**

If you would like to listen to the BeeGees or any other artist performing their hits, check out this website. You will never need a CD again. Great site for listening to all your favorites.

<http://www.lyricstube.net/video.php?artist=Bee%20Gees&artistid=16294>

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This tape made by an elderly lady is well worth listening to. I think she explains aging very well. <http://www.caregiverstress.com/2010/07/a-reminder-that-laughter-is-the-best-medicine/>

Lisa Atherholt writes: To all my Genealogy Buddies, if you haven't tried this translating website, you might want to. You can even cut and paste and it will translate for you. There are 50 languages that it will translate for you.

**Google Voice** - 50 Languages Instantly Translated you might also try the following site <http://www.google.com/webmasters/google/translate.html>

Lisa also sent this information about our veterans who died in Vietnam. It is a wonderful site worth exploring. <http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

Sent by Sue: If you need to do any Irish research, this is a great website you may want to try. It has both Catholic and Protestant registers and certificates. It's free. <http://www.irishgenealogy.ie/index.html> I have managed to get my family back 2 more generations plus add siblings and find the maiden name of mothers. You will have to play around with it as it does not do Soundex. Whatever surname you type in, that is what it looks for. I have had to try 3 different spellings for my Burroughs family.

Rob Gumlaw sent information on this searchable site for Northern New York: <http://news.nnyln.net/>

Gerald Tremblay sent this site which has French-Canadian words and phrases. It can be saved as a PDF file and kept on your desktop.

[http://homepage.mac.com/steveeno/Enaud\\_Cards/French\\_Words\\_for\\_Web.html](http://homepage.mac.com/steveeno/Enaud_Cards/French_Words_for_Web.html)

### **TWO FAMOUS PEOPLE OF FRENCH-CANADIAN DESCENT by Al Berube**

Recently, Jean-Baptiste Charbonneau 1804-1866 and Edward Trudeau 1848-1915 have been honored with a coin and a stamp.

Edward-Livingston Trudeau, MD, MS, D. Hon., was an American Physician who established the Adirondack Cottage Sanitarium at Saranac Lake, New York. On May 14, 2008, as part of the Distinguished American series, the U.S. Postal Service released a 76 cent stamp in his memory. Dr. Trudeau was born in New York City on 05 Oct 1848. His line can be traced back to Francois Truteau and Catherine Marinier who were from LaRochelle, France. The first marriage took place in Quebec on 10 Jan 1667 and was between Etienne Trudeau and Adrienne Barbier.

Jean-Baptiste "Pomp" Charbonneau was the son of Toussaint Charbonneau and Sacagawea. He is the child often portrayed clinging to the back of Sacagawea. Toussaint was born in Boucherville, PQ. Jean-Baptiste (Pomp) was born on 11 Feb 1805 and was baptized on 28 Dec 1809 at Notre-Dame de Bonsecours, La Trappe, near Cahokias, or Fort Mondan in North Dakota. He was taken under the wing of William Clark who wished to oversee his education. "Pomp" led quite a life, traveling in Europe for many years with Prince Paul of Germany. When he returned to the United States, he worked as an interpreter, guide and hunter and later was elected the Mayor of San Luis Rey, a town near San Diego, California. He died of pneumonia on 16 May 1866. He is portrayed on the U. S. golden dollar with his mother.

## IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONS FROM STEPHEN DOYON

Paul Vilmur writes: There seems to be very few sources that show the breakdown of land plots and the owners of individual Seigneuries. One source is Marcel Trudel's book, "An Atlas of New France". This contains the 1709 Seignorial Maps of Catalogne and Decouagne which show owners of individual land plots on pages 164 through 171. Unfortunately the maps for Montreal Island which would be of interest to Mr. Doyon are missing. The only Montreal map on page 172 is in poor shape and almost unreadable. Other possible resources are histories of early Seigneurs which may show their initial land grants to individuals. An example of this is Raymond Douville's book, "**Les Premiers Seigneurs et Colons de Ste-Anne-de-la-Pérade**" which shows maps of individual land grants on pages 33, 48 and 95. Once in a while (but very rarely) land grant maps are shown in the Thomas LaForest Series "**Our Canadian Ancestors**", Volumes 1 through 30.

Joan Lozier writes: I have a set of 32 volumes called '**Chronicles of Canada**', Vol. 5 is called '**The Seigneurs of Old Canada**', I am sending you a copy of the map of the seigneuries dated 1790 that was in this volume. Also in volume 1 of the Tanguay collection there is a section on the seigneuries of Canada available online at <http://bibnum2.banq.qc.ca/bna/dicoGenealogie/> Please let me know if there is anything else I can do for you. (There was no map attached. Jan )

Henry Benoit, one of our members from Ontario, wrote: Recently I was informed (at Archives de Chateau-Richer) that indenture contracts were signed and retained in France. My Vaillancourt ancestor arrived from Rouen and served 1666-68 in Chateau-Richer but since I have no French competency I didn't follow up on his contract. The staff of the excellent Chateau-Richer archive library were very knowledgeable and also very helpful. [archives.chateau-richer@sympatico.ca](mailto:archives.chateau-richer@sympatico.ca)

## DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION ON THE LAMALETIE FAMILY?

Ian Lamaletie writes: My sister and I are interested in tracing the Lamalétie family tree, and I was wondering if you could put us in contact with any of your members who may be researching the family name. We have been able to establish that Jean- André Lamalétie, who was in Canada, also went out to Mauritius and Reunion. Any assistance you could provide would be greatly appreciated. Ian may be reached at [ian.lamaletie@gmail.com](mailto:ian.lamaletie@gmail.com)

## FREE GENEALOGY CLASSES CONTINUE

Remember to check your calendar for free upcoming workshops. Lots more to come!

## FIXING A WEAK OR WOBBLY HINGE

by Becky Schipper

Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library

No. 80, October 31, 2010

To fix this common problem, you will need to apply adhesive in the gap between the spine and the book's endpaper (which is glued to the inside of the front or back cover). Using a knitting needle or plexiglas rod makes this task much easier. I keep adhesive in a small dishwashing detergent bottle with a hole in its cap just slightly larger than the diameter of the applicator. This helps coat the applicator evenly and keeps the mess to a minimum. Once your applicator is coated with adhesive, insert it in the gap between the spine and endpaper. Twirl it around several times to get good coverage. Place wax paper over the endpaper and rub down with a bone folder. Wipe off any excess adhesive that oozes from under the endpaper at both the top and bottom. Lay the book flat and apply weights or stand it on its spine to dry. This repair should be checked to see that it is

drying unwrinkled after 30 minutes. Re-rub, then re-weight until it is dry.

### **BROTHER ANDRE BECOMES SAINT**

Recently, Brother Andre became the first male Canadian Saint. It was a glorious day honoring a glorious man. More about Brother Andre to come.

### **REGARDING KASKASKIA UNDER THE FRENCH REGIME by Belting**

**George Buteau writes:** In response to your short piece in the newsletter, below is a website I found where you can read a digitalized copy of the book by Belting. You can read a copy of the book online at: <http://www.archive.org/details/kaskaskiaunderfr00belt>

Study each of the three questions and see what you can find for answers!

1. A murderer is condemned to death. He has to choose among three rooms. The first is full of raging fires, the second is full of assassins with loaded guns, and the third is full of lions that haven't eaten in 3 years. Which room is safest for him?
2. A woman shoots her husband. Then she holds him under water for over 5 minutes. Finally, she hangs him. But 5 minutes later they both go out together and enjoy a wonderful dinner. How can this be?
3. What is black when you buy it, red when you use it, and gray when you throw it away?

Brain Teasers Answers"

1. The third. Lions that haven't eaten in three years are dead. Don't you feel silly now?
2. The woman is a photographer. She shot a picture of her husband, developed it, and hung it up to dry.
3. Charcoal. This one is tricky. Only old-timers can remember using coal for heating...

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

