

AFGnews



Preserving History...Connecting Generations for 35 Years

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AFGS INDUCTS THE FRENCH CANADIAN HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2013



Bernard J. Beaudreau



Richard C. DesLauriers



Cathy Levesque



Camille E. Pepin

The 12th annual American-French Genealogical Society French Canadian Hall of Fame Reception and Induction ceremony was held at the AFGS Franco-American Heritage Center on November 3rd.

To date 49 individuals and organizations have been inducted in the Society's Hall of Fame.

The Class of 2013 includes:

Bernard J. Beaudreau, the executive director of Serve Rhode Island, a non-profit center for volunteerism and national service based in Providence, R.I. He was formerly the executive director of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. Bernie holds a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master's Degree in Community Planning from the University of Rhode Island. In 2006 he was recognized with the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Richard C. DesLauriers, retired special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigations, Boston Division. He served with the FBI for 26 years before retiring in July of this year. He is now the vice president of corporate security with Penske Corporation in Michigan.

Richard graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts from Assumption College and Juris Doctor degree from The Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law.

Cathy Levesque, is the executive director of the Stadium Theatre Performing Arts Center in Woonsocket. Her association with the Stadium goes back to 1980 when she was the volunteer director of school time programming. In 2005, she was appointed marketing director and then promoted to executive director in 2007.

Cathy graduated from Providence College with a Bachelor of Arts degree and was honored earlier this year with the Woonsocket Rotary Club's Vocational Service Award.

Camille E. Pepin, teamed with his father to open the Pepin Lumber Company in Woonsocket in 1947. A U.S. Army veteran of World War II, he received the Purple Heart for wounds he received while fighting in France. He also was awarded the bronze Star and Combat Infantryman's Badge.

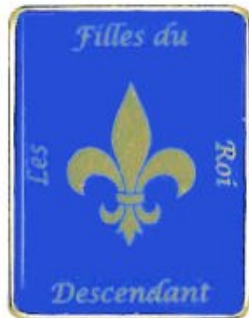
Cam is noted for his demonstrated kindness to customers, local business owners, and even competitors in need.

LES FILLES DU ROI ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION HELD AT AFGS



From left, a Daughter of the King helped serve refreshments to attendees during the celebration, A scene from the Filles du Roi play presented during the AFGS celebration. The local priest and chaperone look over a box of materials brought over from France by one of the 'Daughters', and French Canadian singer Joséé Vachon appeared in concert to sing traditional French folk songs.

More than 160 members, friends and guests gathered at the AFGS Franco-American Heritage Center on October 27th to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the Daughters of the King in New France. Nearly everyone of French Canadian ancestry has at least one of these women in their family lines.



Between 1663 and 1673, about 750 young women of marriageable age were recruited in France and survived the voyage to New France. King Louis XIV initiated the program in order to populate the new colony in order to secure the land for France. At the time the population in Canada was only 2,500 souls.

Prior to the celebration, the AFGS encouraged members to submit straight line charts from their genealogical research that connect them to the "Daughters." To date more than 500 charts have been submitted that connected to 250 Filles du Roi. The Society is planning to publish a book of the members' connections.

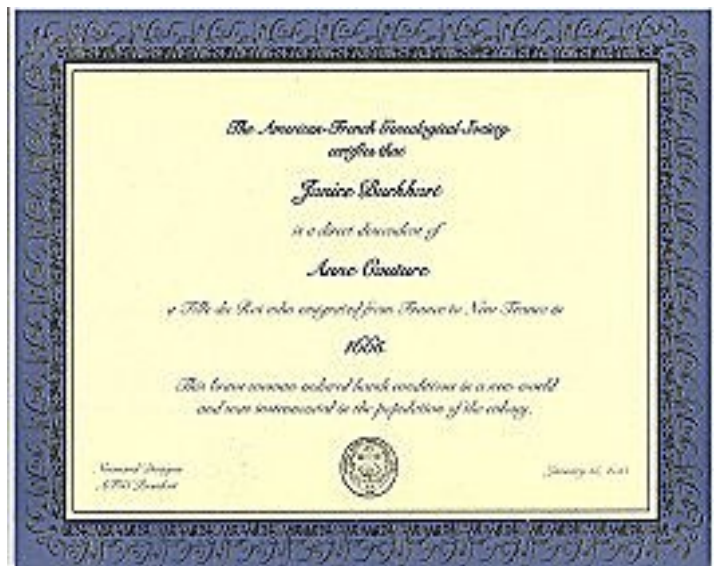
The program has been so popular that AFGS has decided to extend the program until July 4, 2014. Persons who submitted their charts purchased certificates indicating that they were descended from one or more of the Daughters and also received a descendant pin.

To learn how you can participate in the program, visit the

AFGS web site at www.afgs.org.

The AFGS celebration included a reception featuring French Canadian pea soup, meat pie, salmon pie, and a variety of pastries.

A short production about newly-arrived Filles du Roi was presented by a local theatre group and a concert by French Canadian singer Joséé Vachon completed the afternoon's activities.



A sample of the Daughters of the King descendant certificate. The descendant lapel pin is featured above.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AFGnewS GOING DIGITAL

Simone Laplante	CA	Don Favreau
Pamela Michna	MA	Mary Elizabeth Frederick
Elizabeth Bourgeois	MA	Jeanne d'Arc St Pierre
Lynn Goucher	MA	Tarah Thomas
Patricia Wolski	MA	David and Madonna Cartier
Raymond Gousie	MA	Mary Grace Cahill
Lawrence Rainville	MA	Roger I. DuPont
Melissa A. Colin	MA	Perry Lamy
Connie Barekman	RI	David and Karen Doiron
Laurie Lepin Worden	RI	Frank and Carol Furlong
Barbara Friedrichs	TN	Jane Maclorowski
Eva D. Heroux	RI	Ron Charette
Brent Trottier	MA	Madeline Betz
Arlene Aubin	RI	Jeanne Leblond
Jean Lavoie	RI	Frank and Claire Kennedy
Sharon Smith	RI	Joseph and Mary Roy
Ariel Driver	AZ	Diane R. Olivier
Donald Etienne Coulombe, Jr	CT	Albert R. Mailhotte
Richard H. Gardner	FL	Kathy Mc Nally
Eric Jarvis	ONT	Maureen Lake
Janet Pietsch	MA	Janet Fortunato
Nicole DiBenedetto	CT	Carolyn and John Alessandro
Bernadine Couture	RI	Pamela R. Green
Ginette Champagne	NH	James Mohn



Dennis Boudreau presents his **Beginning Genealogy** workshop at the AFGS Franco-American Heritage Center in Woonsocket. This very popular program is always "standing room only."

AZ This is the final printed issue of the AFGnewS.
 CA There are several reasons for this decision.
 CT In this information age, it makes no sense to hold back news and information for 60 days when we can deliver them to you in a timely manner electronically in many cases the same day of the event or as soon as important information becomes available that we want to share with our members.
 GA
 RI
 RI
 NH
 TX
 MD Printing and mailing costs continue to rise. There is a pending postal rate increase and the post office recently advised us that we will have to code our mailings differently. If we don't purchase the software to do this internally, we will have to hire a mail use to do it for us. Resulting in even higher cost. At the moment AFGS mailings cost the Society over \$12,000 annually. With the prospect of costs rising higher it was necessary to embrace today's technology and deliver a better quality product at considerable savings. Photos and other graphics will be in high resolution and members will still be able to print out the newsletter should they decide to do so.

RI
 VA
 NV
 MA
 RI
 MA
 FL Over the past year or so we've asked members to provide us with their e-mail address. We knew the decision to "go digital" would be necessary and wanted to be prepared. To date we have about 85 percent of our members who have provided e-mail addresses. Unfortunately those who do not have or won't provide them will not be receiving correspondence from us except for the JMS.

If you have not provided us with your e-mail address, please do so to wpommenville@afgs.org. Remember, we do not share e-mail addresses EVER. We apologize for any inconvenience this policy may cause.

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

Society members, at the annual membership meeting in October, re-elected four members of the board of directors and elected a new member.

Re-Elected were Roger Beaudry, Dorothy F. Deragon, Connie Lamoureux, and Marguerite Pommenville. Elected to the board was Raymond Patnaude. Raymond is a long-time member of AFGS and is affiliated with numerous French Canadian organizations in Rhode Island, Mas-

sachusetts, and Connecticut. Each board member was elected to a three year term.

The board of directors has re-elected the following officers to a one year term:

Normand T. Deragon, president, Rob Gumlaw, vice-president, Roger Beaudry, treasurer, Alice Riel, assistant treasurer, and Dorothy F. Deragon, secretary.

RHODE ISLAND ARCHIVES UNVEILS ONLINE CATALOG

Rhode Island historical public records, dating as far back as 1638, is now available online, making it easier for the general public, educators, students, historians, researchers and journalists to immediately access the information they need. Among the holdings are images of original letters from Thomas Jefferson and John Hancock. Secretary of State A. Ralph Mollis launched the new State Archives Online Catalog during an official unveiling at Rhode Island College. Joining Mollis was Rhode Island College President Nancy Carriuolo, as well as Whitney Blankenship, assistant professor of educational studies and her students.

Mollis expressed pride in being able to offer easy access to these archives to the public. He said, "This is an invaluable tool for anyone interested in accessing information about the holdings, detailed finding aids, images and links to other resources from the comfort of their own home, school, work or when they're on the go. I am committed to preserving our history and making government more open and accessible. This will no doubt be a model for other states around the country. I am so proud of my team for making this vision a reality for Rhode Islanders."

To view the State Archives Online Catalog, visit www.sos.ri.gov and select the State Archives tab on the left. Once there, you may browse/search the State Archives Catalog.

PHOTOS NEEDED FOR JMS

We are looking for interesting photographs for the *Je me Souviens*, the Society's bi-annual journal. In the past we traditionally ran wedding photos, but we will accept other French Canadian scenes or events like family picnics, work settings, or holiday pictures.

We prefer electronic submissions with at least 300 dpi resolution and in .JPG format. Printed Black and White photos may also be submitted by mail. The photos should be labeled with the submitters name and contact information and suggested caption for the photo.

AFGS is not responsible for lost or damage to original photos. E-mail to JMSEditor@AFGS.org or mail them to AFGS at PO Box 830, Woonsocket, RI 02895-0870.

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL CEMETERY DATABASE UPDATED

The count for the Rhode Island historical cemetery database has been revised. The lost cemeteries for each town have been added.. These are cemeteries for which there have been descriptions from earlier recorders like James N. Arnold, George Richardson, Ira Peck and Rev. Frederic Denison but have not been located.

There are 503 lost cemeteries but most will probably never be found. Most are small family cemeteries with graves masked by fieldstones. These are extremely difficult to find with obsolete directions, in areas that are overgrown with brush and weeds. Many do not have stone walls or granite posts surrounding them.

In towns like Warwick that are heavily developed many of these small fieldstone cemeteries have been destroyed by developers, not maliciously, but because they were not on the town plat maps and were not marked. Many people who see a half dozen flat stones sticking out of a weeded field do not recognize them as a cemetery.

There has never been a volunteer in Cranston or Scituate and both of those towns were carefully recorded by James Arnold from 1890-1905. For that reason there are 56 and 43 lost cemeteries respectively. Some of these cemeteries may be found when we get a volunteer to look for them.

Burrillville and Glocester were not rigorously recorded more than 100 years ago so there are probably many more lost cemeteries in those towns.

Since 1990, 1359 cemeteries have been found, assigned a number and added to the database.

AFGS WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Classes are offered free of charge and are held at the AFGS Franco-American Heritage Center. All sessions begin at 9 a.m.

November 16 - **Internet Genealogy Searching: How to Improve Your Results.** By Bill Pommenville

November 23 - **Using Various Genealogy Software.** Presented by Bill Pommenville