

Je Me Souviens Magazine

A Publication of the American-French Genealogical Society

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A Salute to the Genealogists

In the dim corridors of ancestry's maze, where whispers of time weave intricate ways, Genealogists tread with determined grace, seeking the stories of each hidden face.

Through dusty archives and faded tomes, they navigate histories, making homes, In the labyrinthine paths of the past, where lineage's secrets are steadfastly cast.

They chase elusive names through the ages, unraveling mysteries on yellowed pages, Piecing together fragmented tales, where truth and myth often entwines and veils.

They confront the silence of forgotten kin, lost in the shadows where memories thin, Their journey fraught with trials unseen, as they bridge the chasm between what has been.

Yet with each discovery, a spark ignites, a connection made in the depths of nights, For in the tapestry of lineage's art, they find reflections of the human heart.

So, salute these seekers of the silent past, whose passion endures, unyielding, steadfast. For in their quest lies a profound grace, inscribed in the annals of time and space.

Our 46th Year

Issue 2024-2 Book 104

AMERICAN-FRENCH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY FRANCO-AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

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ABOUT OUR COVER

Our editor asked "ChatGPT" to compose a poem about the difficulties facing genealogists. The poem is 100% written by ChatGPT, an AI (Artificial Intelligence) platform.

ChatGPT is an AI chatbox with natural language processing (NLP) that allows you to have human-like conversations to complete various tasks.

It is owned by OpenAI and was launched November 30th, 2022).

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Normand Deragon

The contents of this edition of our *Je Me Souviens* magazine varies from those of the recent past. It is our tribute to the many genealogists who share their research and skills with our members. This issue features articles from many of our members and contributing authors. You will find it contains excellent articles on a variety of research topics.

Instead of our usual theme featured photo on the cover, there is a poem titled "A Salute to the Genealogists." It is provided by ChatGPT, an Artificial Intelligence program. Our editor, Annette Smith, asked the AI program to compose a poem about the difficulties facing genealogists. The result is what you read on our cover. Not a bad interpretation. But it also is a bit scary when you realize that she typed in the topic, and the program fulfilled the request in seconds. I admit I have used AI frequently to get answers to questions I've had about a wide variety of issues, including an ancestor and his ties to the Aragon Kingdom dating to the tenth century in Spain. Artificial Intelligence has been the subject of news items that addressed the controversy about how AI is misused in social media. One computer expert said we are now using only ten percent of AI's capability. Who knows, someday AI may write my President's Letter or compose stories for the JMS based on the topics we provide. Now *THAT* is a scary thought!

One article in this issue addresses the resources on our Members Only Online Library site. It prompted me to dig into the database we use to manage the member registrations. Since we developed the online library in 2014, more than 1,600 members registered to use the site. Today, we have about seven hundred current members registered. Most are using it regularly. However, I also found over one hundred members who registered, in many cases years ago, but have never logged in to use the site. I urge you to register and spend time scrolling through the pages. With a virtual visit to our library from the comfort of your home, you just might find that elusive ancestor you have been searching for.

If you have been working on your genealogy for a while, you have likely been building a library of resources to assist you in the journey. Check out Michael Leclerc's excellent article in this issue about how he built his library over the years. He shares excellent tips on how to proceed.

Normand Deragon, President

For a full copy of this 2024 Q2 issue of *Je Me Souviens*, please go to the Members Only Online Library where you can read or download this issue to read or print. This issue is a salute to you, the genealogist, and features articles written by our members. We continue to be impressed with the skill and tenacity of our members regarding their research. Their stories are featured in this issue to inform and inspire you.

In our "Find it in the Library" column, you will learn about new additions to our reference collection and how you can search for books that have the information you need in our new Digital Library Catalog. On page 48, you can read about our new "Look in the Book" project. We are looking for volunteers to test it. Are you interested in helping us make this member benefit a reality?

Michael J. Leclerc, CG will give you advice on "Creating your Personal Genealogy Library." Susan A, McNelley's article, "Jean Conrad Heinmannn (d. 1815) of Boucherville, Chambly: Was he a Hessian Soldier?" is a well researched article illustrating how you can research and confirm a German branch of your family.

Also, in this issue, we continue our history series "New France – A Timeline, Part 2 - Exploration and Navigation 1524-1562 by Fran Tivey. By creating a timeline of noteworthy events that runs through your family research, you can put meat on the bones of your family story. The events that happened during your ancestors' lives shaped their destiny and became a part of your family's history.

Sindi Terrien's article, "Using Jesuit Relations to Learn about European Disease in North America between 1610-1791" shows you some of the detailed information written by the Jesuit priests in their reports back to their order in France.

"Malom Fraser: An Immigrant Scot's Canadian Life" by Roger C. Ross is an interesting look at a Scottish soldier in North America. Do you have any Scots in your Canadian family tree?

Leslie P. Choquette's article about "The Soldiers of the Carignan-Salières Regiment and their Military Names" may help you understand how to conquer the "brick wall" that has tormented you when researching such a soldier.

In our continuing series on citations, you will learn how to correctly site a sacramental record from the Drouin Collection of microfilms.

If you would like to contribute an interesting article about your ancestors, please review the Authors Guidelines on page 61. Je Me Souviens is your journal, and we are happy to include the stories we receive from our members.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please address them to JMSeditor@afgs.org.

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View of the English landing on Island of Cape Breton to attack the Fortress of Louisbourg - 1745 by F. Stephen - Archives anglaises, Public Domain,

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