

A/R

JE ME SOUVIENS



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Message de la présidente

My dear Member,

The last issue of Je me souviens was a month late. This one was due in the early summer but is appearing in the season's final days. Members regularly ask me why our journal is so tardy. The answer is a matter of time.

First, ours is a Society of volunteers. Members generously give as much time as possible to our business. However, they do have other obligations such as their families and their jobs which must necessarily take precedence.

Secondly, publishing Je me souviens is a time-consuming job. Every article must be read, corrected, typed, and proofed. It's occasionally necessary to repeat a process several times. It's also often necessary to contact an author one or more times for further information or clarification.

Finally, in the last year, several staffers including the editor have resigned for personal or professional reasons. While replacements were readily found, they needed time to learn their new jobs.

I thank you very much for your understanding and patience. I also assure you that everything possible is being done to publish Je me souviens on schedule.

Sincerely,


Jan Burkhardt

ABOUT OUR FEATURE ARTICLE

Despite the large number of French Canadians and their descendants in the six New England states, only 3 of them have become governors. The first and only one born in French-Canada was Aram Pothier. The others were Emery San Souci and Philip Noël. All of them were governors of Rhode Island.

Aram Pothier distinguished himself in several other ways. He was elected governor more times than anyone else: 8. He held the office longer than anyone else: over 10 years. He also made a successful comeback after having been out of office for 10 years. He was 70 years old at the time.

During his years as governor, many changes occurred in the government of Rhode Island. Among the constitutional changes were the executive veto, biennial elections, and reapportionment of the General Assembly. Structural changes included the organization of the state police.

As far as French-Canadians were concerned, it was, to quote Dickens, "the best of times and the worst of times." On one hand, the French-Canadians had strength in numbers. They were also very well organized: churches, schools, hospitals, banks, stores, clubs, and so on. On the other hand, they were the subject of much discrimination. (See Larry Poitras, "Survivance: A Franco-American Obsession," Je me souviens, Winter 1990, pp. 5-45)

The accompanying article is a study of Pothier's years as governor. It was written by Mr. John Veader, coordinator of the Social Studies Department at Riverside Junior High School in East Providence, RI. It was his master's thesis at the University of Rhode Island.

**ARAM JULES POTHIER
AS GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND**

By John Robert Veader

I - BACKGROUND OF THE GOVERNOR

The story of Aram Jules Pothier is one of a poor French-Canadian immigrant's rise to become a successful businessman, civic leader, and eventually governor of Rhode Island. Born in the Province of Quebec, Canada, on July 26, 1854, he was one of eight children of Jules and Domithilde Pothier.¹ Jules found little success in his native land of Canada, and in 1869 decided to move his family to the United States.² He settled in Woonsocket, in the Blackstone Valley of Rhode Island. His family was but one of thousands who saw that their economic futures lay in the textile cities of New England rather than on the farm lands of Canada.

Aram was the eldest surviving son of the Pothier family. When his parents emigrated to the United States, he was only fifteen and had not yet completed his studies; therefore, he stayed behind to finish his education.³ In 1872, at the age of eighteen, he joined his family in Woonsocket.

Aram Pothier's achievements were primarily due to his own great efforts and talents, but much credit must be given to his parents. They were French-speaking immigrants, and yet all three of their surviving sons were apparently well-educated and achieved some degree of success in this new land. Joseph became a doctor, Octave, a bank clerk, and Aram, a state governor.

Pothier was first employed in Woonsocket as a clerk in his neighborhood grocery store. In 1875 Pothier took a job with the Woonsocket Institute for Savings, a small Main Street bank sharing the street front with another business.⁴ The bank grew with Pothier's help and he was soon made a junior executive. In this position of greater responsibility his talents became more apparent and his reputation grew.⁵ Eventually he became president of the bank. Even as president he was just as accessible as when he was a clerk, continuing when asked, to give personal financial advice. The bank was often referred to as "Mr. Pothier's Bank."⁶

Since Pothier was a successful French business leader in a predominantly French community, many of his friends urged him to enter politics. They believed that a man of his ability could help the city. Pothier was, in fact, quite interested in politics and early in his career had become affiliated with the Republican party. The man who first hired Pothier at the bank was Congressman Latimer Ballou, and it was under the guidance of this Republican leader that Pothier formed his early political philosophy.⁷

In 1885 Pothier took his first active political step by becoming a candidate for the Woonsocket School Committee. Easily elected, he began a rapid rise in politics. Now as a successful office holder he was urged to run for higher office, and for the next three years he would represent Woonsocket in the House of Representatives.⁸ The fact that he had Republican backing for a seat in the General Assembly meant that he was not only acceptable to party leaders but had

probably proved himself to be a loyal party worker as well.⁹

In 1889 Pothier was elected to the first of six successful terms as Woonsocket city auditor. In the same year he was chosen by Governor Royal Taft to be Rhode Island's official representative to the International Trade Exposition in Paris. Pothier benefited from the assignment in two ways: his knowledge of international trade was broadened and his report attracted attention in the business and political worlds of Rhode Island.¹⁰

Woonsocket was generally considered to be a Democratic city and although Republicans were elected to various offices from time to time, the mayor and the majority of the council were usually Democrats. For three consecutive years, beginning in 1890, Pothier was the unsuccessful candidate for mayor of his city. These were Democratic years not only in Woonsocket but throughout the state and nation, and Pothier suffered along with many other Republican candidates. This temporary political slump was finally overcome on December 3, 1893, when Pothier defeated incumbent Democrat, Daniel Pond, by a plurality of 572 votes out of 2,642 votes cast.¹¹ The Woonsocket Call said, "Pond was defeated because the Democrats were divided on his candidacy."¹² It was insinuated that Pothier's victory was nothing but a fluke and stated that "Woonsocket is still a Democratic city."¹³

Little is known of Pothier's record as mayor. The Woonsocket Evening Reporter, while endorsing Pothier for a second term, credited him with being very careful with the city's money and seeing to it that it

was used wisely.¹⁴ It also cited Pothier for operating the city for a year and having "an unexpected balance on hand."¹⁵

In November, 1894, the Republican City Caucus renominated Pothier for mayor. In a prophetic remark one of the caucus members urged those present "to go in and re-elect Mayor Pothier by such a rousing majority that he will be Governor of the State of Rhode Island before he is through."¹⁶ On December 3, 1894, Pothier gained re-election by a reduced plurality of 338 votes.¹⁷

Pothier did not seek re-election the following year and returned to private life. In 1897, however, the Republican Party of Rhode Island nominated him for the office of lieutenant governor. Running with the popular candidate for governor Elisha Dyer, and probably aiding the entire Republican ticket in the Blackstone Valley, Pothier was swept into office by the Republican landslide victory of that year.¹⁸

After serving one term as lieutenant governor, Pothier temporarily retired from politics. The Woonsocket Call claimed that Pothier declined to run again so he could devote more time to his business interests and "to leave the way open for William Gregory, who was later elevated to the post of governor."¹⁹ The Call did not clarify the second answer but in the opinion of two long-time Republican leaders, Arthur Sherman of Portsmouth and Gustavus Ide of East Providence, the Republicans, at that time, were not ready to groom a member of Pothier's ethnic group for governor. Gregory had been chosen by party leaders

for the second spot on the ticket and Pothier had to step aside.²⁰

In addition to his political career, there is much to note about Pothier's business career. Not only was he a successful banker, but he made his mark in the textile industry as well. In 1900 Governor Dyer again chose Pothier to represent Rhode Island at that year's Paris Exposition. While in Paris he pointed out to several Belgian and French textile firms the advantages of establishing branch plants in the United States. His talks in Paris were instrumental in causing several of these firms to locate mills in Woonsocket.²¹ These companies brought a great deal of money to Woonsocket and employed hundreds of people. For this, the city was grateful to Pothier.²²

Pothier's efforts in Paris brought some personal reward. He had a financial interest in some of the plants established in Woonsocket, for he became treasurer of at least three firms: the Guertin Spinning Company, the Montrose Woolen Company and the Rosemont Dyeing Company.²³

Pothier also found a wife in Paris. After touring the de Charmiguy factory, Pothier met the owner's daughter, Françoise. The romance that began in Paris brought Françoise to the United States and they were married in Bridgeport, Connecticut, in 1902.²⁴

Although Pothier was a public official and well-known in his community, he was not affiliated with any fraternal organizations. However, he was active in charitable work, especially in aiding the St. Vincent de Paul Asylum for Orphans,

which was next to his home in Woonsocket. He also participated in church affairs and until his death was a member of Our Lady of Victories Church in Woonsocket.²⁵

Thus, as the elections of 1908 approached, Pothier was not unknown to political leaders and the people of Rhode Island. He had firmly established himself in his own community and to a lesser degree in the state. His success in the business world had been matched in the political world and the image of an efficient and hardworking official had been created. Although this image was partly due to a favorable press, credit must be given to Pothier for being at least some of the things said about him.

As the possibility increased that Pothier would become a candidate for governor, the image was furthered. Periodicals of different types, in addition to using such terms as efficient and hardworking to describe him, went even further to call him honest, diplomatic, and possessing great integrity.²⁶ It may seem that what was said of him was overly complimentary, but research shows that his political opponents as well as friends often used the same phrases when discussing Pothier.²⁷

II - THE ELECTION OF 1908

As the election of 1908 approached, the Republican Party of Rhode Island was faced with one major problem: How could it win back the governorship of the state? During the latter part of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century, the Republicans had generally controlled the executive office. In fact,

the Democrats had held the governorship for only six years between 1865 and 1906. Republican efforts to continue their hold on the executive branch of the state government in the elections of 1906 and 1907 had been thwarted by Democrat James H. Higgins, the former mayor of Pawtucket. In 1906 Higgins had defeated the incumbent George H. Utter, and in the next year, Higgins won over Frederick Jackson.

Higgins had achieved success on one main issue: bossism within the Republican Party in the person of Charles R. Brayton. Brayton was not an elected official but rather a well-paid lobbyist for some of the most influential business interests of the state. He controlled the purse strings and the machinery of the Republican Party, the Republican members of the Legislature, and the executive when a Republican was governor. It has been implied by one source that Brayton was able to accomplish this through various corrupt practices, including the giving and taking of bribes.¹

The Brayton-led Republican Party, in addition to usually dominating the executive branch of the state government, controlled the Legislature as well. This power was maintained, particularly in the Senate, through over-representation of the small, traditionally Republican towns. By 1900, 77 per cent of the state's inhabitants were represented by thirty senators.² The Democratic minority usually represented the few, heavily populated cities of the state, while the majority represented the many rural Republican towns of Rhode Island.³ Control over the Legislature, particularly in the Senate, was made even more important by the fact that the governor had lost most of his

appointive powers to the Senate through the Brayton Law of 1901. This measure not only gave the Senate the power to reject appointments made by the governor, but also to substitute and confirm its own nominees.⁴ The governor had no veto power over the legislation passed by the General Assembly. Under these conditions machine politics flourished in Rhode Island. Brayton not only pulled the strings that operated the Republican Party in Rhode Island, but from his unofficial office in the Statehouse controlled the state government as well.⁵

At the beginning of each legislative session Brayton moved into the Providence County Sheriff's office in the Statehouse. Although he had no legal authority to do so, this annual invasion had rarely been challenged and it was from this strategic position that he called the signals for the Republican legislatures.⁶

In his 1906 campaign Higgins repudiated Brayton and Braytonism and had promised to do all that he could to remove the boss from the Statehouse. This was apparently a popular cause among some Republicans as well as Democrats for Higgins won that year. Although he was not successful in carrying out his campaign promise, the following year he had received endorsement of the usually Republican Providence Journal and was again victorious.⁷

Until September 16, 1908, the major hurdle in the path of Republican victory was Higgins,⁸ but on that date he cleared the way for the Republicans by announcing that he would not seek a third term. He explained his decision as due to increased

business responsibilities that would not allow him to carry out the duties of governor.⁹

On October 1 the Democratic State Convention nominated Olney Arnold of Providence for governor. Arnold was a loyal Democrat and a man well-known in the business world of Rhode Island. He was, however, a political novice. Although forty-seven years old when nominated, he had only entered the world of politics the year before, serving as a member of the General Assembly from Providence.¹⁰ As his running mate the Democrats nominated Adelard Archambault, a former mayor of Woonsocket but more important a candidate of French descent. The selection of Archambault was undoubtedly an attempt by the Democrats to gain the large Franco-American vote of the state and at the same time pacify French-Canadians within the Party who had apparently been unhappy over the "continued dominance of the Democratic Party by the Irish politicians."¹¹

Although other prominent Republicans had been mentioned as possible candidates for governor, Pothier seemed to have the strongest concerted support. During the first days of October various manufacturing interest of northern Rhode Island organized to support Pothier's nomination.¹² Between October 5 and 7, 1908, persons representing these interests "strongly urged upon party leaders [Republican] the nomination of Mr. Pothier as a means of securing to the entire Republican ticket the large French-Canadian vote of that district."¹³

The Republicans had to have a candidate who would be satisfactory to the

various elements within the Party. After satisfying this requirement, the Republicans had to have a man who could support and complement the national Republican ticket headed by William Howard Taft. Finally, they had to have a candidate that could win, and by winning help other Republicans to win. This was a large order but Aram Pothier seemed to meet the requirements.

There was no doubt in the minds of Party leaders that Pothier was a loyal Republican. He had served the Party well as school committeeman, auditor, mayor, assemblyman, and lieutenant governor. The nomination of Pothier would not only counteract the placement of Archambault in the second spot on the Democratic ticket but override it, for a Franco-American would then have the top spot on the Republican ticket.

The ethnic factor was considered carefully by both political parties. A majority of the people in Rhode Island at that time were either immigrants or children of immigrants. Among the foreign born, the largest group were the Irish, but a close second were the Franco-Americans.¹⁴ The Irish had aligned themselves against the English-Yankees in the state and were usually Democrats, but the French had not definitely aligned themselves with either party. Most Republicans felt that with Pothier as their candidate for governor they could gain the French vote for their side, thus ensuring victory.¹⁵ Pothier's nomination would also serve "to postpone the consolidation of the ranks of the immigrant groups and to keep the old Yankee element in control of the Republican Party of the state."¹⁶

The cities and towns that had caused the occasional shift in power in the House of Representatives had been the manufacturing communities of the Blackstone and Pawtuxet Valleys where the French-Canadian vote was heavy. With Pothier at the head of the ticket, "the House would be secure to the Republicans without question."¹⁷

Another factor associated with the ethnic question and of great concern to the manufacturing interests supporting Pothier's candidacy was the election of Congressman Adin Capron of the Second Congressional District. Republican Capron had been serving in Washington since 1897 and his seat was considered reasonably safe for the Republicans. Mr. Capron's district included most of the heavily French communities of the Blackstone Valley. Various groups were alarmed over the possible defection of Archambault's candidacy. These groups felt that it was to their advantage to have a Republican, and in particular, Mr. Capron representing them in Washington. These industrial concerns urged the nomination of Pothier to insure Capron's victory and the victory of the entire Republican ticket.¹⁸

Publicity is always a factor in an election. The press, by taking a position, can and has influenced the outcome of many contests. The most influential newspaper in Rhode Island in 1908 was the Providence Journal. Although the Journal had traditionally supported Republicans, "it had come under the control of men who refused to sanction or remain silent upon those corrupt practices that characterized Republican rule in Rhode Island for many years."¹⁹ In other words, the Journal

opposed Braytonism and would not support a Republican candidate who was part of "bossism and bribe giving."²⁰ Many Republicans felt that the support of the Journal was essential to the Republican victory.²¹ Although Pothier had long served the Party, there seemed to be no connection between Pothier and Brayton. This made Pothier attractive not only to the Journal but to other Republicans who had voted for Higgins in repudiation of Brayton. The people who controlled the main industries and banks of Rhode Island were generally Republicans. By giving financial support to the campaigns of Republican candidates these interests to some degree indirectly controlled who the candidates would be. The chairman of the Republican State Central Committee was usually the paid agent of the financial interests of the Republican party, and he in turn usually hand picked the candidates for state office.²² Pothier was acceptable to the powers behind the Republican party. Not only was he an experienced and successful industrialist, he was also a banker. In fact, his ties with the world of finance were so close that, while governor, Pothier became president of the Union Trust Company of Providence.²³

Late in September Pothier received the endorsement of the Republican State Central Committee. On October 8, 1908, the Republican convention named him as its candidate for governor. The outstanding feature of the dull campaign that followed was the lack of major issues. It was apparent from the beginning that the Democrats would again use Brayton and Braytonism as the chief target in their campaign, but Pothier killed this issue by repudiating Brayton and publicly

disassociating himself from the "boss". Early in 1907 Brayton had come out in favor of two constitutional amendments: One would reapportion the House and the other would give the veto power to the governor. Brayton favored a plan which would force both pieces of legislation through together as one bill. He felt that if the governor was going to get the veto power the House should be reapportioned and gerrymandered to make a Democratic governor's veto ineffective.²⁴ Even before his nomination Pothier went on record advocating separate consideration of the amendments, arguing that the people should have the right to consider each on its own merits.²⁵

Pothier's statement may have been politically motivated, for separation from Brayton seemed to be the main theme of his campaign. Concerning Brayton, the "boss," a typical line of the campaign was, "If I am elected Governor, I shall not be bossed by any man."²⁶ And referring to Brayton, the lobbyist, "If I find any lobbyist of any party using improper methods in urging or obstructing legislation, I shall protest with all my power and influence against such practices."²⁷

On the surface Pothier's repudiation of Brayton might seem to be a political ruse, but one contemporary authority feels that by 1908 Brayton had lost his hold on the Party. He was quite old, blind, and in ill health, and although still considered a powerful friend by the old Republicans in the Senate, he had lost his influence with the younger elements within the Party.²⁸

Other than publicly disassociating himself from Brayton, Pothier seemed to avoid any and all issues on the state

level. He continually took the position of being in favor of the national Republican platform and advocating the election of William Howard Taft. This dodging of issues eventually became the only item that the Democrats used in attacking Pothier. They claimed that Pothier refused to take a stand on the issues of the day and that this was typical of Pothier's past political record. A young Democratic spokesman, Theodore Francis Green of Providence, declared, "During Mr. Pothier's attendance in the General Assembly, there were fourteen roll call votes on questions of great importance, including several constitutional amendments. At eight of these he [Pothier] was registered as absent or not voting."²⁹ This seemed to have been a rather serious charge, and there was no public rebuttal by Pothier.

Although the Democrats continued to attack Pothier's inability to face up to the issues, his campaign moved along smoothly. In addition to completely separating himself from Brayton, Pothier presented himself as a Republican, an experienced office holder, and an honest and devoted servant of the people. This last point seemed to be quite effective, and Pothier stressed it often throughout the campaign. In an address before a large gathering in Woonsocket, Pothier concluded his speech by saying, "I know that if I cannot serve my State with as much talent or ability as others can, I can certainly serve it with as much devotion as any of my opponents."³⁰

Pothier was aided immeasurably by the fine publicity given him by various magazines. The following reference to him is an example:

He is a man of strong personality, of rare executive ability and of lofty ideals. There is nothing mean or narrow about him. In these sterling qualities of mind and heart is to be found the secret of his great popularity among all classes of good citizens. . . . His rugged honesty has become proverbial among his acquaintances, and no citizen of Rhode Island stands higher in their esteem.³¹

In addition to the popular magazines, Pothier was also treated well by several trade publications associated with the textile industry. He was, of course, a member of the industry and a Republican candidate for governor. Fibre and Fabric was a weekly magazine published in Boston, Massachusetts, for the textile industry. It called Pothier "one of the most successful manufacturers in New England" and "a man of the highest integrity, of lofty ideals, and rare executive ability."³² These qualities were the ones that would appeal to voters. The magazine went on to remind the voters of northern Rhode Island that they owed Pothier some gratitude. "Ever active and enterprising, he [Pothier] has done more for the industrial progress and welfare of Woonsocket, in which he has lived for many years, than any six of the most prominent citizens of that city."³³ Another trade publication had the following to say about Pothier: "Both in business and in politics, he is noted for his thorough honesty, and in politics, he is respected equally as a private citizen and a public official."³⁴

There is reason to believe that much of what these magazines said was true. His great executive ability had been shown many times. While still only a clerk he actually ran the Woonsocket Institute for Savings. Later he became president, and under his leadership the bank showed great profits.³⁵ Much was said of Pothier's honesty and integrity. Both his political allies and foes constantly mention these qualities when discussing Pothier.³⁶

The Providence Journal did not praise Pothier, but neither did it attack him. More important to Republicans, it did not support Arnold. The Journal did, however, give more space to Pothier than it did to Arnold. Statements to the effect that Pothier would insure the Republican hold on the Legislature and that he would swing the Blackstone Valley vote³⁷ encouraged Pothier's candidacy.

The 1908 elections resulted in a Republican landslide, nationally and in Rhode Island. Taft defeated Bryan for the presidency by over a million vote plurality out of nearly fifteen million in the popular vote and 321 to 162 in the electoral vote. In Rhode Island, Taft's margin of victory was 43,809 to 24,761.³⁸

In addition to Taft's victory in Rhode Island, the Republicans captured what had been Democratic mayoralty positions in Providence, Central Falls, and Pawtucket. They also won a secure hold on the Legislature, and all the Republican candidates for the general offices were victorious. Pothier defeated Arnold by 7,270 votes out of 73,509 votes cast for governor among the six candidates. He received 38,676 votes to Arnold's 31,406.³⁹

The plurality seems quite small when compared to Taft's margin of victory over Bryan of over 19,000.

It may be argued that Pothier was fortunate to have been carried into office on the great victory wave of Taft. Pothier's own city of Woonsocket split its vote, electing a French Democratic mayor but giving Pothier a strong victory over Arnold, "whereas it had voted for Higgins the year before, when no Frenchman was in the race."⁴⁰ This, of course, is an indication of importance of ethnic voting in the campaign. In 1907 Higgins had defeated his Republican opponent by 239 votes in Woonsocket. Pothier's plurality in his own town was 1,122, which meant that his candidacy gained 1,361 votes for the Republican Party. When it is considered that Higgins' total plurality in the election of 1907 was only 2,295 votes, the Pothier made up over half that in Woonsocket alone. When the two large Blackstone Valley communities are counted, the ethnic question becomes even more meaningful. Pothier's's plurality in Central Falls was 435, which represented a net gain of 697 votes. His plurality in Pawtucket was 1,678 votes, a net gain of 2,569. Looking, then, only at the three largest communities of the Blackstone Valley, which had large French populations, Pothier's plurality was 3,235 over Arnold, but his net gain over Higgins was 4,627.⁴¹

What does all this show? Among other things it shows that Pothier's victory in 1908 cannot be attributed simply to the candidate but rather to a combination of factors. Taft ran well ahead of Pothier and it must be assumed that Pothier was helped considerably by national politics.

The Journal indicated that the primary reason for the Republican victory in Rhode Island was the national Republican landslide.⁴² At the same time the fact that Pothier ran so well in the Blackstone Valley and won back many of the votes that Higgins had received in 1906 and 1907 cannot be overlooked. The fact of Pothier's ancestry certainly contributed not only to his victory but to the victory of other Republicans.⁴³

III - ELECTION AND REFORM

During the 1908 campaign for governor the question of constitutional amendments became a key issue. Many people in the state believed certain parts of the constitution had become outmoded and should be changed. They contended that the governor should have the veto power, the General Assembly should be reapportioned, state officers should have a two-year term, and the voting qualifications should be changed.

In 1908 Rhode Island was governed in accordance with a constitution that had been put into effect in 1843. This constitution gave few real powers to the governor; his main duties were social, "to serve as official host and speech-maker for the state."¹ He had practically no control over administration nor did he possess the power to veto legislation. Most of the power was in the hands of the General Assembly. The only time a governor had any real influence on the operation of state government was if he was of the same political party as the majority in the Legislature. Even in this event the governor could only suggest, give advice, or recommend. The governor's legal

impotence could best be seen when he was of the opposite party to that in control of the Legislature.² This was evident when James Higgins was governor. He seemed popular and introduced or supported many reforms that eventually came after his administrations. The governor could recommend, but that was as far as his powers went.

The governor did have a few insignificant appointive powers, but even these were subject to the restrictions of the Brayton Law of 1901. Under that law the Senate had to approve almost all appointees of the governor. If it refused to approve the governor's appointee, then the Senate had the right to select its own nominee to fill the position. "Thus the important factor of patronage rested in the Senate's collective hands, in reality the Republican Party bosses', and not in the governor's."³ Not only did the Legislature control the governor's appointive powers, but the various departments, boards, and commissions that administered the state's government were responsible to the Legislature rather than the governor.⁴

The Republican Party had controlled the Legislature for many years, a situation which continued into the early twentieth century through the effective employment of a rotten-borough system of representation.⁵ The Senate was composed of thirty-eight members, one from each community. The small towns were traditionally Republican while the larger, especially were turning to the Democratic column. In the election of 1908 about twenty-two people voted in Providence to elect one senator. In the same year one hundred and seven people voted in West Greenwich to elect one

senator.⁶ As a result of this system the ten largest cities and towns of Rhode Island having approximately 82 per cent of the population were represented by only ten senators, while 18 per cent of the population elected twenty-eight senators.

The situation was not quite so unfair in the House of Representatives. The House had seventy-two members but no city or town could have more than twelve members. Providence had the maximum, which meant that this city with over one-third of the state's population, had only 12 1/2 per cent of the House membership. This left 60 seats to be apportioned among 37 remaining communities. Each had to have at least one representative which again meant that the larger communities were often short-changed to the benefit of the small Republican towns.

Even in the larger communities like Providence, where the population had grown tremendously over the last half of the nineteenth century primarily as a result of the great migration of foreign-born into the state, politics remained in the hands of "the oligarchic commercial and manufacturing interests, the heirs to the landed aristocracy that ruled the state in its early history."⁷ These interests were able to do this through outdated voting qualifications. Briefly, these qualifications were that all adult male citizens could vote if they owned at least \$134 worth of property; otherwise they paid a one dollar poll tax. These "registry voters" could not vote for city councilmen or on any revenue measures. In his 1907 inaugural address to the General Assembly, Governor Higgins stated, "No state in the Union except Rhode Island requires such a

qualification."⁸ He went on to recommend a constitutional amendment abolishing property qualifications for voting.

With these tools at its disposal, it is easy to see why the entrenched Republican Party traditionally might upset its hold on the General Assembly. The fact that a Democrat was occasionally elected governor presented reason enough for the Republicans to oppose the executive veto. As for abolishing the property qualifications on voting, the Republicans did not want to risk their almost certain victories by making new voters eligible without knowing their political leanings.

The question of the governor's veto over legislation triggered several reforms that came about during Pothier's first year in office. Democrats had urged this because it seemed their only chance of curbing Republican control in the legislature. Tradition was on the side of the veto; the federal government provided for it.

A major breakthrough came in January, 1906, when Republican Governor George Utter urged that an amendment to provide for the executive veto be approved by the General Assembly. He said:

I would urge the adoption at this session a resolution to submit to the people an amendment to the constitution placing upon the chief executive the duty of approving or disapproving all legislature acts, the duty known popularly as approval or veto. I urge this because it would plainly be for the benefit of the people as a whole.⁹

Now a Republican governor had added his voice to those favoring the executive veto, but the Legislature took no action.

In the election of 1906 the Democratic candidate for governor, James Higgins, urged that the governor be given the power to veto legislation. After winning the election, he went before the Republican controlled Legislature and again demanded the veto power. "I recommend most heartily your approval of a constitutional amendment which will give the governor the veto power."¹⁰

On April 3, 1907, a bill providing for the executive veto was introduced by Zenas Bliss, a Republican from Cranston. It provided for a three-fifths vote of each house to override the governor's veto. This bill had bi-partisan support and was also supported by the Providence Journal, which on April 11 urged the House to pass it promptly. The editorial asserted that "this power belongs by every principle of justice to the office of governor."¹¹

On April 12 the House voted thirty-one to twenty-four in favor of the bill, but a constitutional amendment, in order to pass, had to receive a majority of the total House membership of seventy-two. Since thirty-seven votes were needed to pass the measure, it was defeated. Interestingly enough, those not voting were all Democrats. The reason or reasons for their not voting is not clear, but as the Journal put it, "the veto bill was defeated yesterday through the failure of the majority members of the house to appreciate their opportunity."¹²

Although the veto bill had not passed the 1907 session of the House, both political parties supported the giving of the veto power to the governor in their platforms in November 1907. After winning re-election Governor Higgins went before the General Assembly and again spoke in favor of the veto bill:

Both parties also stand pledged by their recent platforms to give to the executive of the state a substantial veto power. It is reasonable to expect therefore that such a reform will be inaugurated at this session.¹³

What Higgins got, however, from the Republican controlled Senate was unexpected. On March 19, 1908, a bill combining the veto measure with a House reapportionment measure was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The Democrats opposed the bill on the grounds that each item should be considered separately. The proposal brought a storm of protest. The next day Governor Higgins in an interview to the press said:

I think that the coupling of these bills in one resolution is a positive farce, pure and simple. I regard it as a cheap political trick of Charles R. Brayton to saddle a gerrymandering proposition, which will place the state for years to come under his control, onto a veto amendment which he considers popular.¹⁴

The motive of the Republicans was obvious. If the governor was going to receive the veto power, then the House

would be re-districted and gerrymandered "to ensure the continuation of Republican control in the Legislature, which, in turn would render the veto power meaningless."¹⁵ On March 24, 1908, the proposal to combine the two amendments passed the Senate. The Journal's front page story said, "The Republican leaders felt that the only way of saving the state, if a Democratic governor was elected, was to reapportion first."¹⁶

The Republicans apparently were not in full agreement on this issue of combining the constitutional amendments. Former Governor Utter openly criticized the passage of the resolution combining the two, stating that "It was the intention of those who drew up the Republican platforms to bring before the people of the state two amendments to the constitution, one for the veto power and the other for an increase in the representation in the General Assembly."¹⁷

On April 2, 1908, the Republican members of the House of Representatives, in caucus, voted by a "large majority"¹⁸ to support the combining of the two amendments under the one resolution. And on April 10, 1908, the House passed the resolution "by a strict party of vote of 42 to 20."¹⁹ The resolution had to be made public officially to each town and city and then to be reconsidered by the 1909 General Assembly. It would finally be submitted to the voters in November of 1909.

In the gubernatorial campaign of 1908, Pothier disassociated himself from Brayton and the Republican legislative leaders by strongly advocating that the amendments be considered separately even though he was in

favor of both. In a speech at Warren, he said, "It is clearly in the spirit of American government to give the executive the veto power over legislation in some form." In regard to reapportionment, Pothier stated, "Our purposes should be constant advancement and continual reform as needed reforms present themselves." Considering the separation of the two, he continued, "It is my clear judgment that the people should have the fullest opportunity to express their minds concerning these two propositions and that they should have the right to vote on them separately."²⁰ Pothier also made it clear that the 1909 General Assembly could change the manner in which these proposals could be submitted to the people. He declared that "if I am elected, I shall recommend to the General Assembly that these propositions be so submitted to the people that they may vote on them separately."²¹ This was obviously a shrewd political maneuver by Pothier. It was popular to be against Brayton. The people approved of his position on this and so did the Journal.

After winning election Pothier strongly pointed out to the General Assembly what the people expected as a result of the election:

The fact should be emphasized that the people did and do expect to be permitted to vote on the veto question by itself, and I firmly believe it is a privilege that of right belongs to them.²²

The governor got what he wanted. The 1909 General Assembly easily passed and

submitted to the voters for ratification three separate constitutional amendments:

1. To give the veto power to the governor.
2. To make the lieutenant governor the presiding officer in the Senate.
3. To increase the size of the House from 72 to 100, and in cities and towns electing more than one, election to be by districts rather than at-large.

This last amendment carried the stipulation that no town or city could have more than twenty-five seats.

Some continued to feel that the Republicans had still maintained the advantage in their favor. Providence had 40 per cent of the state's population but could have only 25 per cent of the House seats.²³ Brayton also stated publicly that "the redistricting amendment could be worked out so that the Democrats would never have more than twenty-four out of the one hundred seats."²⁴

The election of 1909 had two focal points, the race for governor and the three constitutional amendments placed before the people. The Democrats nominated Olney Arnold to run against Pothier, and the proposed amendments were often the subjects of his campaign. Arnold urged the rejection of the reapportionment amendment on the grounds that it would be simply a Brayton tool.²⁵ Pothier countered this by looking at the history of the subject. "It is difficult to reconcile the attitude of the Democrats on the re-districting

proposal with their oft-repeated appeal for minority representation."26

The Democrats declared that they were for the veto amendment, but not in the hands of a governor under the control of Brayton. The implication, of course, was that Pothier could not use the veto power as he saw fit, but that Arnold could put the veto to good use because he was independent of Brayton. Pothier, on the other hand, emphasized all during the campaign that he would use the veto power wisely and independently. An example of his approach to this question appeared in the Providence Journal on October 30, 1909. In his statement, which was typical of many statements on this point during the campaign, he declared that he would veto any measure that would gerrymander the House:

The bill prescribing the boundaries of those districts will never receive my signature until the lines shall have been drawn as to render those districts as nearly equal in population and as compact as possible.27

There were, however, doubts concerning Pothier's declared independence of the Republican machine. The voice of doubt was the Journal. In an editorial late in the campaign, the paper declared, "No one would anticipate from Olney Arnold any improper or equivocal use of the veto." However, the editorial warned, "It would be difficult for any Republican governor, selected under prevailing conditions, to show such independence as Mr. Pothier wishes the people of Rhode Island to believe he is capable of."28

It is not difficult to understand the Journal's position at this time. In 1906 the Journal hired John R. Rathom as its managing editor. Rathom was a dynamic and experienced newspaperman who had been brought to Providence by the Journal's president, Stephen D. Metcalf, to lead an "Independent" newspaper and to wage a campaign against bossism and Brayton. Although the owners of the Journal were Republicans they were opposed to Brayton. From 1906 to 1910 the Journal under Rathom's leadership warred against Brayton and generally did not endorse candidates for office who had the backing of Brayton. Pothier fell into this category.²⁹

Pothier, however, had made his point with the people, for on election day the voters re-elected him governor with an 11,769 vote plurality.³⁰ Moreover, all three constitutional amendments were ratified; the thirteenth amendment was to reapportion the now one hundred seats in the House, the fourteenth amendment gave the lieutenant governor power to preside over the Senate, and the fifteenth amendment gave the governor the veto power. All three were approved by large margins.³¹

During the campaign Pothier had promised the people that the reapportionment amendment would not result in gerrymandering. It was his intention to keep that promise. In his annual address to the General Assembly, Governor Pothier proposed that reapportionment details be worked out by a commission, and "such a commission should be given full authority to determine the proper apportionment of representatives among the cities and towns, subject to ratification by the General Assembly."³² It was clear that Pothier was

willing to use whatever powers he possessed to assure the proper reapportionment of the House.

On February 18, 1910, a resolution came out of the General Assembly giving the governor the authority to appoint a nine-member commission to work out the details of redistricting and reapportioning the one hundred seats in the House of Representatives. The governor was also given the power to fill any vacancies on the commission.

Pothier considered the appointment of this commission of the utmost importance, and the responsibility to appoint this commission as the greatest of honors bestowed upon him as governor. Concerning this responsibility, he said, "If when my term of office is over, I can look back to the fact that the state was redistricted during my term of office with absolute fairness, I shall be happy."³³

It had been no secret that the Legislature would pass the resolution providing for a redistricting commission. There was, however great speculation as to whom Pothier would appoint. Pothier had his men picked before the passage of the legislation and kept their names secret until submitted to the Senate for approval.³⁴

There were apparent "leaks" to the press concerning the appointed short of giving their names. One "leak" suggested that many names had been submitted to the governor for consideration, "but they have all been completely dismissed from consideration."³⁵ Concerning the possible appointment of politicians to the

commission, another "leak" stated, "It is also known that the governor will not name any professional politician to the commission no matter whether he be a Democrat or a Republican."³⁶ Another statement concerning the appointed said, "It has been the governor's purpose, it is said, to select men whose standing in the community is such that, although they may be classed as Republicans or Democrats, they may be relied upon to rise above partisanship and reapportion the state in a manner that is absolutely fair."³⁷

On February 22 Pothier appointed a board consisting of six Republicans, two Democrats, and one Lincolnian. The Democrats in the Assembly appeared to be satisfied with the Republicans chosen and found no fault with the other three.³⁸ The Republicans were not altogether happy with the appointment of the Lincolnian. In this appointment Pothier had annoyed the Republicans in the Senate and Brayton in particular. But Pothier apparently could act independently of Brayton because of his popularity and the Senate could not vote against Pothier's appointment. In a brief statement to the press, Brayton said, "How would it look for the Senate to refuse to approve the appointments made by the most popular governor Rhode Island has had in years?"³⁹

The Journal felt that Pothier had appointed a good commission and commended him. "The governor has displayed in their selection freedom from narrow partisanship and has evidently desired to show the people of the state that he is personally responsible for redistricting."⁴⁰ Concerning the members of the commission, the Journal went on to say, "It is not a

commission of political gerrymanders that the governor would entrust with this important task, but a responsible body of self-respecting citizens who are likely to do their work without fear or favor."⁴¹ The governor had done his job well and most observers seemed to approve his appointments.⁴²

On February 24, 1910, the Senate unanimously approved all nine of Pothier's appointments. On April 15, 1910, after the commission had begun its work, the General Assembly passed a resolution calling upon the commission to deliver its final report to the governor by August 1, 1910, and on that date, the commission did deliver its final report to Pothier.⁴³ The commission had done its job speedily and to the satisfaction of most people. On August 10, 1910, the report was submitted to and approved by a special session of the General Assembly. The Journal complimented the board for its work, as "there had been no gerrymandering and all the districts had followed natural lines."⁴⁴ But behind the commission was Governor Pothier; to him must go substantial credit for putting the thirteenth amendment into effect.

Shortly after the work of reapportioning was completed both political parties began to prepare for the fall elections. On October 8, 1910, the Democratic State Convention nominated Lewis Waterman, a Providence attorney who had served two years in the state House of Representatives, for governor. As expected, Governor Pothier was again nominated by the Republicans. Apparently feeling confident that he could win on his past record, Pothier did not run a "hard" campaign. He seemed content to parry

statements made by his opponent and really offered nothing new. Waterman attacked Pothler on his use of the veto or rather lack of its use; Pothler's only reaction to this was to say that Waterman had paid him a compliment in that he could find only one flaw in the administration.⁴⁵

On other occasions Waterman referred to Pothler as being a "corporation man." To this Pothler replied:

In his vain search for some effective point of attack against the state administration, the opposing candidate for governor now charges it up against the present governor that he is a corporation man ... My opponent forces me into the fatal admission. I confess that for the past ten years I have devoted some attention to building up manufacturing interests in the northern part of Rhode Island.

It is too the sad fact that the mills with which I am connected developed largely upon the capital and brains that were induced to locate in Rhode Island through my efforts, are today giving employment to may hundreds of operatives with a combined payroll of one million dollars annually.

I cannot be charged with boasting in admitting these facts. I am confessing that the charges made against me are true. If this is a crime, I am guilty.⁴⁶

It seems then that Pothler took this campaign lightly and was content to go into

the election without offering any substantially new program and without criticizing the opposition. Waterman accused the Republicans of standing pat and charged that Pothier had misused the veto. The Democrats tied Pothier to Senator Aldrich and his tariff policy, one that had brought much nation-wide disfavor to the Republicans. They challenged the Republicans to debate the issues, and when rebuffed, accused them of being afraid to face the issues.⁴⁷

As a result Pothier won the election but only by 1,140 votes. His plurality had been reduced by over 10,000 votes from the 1909 election.⁴⁸ There is no doubt that Pothier's lackadaisical campaign had much to do with the results: He ran behind the rest of the Republican ticket. The Journal claimed that only George Utter's strong showing in the race for Congress saved the others from defeat.⁴⁹

In January, 1910, Pothier had begun the campaign for biennial elections for state officers in his address to the General Assembly:

The new conditions upon which the state government is entering seem to me favorable for proposing this year an amendment to the constitution providing biennial elections for the general officers and members of the General Assembly ... I do believe that it would tend to minimize political expediency as an element in the enactment, administration, and execution of laws.⁵⁰

Taking the governor's lead, the House majority leader introduced the legislation

on January 11, 1910.⁵¹ The amendment easily passed both Houses of the 1910 General Assembly, and if re-approved by the 1911 Assembly, would be submitted to the voters in November of 1911.

Biennial elections became a political issue during the 1911 session of the General Assembly. Both houses with their Republican majorities passed the measure, but in each house the Democrats voted in opposition. They claimed that the bill was not properly written.⁵²

In October, 1911, the Democrats again nominated Lewis Waterman for governor, largely on the strength of his good showing in the previous election. The Democrats platform included a plank in opposition to the biennial election amendment. It claimed that the bill was not well written and that if state biennial elections coincided with national elections it would be difficult "to give state elections the attention they deserved."⁵³ The Journal said the Democratic ticket was not a strong one and that the "Democratic hostility to biennial elections is unfortunate."⁵⁴

Pothier was renominated by the Republicans, but only after he had sent a letter, which was made public to the chairman of the Republican State Central Committee. In this letter Pothier indicated that he would not accept the nomination unless the Republicans were willing to go along with his recommendations concerning the platform and the campaign. Among the recommendations was a statement urging the support of biennial elections.⁵⁵ The Journal praised the letter saying that it was "monumental proof that the Governor has grown immensely

in independence, and it will do more than innumerable stump speeches to make his re-election possible."56

During the campaign Pothier urged that the biennial elections amendment be approved, but other than that he seemed to base his campaign on his past performance as governor. He told a large rally in Providence, "I trust that my endeavor in the past to promote legislation for the public welfare is sufficient to guarantee my intentions for the future."57 The biennial elections amendment appeared to be the only issue that both parties argued during the campaign. So closely was the amendment linked to Pothier that the political advertising gave both equal space. A newspaper advertisement of the campaign appeared on election day in the Providence Journal. The ad was five columns wide and in large bold type said, "Vote for Governor Pothier," but just below in print just as large, it urged, "Vote to approve biennial elections."58

The measure, although backed by the Republicans and opposed by the Democrats, had greater support in the larger communities than in the small towns. Herein was the key to Republican strategy. Waterman's good showing in 1910 had come about from his popularity in Providence. He had defeated Pothier by 4,249 in this city, whereas Pothier had won in Providence in 1909.59 By appealing to the larger communities, knowing that the smaller towns were traditionally Republican, the Republicans hoped for a safe victory in 1911. Their hopes were realized, for on November 7, 1911, Aram Pothier was re-elected governor by a plurality of 7,394 votes and the sixteenth amendment to the

Rhode Island Constitution was approved 27,149 to 14,176.60

Pothier's first years as governor were marked by the great success of the Republican Party and Pothier's personal victories. They were also distinguished by several important amendments to the state constitution that Pothier had advocated and in some cases had taken a leading part in promoting. Pothier's future, however, was not completely secure, for 1912 would be a year when national Republican politics and a strong willed young Democratic candidate for governor would pose threats to his string of victories.

IV - VICTORY AND CONTROVERSY

In the gubernatorial campaigns of 1908 through 1911, the Republicans had general political conditions working in their favor and Pothier along with many other Republicans had gained victory. However, the campaign and election of 1912 would prove to be far from easy for them. The prevailing factors, rather than favoring the Republican Party of Rhode Island, would work dramatically against their chances of victory. If ever Aram Pothier was to lose a gubernatorial election, it should have been in 1912.

The storm clouds began to gather for state Republican leaders on August 5, 1912, when Theodore Roosevelt accepted the Progressive Party's nomination for the presidency. The split in the Republican Party which resulted in the contest between Taft and Roosevelt was looked upon with chagrin by Republicans, for the only result could be a Democratic victory.¹

The fact that Party leadership was divided on the national level upset Republican organizations all over the nation, but what disturbed Republican leaders at the state level even more was the fact that "whenever it could be done Progressives ran state and local tickets."² On September 27, 1912, the Progressive Party chose as its candidate for governor of Rhode Island Albert H. Humes, a former mayor of Central Falls. Although he was given no chance of winning, it was felt that Humes would siphon off some normally Republican votes.³

The problems within the Republican ranks seemed to give added life to Rhode Island Democrats. As a result of Roosevelt's candidacy, "it appeared that for the first time in years, the Democrats had an excellent chance to carry Rhode Island."⁴ The enthusiasm among state Democrats brought forth several aspirants for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, among whom were Theodore Francis Green and former state Senator Addison Munroe of Providence.

On October 10, 1912, the Democratic State Convention unanimously nominated Theodore Francis Green for governor. Green's nomination posed the strongest threat Pothier had had to face in his career as governor. A clever veteran politician, Green had proven himself as a capable minority leader in the House of Representatives during the 1907 General Assembly session. As a first year representative his name had been placed in nomination for House speaker.⁵ He had also proven himself to be a vigorous campaigner, working hard for the election of James Higgins in 1906 and 1907 as well as serving as a party spokesman in the campaigns of Lewis Waterman.

The Democratic platform favored the redistribution of seats in the Rhode Island Senate, the direct election of United States senators, and the abolition of the property qualification for voting. It also included a fifty-four hour work week for women and children and the granting of the appointive power to the governor. The last item would mean the repeal of the old Brayton Law.

On October 9, 1912, the Republican State Convention unanimously nominated Pothier for his fifth term as governor. There had been some talk of not renominating him among those who felt that there should be a limit placed on the number of terms a governor should serve. There were also rumors to the effect that Pothier did not want to run again.⁶ This talk, however, was quickly stopped when it was pointed out that Pothier could poll more votes than any other candidate the Republicans could have nominated.⁷

The Republican platform was quite conservative. It endorsed Taft and Republican protective tariff policies but skirted most of the local reform issues and merely promised to give special attention to the fifty-four hour work law.⁸ Although the platform was vague on this point, it should be noted that Pothier had "urged the convention to endorse the measure outright,"⁹ and had not met with much success.

Green began his campaign by attacking Republican protective tariff policies and the state party's endorsement of them. Green also accused Pothier of being a tool of the mill owners and charged that the state Republican Party was controlled by big business in general and the textile industry in particular.¹⁰ As the campaign

continued, Green became convinced that his audience could not understand the complexities of the tariff question and as a result soon dropped the issue. Instead he concentrated his efforts on boss rule in the Republican Party and his claim of Pothier's insincerity in advocating the fifty-four hour law.¹¹

Pothier's answer to Green's charges of insincerity regarding the fifty-four hour law was the claim that the time had not been right in the past for such legislation. A fifty-four work law would have placed Rhode Island at an economic disadvantage in relation to neighboring states. He went on to say that he was now in favor of this legislation, for New York and Massachusetts had recently passed fifty-four hour bills.¹²

Early in the campaign Green had seized the initiative and had placed Pothier in a defensive position. Although Green had been encouraged by the possibility of a split Republican vote, his campaign received its greatest boost on October 14, 1912, when the Providence Journal attacked Pothier and endorsed Green for governor.¹³ The Journal's editorial began by giving Pothier credit for advocating some good measures through the years but censuring him for some questionable appointments. The editorial continued:

Coupled with these creditable acts, however, has been a subservient mental attitude which has always sought the easiest way out of a political tangle, and a constant lack of initiative that appears only to have been startled out of its apathy when popular demand became too strenuous to be ignored.¹⁴

According to the paper Pothier was a very busy businessman and possibly these business activities interfered with his duties as governor, resulting in the nomination being forced upon him in 1911 and again in 1912. The article stated that Pothier had given little to the office, and said:

His entire period of public office has been colorless, and he has risen to none of the splendid opportunities that had come to him again and again to be a real leader. In short, Mr. Pothier, in his public life at least, is a drifter and not a general. He has always kept himself ranged closely behind machine politicians.¹⁵

In contrast, the Journal had this to say about Green:

It is hardly necessary to point out that Mr. Green is not of this caliber. He is an uphill fighter, a supporter of every good public cause and a man that could not be persuaded or intimidated into any act which is against the interests of the people. The machine politicians are his enemies. More than once with all odds against him he brought confusion to their plans.¹⁶

As if taking a cue from the Journal, Green concentrated his attack on "boss rule" within the Republican Party. In a letter to the chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee, later made public, he declared:

We no longer have in this state a republican form of government except in name. Our laws are made and we are governed by a general assembly which is controlled by an unrepresentative Senate which takes order from a paid party boss.¹⁷

Continuing the same theme two days later at a rally in Providence, Green attacked what he called the "established order":

What is the established order? It is a legislative body of two houses - actually controlled by one. That one, moreover, is not independent but takes orders from one who is not mentioned in the statutes, namely the paid Republican boss, and he in turn takes orders from those that pay him.¹⁸

In both cases Green was referring to Charles A. Wilson, Chairman of the Republican State Central Committee, as the Party boss. As for those who paid the boss, Green was alluding to some of the big business interests of Rhode Island.

While Green attacked bossism, other Democrats concentrated their attack on Pothier. At a Democratic rally in Wickford, James Williams, a Providence lawyer, declared that Pothier had played politics with the state's judiciary system. In May, 1912, one of the Judges of the Superior Court had died leaving not only a vacancy on the bench, "but leaving the remaining Judges an amount of business they were unable to cope with."¹⁹ Williams also said that he had sent a petition to the governor signed by one hundred members of the Rhode Island Bar Association urging an immediate appointment, but the governor

refused to make such an appointment. Williams continued, "The governor had probably been advised against performing this most important duty until after the elections, by the boss of the party."20

An important part of the Democratic platform was the abolition of property qualifications for voting. Speaking at a rally in Pascoag, former governor James Higgins attacked Pothier for not taking a definite stand on this issue. He stated, "The people have a right to know where any candidate seeking public office stands on questions of importance," and maintained, "By this time the governor should know where he stands on this issue instead of still thinking it over."21

In the meantime the Journal continued its campaign against Pothier and its support of Green saying:

One is a timid trimmer: the other is a man of uncompromising sincerity. One is bound: the other is free. One would be the voice of the boss: the other would act according to his own convictions. The voters of Rhode Island should not find it difficult to choose.22

While the Democrats were vigorous in their attacks on Pothier and the Republicans, Pothier waged a very quiet campaign and in many cases he let others speak for him. The Republican platform ignored most of the Democratic charges and placed the Republican record of accomplishment before the people. In a campaign speech Representative Arthur Summer gave Pothier credit for the good of the people during the 1912 legislative session. These new laws included tax

reform, a workman's compensation law, and a public utilities act. Facing up to the issue of the governor's sincerity concerning the fifty-four hour work law, he stated that the governor was in favor of this legislation and asked, "Can anyone doubt that this measure will be turned into law?"²³

In a Providence speech Pothler outlined the type of legislation he and the Republican Party favored:

It is legislation as is here proposed that the Republican Party is enacting for the benefit of the people of Rhode Island. Laws which provide compensation for injured workmen, which reduce the hours of labor for women and children, which regulate public service corporations and which prevent strikes and lockouts are essential measures for the protection of the men, women, and children comprising our population.²⁴

If the various factors in this campaign had seemed to go against Pothler up to this point, the final blow came on November 3, 1912, almost on the eve of the election. On that day Congressman George Utter, the Republican candidate in the Second Congressional District, died. In 1910 Utter had defeated his Democratic opponent for Congress by over five thousand votes and it had been said that his election had carried Pothler to his narrow victory of that year.²⁵ To replace Utter the Republicans nominated Zenas Bliss of Cranston to run against Democrat Peter Gerry. Gerry won the election by a slim 393 votes.²⁶ The sudden death of Utter not only cost the Republicans a seat in Congress, but adversely affected the entire Republican ticket.²⁷

On the Sunday before the election the Journal ran a special section giving both Pothler and Green the chance to sum up their cases for the people of Rhode Island. Green declared:

The dominating issue of the campaign is the question of whether or not the existing partisan machine shall continue to rule the state. All other questions are subordinate to this in importance because it makes no difference how we, the citizens of the state, decide them if the ultimate decision rests with the machine in power.²⁸

In what appeared to be an almost humble statement, Pothler de-emphasized his own personal importance, but displayed his loyalty to the party. His statement was:

As an individual I am not seeking this office, but as the candidate of the Party responsible for the efficient manner in which the government of the state is being administered, I am seeking it and ask that the people will give their endorsement to the party which has so signally demonstrated its capacity for discharging the public duties entrusted to it.²⁹

Pothler's statement was quite significant, for although he was highly respected by Republican leaders and his advice was often sought, as governor he was more often a figurehead and spokesman for the party than its leader.³⁰ This is not to say that Pothler was a nonentity. When he felt strongly on an issue he would speak out even if speaking out meant disagreeing with a Party leader. His statement indicates

that he believed his role to be that of a loyal Republican who was but part of an organization. It seems clear that Pothler was willing to subordinate himself for the benefit of the Party.

On November 5, 1912, the voters of Rhode Island gave the state's electoral vote to Woodrow Wilson. For governor, however, the people re-elected Pothler, "in spite of the fact that the Progressive candidate for governor took 8,457 normally Republican votes, and in spite of the fact that Green actually received more votes than Wilson."³¹ Pothler's plurality was 1,408 and the actual vote was 34,133 to 32,725.³²

Erwin Levine proposes two basic reasons for Pothler's victory, one economic and the other ethnic. He claims that the Republicans had proved to the workers of the state that their fiscal policies were sound, making business stable and employment high. The workers were afraid that by voting for Green they would put their job security in jeopardy.³³ Levine also contends that the voters of French extraction continued to support Pothler because Green had attacked his integrity and sincerity on the fifty-four hour law and this they would not tolerate.³⁴

There is some evidence to support Levine's second point. Pothler's victory margin did come from the Blackstone Valley and in particular from Woonsocket. His plurality in the Blackstone Valley was 3,429 votes.³⁵

One point that Levine did not make, however, was that, although Green and the Democrats seemed to have most of the advantages, Green at this stage in his

career was not a strong vote getter. On the other hand Pothier had maintained a great deal of personal popularity and the Republican Party was still strongly organized and well financed.³⁶

Pothier's victory made him the first Rhode Island governor to be elected for a two-year term under the provisions of the biennial elections amendment to the Rhode Island Constitution. This triumph, however, was to be his last before his temporary retirement from politics in 1914.

In January, 1913, Pothier, in his message to the General Assembly, said little that was new or surprising. He did advocate the passage of the fifty-four hour work law for women and children. "There is no apparent reason for delaying the passage of such an act in Rhode Island," he declared.³⁷ On the important issue of abolishing property qualifications for voting, Pothier said nothing.

The General Assembly passed the fifty-four hour work law, but the issue that occupied most of the Assembly's time was the question of property qualifications for voters. The Republican leaders were opposed to dropping the property qualification while the Democrats generally supported a change in the law.

Early in the legislative session of 1913 Democratic Representative Albert West of Providence introduced an amendment to the Rhode Island Constitution to abolish all property qualifications for voting. The bill was sent to the Committee on Constitutional Revision and for all practical purposes was there buried. But on February 19, West moved to bring the amendment before the House, and with many Republicans voting with the Democrats,

succeeded by a 48 to 44 vote.³⁸ On February 26, after a long and sometimes bitter debate, the House, by a 50 to 45 vote returned the bill to the Committee.³⁹ Later in the session the bill was debated and again sent back to committee. During the entire session the governor made no public statement on the bill and the session ended with no action being taken.

During the 1914 session of the General Assembly several bills were introduced concerning the abolition of property qualifications for voters. A Republican sponsored bill proposed to abolish the property restriction and to substitute a two-dollar registry tax. Some Republicans and all Democrats in the House opposed the measure because it did not really eliminate discrimination against the non-propertyed voter. This bill was defeated 56 to 37.⁴⁰

In the Senate a bill backed by some Republicans was introduced by P. H. Wilbour of Little Compton. However, this bill did not have the support of Republican leaders. A Democrat sponsored bill had also been introduced. The Wilbour Bill was scheduled to come before the Senate on March 25; on March 24, Pothier issued a public statement on the proposal but did not really commit himself on it. His statement was:

In public utterances and in private conversations I have urged that the voters of Rhode Island should be afforded the opportunity of stating by a three-fifths vote, whether they desire that all classes of voters, real estate, personal property, and registry, should be placed in equal footing in the matter of voting for members of city councils in cities and at financial town meetings in towns.⁴¹

On March 25, the Senate defeated the Willbourn Bill 21 to 18.⁴²

Prior to Pothier's statement the Journal in an editorial titled "His Spineless Excellency" alleged that Pothier had done nothing to aid the passage of the legislation and asked, "Does he even know or care that such a subject is under discussion? Or does he think that his activities for the benefit of the state should center around the attempt to secure pardons for murderers?"⁴³ This allusion to "pardons for murderers" stemmed from the fact that on March 4, 1914, Pothier had recommended that the Senate pardon Arthur G. Webster, who had been sentenced to twenty-five years in the state prison after being found guilty of armed robbery in 1899. Webster had served fifteen years of his sentence and his pardon had been recommended on the grounds that he had reformed and had educated himself in prison.⁴⁴ Although the Senate committee favored the action, when the issue came to the floor some heated opposition developed. Senator Champlin of New Shoreham argued that Webster had a long criminal record, was not a good person, and even as his pardon was before the Senate, he was wanted for murder in Missouri. Champlin urged that the case be further investigated before the Senate made its final decision.⁴⁵

Other members of the Senate contended that the case had been thoroughly investigated and asked that the Senate grant the pardon. By a vote of 22 to 9 Webster was granted his pardon on March 11, 1914.⁴⁶

The fact that it was Senator Champlin who spoke out against Pothier's pardon recommendation is notable, for in January, 1914, a controversy developed within the Republican ranks with Pothier on one side and Senator Champlin's brother on the other. The controversy arose over the appointment of a judge for the Fourth District Court. It was assumed that the incumbent judge, Félix Hébert, would leave the court to take the post of Insurance Commissioner for Rhode Island. Hébert had shown interest in the newly created post and it had been agreed among Republican leaders that the job was his.⁴⁷ The Kent County delegation of the Grand Committee proposed that Hébert be replaced on the court by William R. Champlin. In this matter the Kent County group had the support of Republican Party Chairman Charles Wilson.⁴⁸ When the Insurance Commissioner's job was formally offered to Hébert, he declined because the salary was much too small for the work involved and he indicated a preference for remaining on the court.⁴⁹ The Kent county delegation, however, continued its drive to replace Hébert with Champlin, still with Wilson's support.

At this point Pothier entered the fight on behalf of Hébert. In a meeting with the chairman, Pothier asked Wilson to "stop the scheme to defeat Judge Hébert by nominating a man who recently moved into the district and wanted to displace a good judge."⁵⁰ The governor accused Wilson of poor leadership and would not follow the decision of the party leader to replace Hébert.⁵¹

The governor then carried the fight to the Legislature. In a caucus fight among

Republicans members of the Grand Committee, the delegation from Woonsocket, Pawtucket, and Central Falls unanimously backed the Governor and led the fight to retain Judge Hébert. The final caucus vote was 56 to 20 in favor of Hébert.⁵² When the issue came before the entire Grand Committee, Hébert was unanimously re-elected.⁵³

The Hébert case gained national attention because the governor had opposed the boss and had won. Pothier's apparent victory did not make the Republican leaders happy and caused some confusion among Rhode Island Republicans. One comment on the Hébert case was, "In view of the governor's revolt, Republican assemblymen are now wondering who the real boss of the party in the state is."⁵⁴

It was not Pothier's desire to become the boss of his Party. Hébert had not asked the governor to intercede on his behalf. It would appear that Pothier felt that Hébert was better qualified to be a judge and at this point in his career Pothier was willing to stand up to the party leadership when he felt that the leadership had blundered.⁵⁵

The events of 1914 had placed Pothier at odds with the Republican Party chairman. When Pothier indicated that he would not be a candidate for governor again in 1914, the Republican Party leadership seemed satisfied with this turn of events for no one tried to change Pothier's mind. Pothier's final public statement on the matter summed up the situation very concisely. When asked by a reporter whether it was true that the governor would again be a candidate, Pothier answered, "I have not been requested by anyone to run

again, and I have not got the matter under consideration, nor will I consider it."⁵⁶ The two main reasons why Pothier did not wish to run again were that he wanted to devote more time to his business, but more important, he was in poor health.⁵⁷

In September, 1914, the Republican State Convention selected R. Livingston Beeckman of Newport as its candidate for governor. On election day Beeckman defeated his Democratic opponent Patrick H. Quinn by 9,814 votes.⁵⁸ This election ended the first phase of Aram Pothier's long career as governor of Rhode Island.

V - POTHIER RETURNS

In the years immediately following Pothier's retirement from politics Republicans continued to occupy the governor's chair. R. Livingston Beeckman served three terms; his 1914 victory over Patrick Quinn was followed by victories over Addison Munroe in 1916 and Alberic Archambault in 1918. In 1920 Beeckman did not seek re-election and the Republicans chose Lieutenant Governor Emery J. San Souci as their candidate. San Souci went on to defeat his Democratic opponent by over 53,000 votes.¹ This was the largest plurality given any Republican candidate up to that time and led a Republican sweep of the state to the point where not a single town or city went Democratic.² "This election represented the high point of Republican strength in the century."³

The events of the next two years, however, would quickly topple the Republicans and lead to a Democratic victory in 1922. Although San Souci was directly involved in these events, they

were not his doing; he was, rather, a victim of circumstance. The first of these circumstances, and the one that most directly affected San Souci's political career, was a series of strikes that hit the textile industry of Rhode Island. The main cause of these strikes was that the manufacturers, in order to meet competition, had decided to cut wages by approximately 20 per cent while at the same increasing hours.⁴ This caused the already underpaid mill hands to become angry. In January, 1921, a few hundred workers walked out in West Warwick. Spurred on by professional organizers, the strike became statewide and the number of strikers grew to over twenty thousand.⁵ Peaceful picketing soon turned into riots. In the process much mill property was damaged, people were injured, and in February a man was killed near a Pawtucket mill.⁶

On February 20, Governor San Souci, at the urging of many mill owners, ordered National Guard units into West Warwick. Guardsmen patrolled the area around the mills and mounted machine guns on the roof of the Natick mill to insure order.⁷

The cruelest act against the mill workers came on March 11, when the governor sent troops into Pawtucket to carry out the wishes of the mill owners by evicting strikers and their families from mill-owned tenements. The harshness of this action was long remembered by the people of this area and the Democrats would not let them forget.⁸

While the strike was in process the Democrats introduced a bill in the General Assembly to limit the work week of women and children to forty-eight hours. Labor

groups demonstrated at the state house. Labor leaders urging passage daily crowded the galleries of both chambers with union members. However, despite their efforts, the bill was quashed by the Republican dominated Assembly.⁹

As the summer approached the workers gradually returned to their jobs, and by September the salary cut had been restored. Although conditions returned to normal in the mills, the memories of violence and evictions and the sight of troops did not quickly fade. They would make themselves felt in the election of 1922.

The Republicans had lost considerable prestige as a result of the textile strikes, but they were to become more unpopular especially in the Blackstone Valley as a result of the so-called Peck Education Bill. On the last night of the 1922 session of the General Assembly the Republican majority pushed through a bill calling for state control over all public, private, and parochial schools of Rhode Island. It required all teaching personnel to be certified by the state, certain subjects to be taught, and all subjects to be taught in English. The bill met little opposition in the Legislature, but caused a great deal of resentment in northern Rhode Island, particularly in Woonsocket where many subjects were taught in French in the private and parochial schools.

After passage by the General Assembly the bill was sent to Governor San Souci. Much pressure was brought to bear on the governor by the French community of Rhode Island, whose leaders, many of them members of the legislature, urged him to veto the bill. The bill had been sponsored by the

Republican leadership and San Souci was a Republican office holder. He was at this point uncertain; he felt that he was "caught in the middle."¹⁰

San Souci finally vetoed the bill, but the Republican leaders contested the veto. They declared that San Souci had held the bill too long (more than ten days), and therefore his veto was invalid. The case went before the Rhode Island Supreme Court which found that the bill had been held longer than the legal limit. As a result, the bill became law to the unhappiness of the French population of Rhode Island.¹¹

After the events of 1921 and 1922 many Republican Party leaders felt that it would be unwise to renominate San Souci for governor. The old guard of the Party seemed to favor former Congressman Ambrose Kennedy, while another faction of the party favored Lieutenant Governor Harold J. Gross.¹² To complicate matters, however, San Souci wanted the nomination and had supporters of his own.

What seemed to be a hot three-cornered battle soon ended when convention delegates pledged to San Souci cast their ballots in favor of Gross and gave him the nomination. This was a surprising victory, for the Republican Party chairman, Henry Lipplitt, favored Kennedy. One observer contends that San Souci, seeing that he could not receive the nomination, made a deal with the Gross supporters: in exchange for his pledged delegates San Souci would receive a choice political appointment.¹³

If Gross' victory had been surprising, it was soon surpassed by the Democratic Convention. Often defeated and badly

divided, the Party's acknowledged leadership consisted of National Committeeman Patrick Quinn, Party Chairman George Hurley, and the money and organization of Peter Gerry. Although he Democrats felt they could win the next election, they couldn't seem to decide on a gubernatorial candidate. As fall approached the leaders still had not made up their minds although Superior Court Judge George Brown had been prominently mentioned.¹⁴

While the leaders were trying to come to a decision, a group of young Democratic legislators, led by Francis Condon of Central Falls and supported by the Pawtucket organization of John Fitzgerald and former Governor James Higgins, took it upon themselves to build support for Representative William S. Flynn of Providence. Flynn, however, liked and respected Judge Brown and did not want to oppose him. He went to Brown to find out whether or not the judge was going to be the candidate. Brown indicated that no one had been selected so Flynn and his supporters began to campaign.¹⁵

After the Flynn-Brown conversation the Party leaders decided to nominate Brown and sent a delegation to Flynn to persuade him to withdraw from the race. They told him he had no chance of winning. Flynn replied that if he did not have a chance, they had nothing to worry about. He went on to say that he was not afraid of defeat and that he would definitely not withdraw.¹⁶

Flynn's supporters had worked quietly but diligently in obtaining delegate support. As convention time approached, he had far more support than the party leaders

thought. To obtain even more votes the Flynn people persuaded some delegates to give Flynn a token vote on the ballot "just to make him feel good."¹⁷ Not realizing Flynn's strength some of these delegates felt that Flynn had no chance of winning and gave him their vote. The results were astounding.¹⁸

With 101 votes necessary for nomination the leadership believed that Brown was certain of victory, and so sure was Brown that he was off stage rehearsing his acceptance speech. As the roll call of delegates began it became evident that the strategy of the Flynn supporters had worked. On the first ballot Flynn received 102 votes to Brown's 85 and won the nomination. Now the convention was thrown into confusion as candidates waiting to be nominated for other spots on the ticket flatly refused to run with Flynn.¹⁹

At this point Félix Toupin entered the picture. A member of the General Assembly, Toupin had been selected to run for general treasurer, but with no candidate available for lieutenant governor Francis Condon quickly placed Toupin's name in nomination for that office. Condon felt that Toupin could help attract some of the French vote of the state.²⁰

The campaign was marked by the contrasting styles of the two gubernatorial candidates. Gross, confident of victory, toured the state smiling, shaking hands, and saying little. Flynn, on the other hand, waged a vigorous campaign, constantly hitting upon the issues that had been raised during the San Souci administration. The Democratic campaign was especially well received in the Blackstone Valley, where

the mill families were still bitter because of the harsh treatment they had received during the textile strike. The French community was constantly reminded that the Peck Bill had been put into law by the Republicans.²¹

On election day Flynn defeated Harold Gross by 7,211 votes.²² Toupin became lieutenant governor and Peter Gerry took the seat in the United States Senate. The Democratic victory came primarily in the Blackstone Valley where the Peck Education Bill was the main factor.²³

The victory of Flynn and Toupin, along with the close division of both branches of the General Assembly, set the stage for the colorful events that took place in the Legislature during the 1923 and 1924 sessions. The uproar created, especially in the Senate chamber would determine the issues of the 1924 election and the return of Aram Pothier to the Rhode Island political scene.

Although the Republicans had a small majority in the Senate, the presiding officer was the Democratic lieutenant governor, Toupin. By getting favorable rulings from the chair the Democrats believed that they could force their legislation out of the Republican controlled committees, where in the past it had usually died.²⁴ The chief weapon of the Democrats was the filibuster. By gaining immediate recognition from Toupin, the Democrats could talk to death any legislation sponsored by the Republicans, forcing them to compromise. The Republicans, on the other hand, had a majority, and as long as they remained in

the chamber could prevent the Democrats from taking any positive action.

The tug of war lasted throughout the 1923 session and reached its climax during the 1924 session. The key issue was a Democratic resolution calling for a popular referendum on the holding of a constitutional convention.²⁵ The Republicans came largely from rural areas. To ask them to approve a constitutional convention that would probably reapportion the state senate districts was like asking them to vote themselves out of jobs.²⁶

Because the Republicans blocked the constitutional convention resolution, the Democrats filibustered every Republican sponsored piece of legislation including the annual state apportionments bill. On this point the Republicans and many Democrats felt that it was one thing to play politics but something else to paralyze the state government.²⁷

The Republicans contended that Toupin was unfair; they questioned his rulings and his extreme tactics. The deadlock sometimes resulted in marathon sessions lasting as long as thirty hours, and one even lasted fifty-two hours.²⁸ The Democrats hoped to outlast the Republicans in these sessions. If enough Republicans left the chamber, the Democrats would have a majority and would be able to pass their legislation. If the Republicans could outlast Toupin, the Republican leader Arthur Sherman, would take the chair and push through the appropriations bill. The result of these endurance contests was extreme mental and physical discomfort causing tempers to flare. Insulting remarks were often hurled back and forth,

threats and challenges became commonplace and senators sometimes "stepped outside" to settle their differences.²⁹

Large crowds gathered daily to see the show. Sometimes spectators proved as unruly as the legislators. Both sides accused the other of bringing hoodlums into the state house. It is a fact that known underworld characters were seen quite often in and near the Senate chamber. Who brought them in and why they were there is not known.³⁰

The session that had begun in January dragged on into June. Finally, on the morning of June 19, after the Senate had been in session for over fifty hours, a bromide gas bomb exploded near the rostrum. The confused chamber was quickly cleared. The Democrats returned in a few hours but the Republicans left the state house and went as a group to Rutland, Massachusetts. They refused to return claiming that they would be in danger.³¹ Because the Senate lacked a quorum no further business was transacted for the rest of the year.

Although the session was over the arguments continued. The Democrats felt that they were correct in fighting for needed constitutional reforms. The Republicans countered that the illegal tactics of the Democrats had brought disgrace upon the Senate. They reminded all that it was the Democrats who had stopped the orderly process of the state government by refusing to pass the appropriations bill. In the end, the Democrats, they claimed, were nothing more than irresponsible revolutionaries.³²

Both parties looked forward to the fall elections. The Democrats planned to continue their drive toward constitutional reform while the Republicans hoped to bring order back to the state government by winning back both the governor's and the lieutenant governor's positions. Many old guard Republicans led by former Party chairman Henry Lippitt felt that if the nomination for governor had been given to Ambrose Kennedy in 1922, the Republicans would have won. Therefore, they sought to rectify the mistake by giving Kennedy the gubernatorial nomination in 1924.³³ Other Party leaders believed Pothier to be a much more desirable candidate. There appears to be a slight difference of opinion as to why Pothier seemed more attractive. One source claims that the Republican leadership conducted a survey that showed a favorable response to Pothier.³⁴ Another claims that Pothier's fine record as governor was the main reason why he was selected. This source also says that the Republicans felt that they had to win back some of the French votes that they had lost in 1922; Pothier would help them do this.³⁵ Still a third source feels that Party Chairman William Pelkey had decided that all Republican candidates should have an image of respectability - and who was more highly respected than Aram Pothier?³⁶

Pothier was now seventy years old and in poor health. After being approached by Pelkey to run for governor, he had been advised by some of his friends, who feared for his health, not to become a candidate. Pothier's loyalty to the Republican Party outweighed the reluctance of his advisors. He felt that most of what he had owed to the party; now was his chance to repay his

debt.³⁷ Pothier indicated to Pelkey that he was available if the Party wanted him.³⁸

Although Kennedy stayed in the race, the Party leaders fully supported Pothier, and on October 21, 1924, the Republican Convention nominated him for governor on the first ballot. In his acceptance speech Pothier indicated great concern over the way the Democrats had operated in the state and proclaimed his desire to do everything he could to correct the situation.³⁹

Meanwhile, there was some confusion in the Democratic ranks caused by the indecision of Governor Flynn. Some of his backers wanted him to run for the United States Senate while others advised him to run again for governor. Flynn claimed to be not all together anxious to run for anything.⁴⁰ He finally decided in favor of the Senate seat, and thus opened the way for Toupin to receive the party's nomination for governor. The nomination for lieutenant governor went to Robert Quinn of West Warwick, who had been one of the leaders of the filibuster in 1924.

The main issue of the campaign was the 1924 legislative session. The Democrats promised to finish the job of striking from the constitution those sections that had fostered Republican machine rule; they would give the state government back to the people.⁴¹ The Democratic platform endorsed the abolition of the property qualification for voting, reapportionment of the state senate, and greater executive powers for the governor.⁴² The Republicans based their campaign on the confusion and mob scenes that had been created in the senate chamber by Toupin and the Democrats. They pledged a return to "orderly and

constitutional government,"⁴³ and surprisingly endorsed a popular referendum for the abolition of the property qualification for voting in the cities of Rhode Island.⁴⁴

Although the Democratic platform seemed to set forth worthy goals, Toupin constantly neglected it. His campaign was often concerned with ethnic considerations and seemed to have little relevance to the issues. While speaking in northern Rhode Island he accused the Republicans of being anti-French. He reminded the people of the Peck bill and how they had so quickly dropped San Souci.

It is known that in 1922 the Republican Party of this state showed all Franco-American candidates the door. They showed San Souci the door because he was not American enough. If San Souci, who was not American enough for the Republicans, how is Pothier, born in Canada, American enough to be governor?⁴⁵

Although he had accused the Republicans of being anti-French, Toupin did not overlook the fact that the Republican candidate was French. He accused the Republicans of just using Pothier, a French-Canadian, to block another French-Canadian from "rendering a service to the people."⁴⁶

Throughout the campaign Toupin constantly referred to Pothier's foreign birth. In Warren he told the people, "Do not give me the vote in preference to Pothier because I was born in the United States and Pothier in Canada."⁴⁷ These tactics alarmed and in some instances

disgusted members of his own Party. He was warned that to attack Pothier personally was stupid. Most of the Democrats realized Pothier's personal popularity and advised Toupin to stick to the issues.⁴⁸ The candidate did not agree; he felt that he was taking proper course and at this point no one could reason with him.⁴⁹ So upset was one Democratic candidate that he refused to share the speaking platform with Toupin. Flynn would often arrive at a rally before Toupin, speak and then leave before the candidate for governor arrived.⁵⁰

Pothier based his campaign, for the most part, on the law and order issue. He blamed the Democrats for the disgraceful proceedings in the 1924 legislature and pledged that the Republicans would restore respectability to state government. Pothier's first campaign speech was in his home city of Woonsocket, where he set the theme for his entire campaign:

I have stated, and I reiterate the statement that there exists in this state a most serious and menacing situation. I do not contest the right of any man to be a Democrat, but I do contest the right of the Democrats to carry on any such actions as they have in the past two years.⁵¹

He went on to say that his primary reason for accepting the nomination was his desire "to rehabilitate the state."⁵² In Barrington later in the campaign, Pothier said:

I could not resist the summons to again serve my state when it came. I have been deeply stirred by the disgraceful

proceedings at the Statehouse and the reason I am here tonight and why I am in this campaign is that I wish to add my efforts to those who would restore to the Legislature of Rhode Island its time honored dignity and efficiency.⁵³

Organized labor injected itself into the campaign when Thomas F. McMahon, International President of the United Textile Workers of America, in a Pawtucket speech to union members urged all to support the Democratic ticket. McMahon did not attack Pothier but rather assailed the Republicans for using Pothier. He stated that Pothier had an enviable record and that "the Republican Party was using former Governor Pothier to again gain power."⁵⁴ McMahon expressed surprise "that a man of such sterling worth and trustworthy character should permit himself to be so used."⁵⁵

Two nights later in Pawtucket Pothier answered McMahon:

I am very sorry that a man of such sterling worth and enlightenment as Mr. McMahon, an intelligent labor leader, should become a partisan to the extent that he does, and that he should align himself with politicians who have been destructive rather than constructive, who have tried to destroy government by refusing to recognize majority rule in Rhode Island.⁵⁶

Pothier was very careful not to insult Mr. McMahon or the union, but to use both as a starting point to attack the Democrats.

On November 4, 1924, the voters of Rhode Island gave the Republican Party "unquestionable and undisputed control of the state's government."⁵⁷ The Republicans gained large majorities in both the House and Senate, 67 to 33 and 33 to 6. Republican Jesse H. Metcalf defeated William S. Flynn for the United States Senate.⁵⁸ In the gubernatorial race Pothier defeated Toupin by a 36,807 vote plurality.⁵⁹ Pothier ran ahead of every Republican on the ballot with the exception of Calvin Coolidge, who carried the state by over 40,000 votes.⁶⁰ A Pothier victory had again helped to return the Republicans to power.

In January, 1925, Pothier presented his annual message to the General Assembly. He urged the legislators to undo the harm that had been done the year before and to provide the funds that would again put the state on a sound financial basis. He recommended that the members of the Assembly approve a referendum placing before the voters the question of abolishing the property qualification for voting all elective officers within the cities of Rhode Island.⁶¹ Pothier also stated that he believed "the time has now come for careful consideration by a bi-partisan commission, of the question of a larger proportionate representation of the larger cities in the Senate."⁶²

The highlight of Pothier's message was an urgent plea for the creation of a state police force. He reminded the legislators that he had made this request before and events since that time had made the need for a state police force even more necessary. He said:

At the present time the increased use of the automobile with the attendant development of highways, has made possible the commission of crimes and has increased opportunities for the escape of perpetrators. These conditions, together with the general increase in felonies and in other crimes makes a state police force absolutely necessary to the peace of our state and the protection of its citizens. A state police force is needed at once.⁶³

Following the governor's address the Journal began an active campaign supporting the introduction of legislation creating a state police force. Various groups and organizations around the state, including the League of Women Voters, came out in favor of a state police bill. In a statement issued to the press the League's president declared:

The strength of decent citizens of the state is in combat with the strength of bootleggers and owners of houses of ill repute; which wins will determine whether the state gets the state police force it needs or continues to suffer from the same lawless condition which now exist.⁶⁴

On February 12 the Journal published a list of ninety-six organizations that it claimed had endorsed the creation of a state police force.⁶⁵

There was also opposition to establishment of a state police force. Some of this came from labor groups that

feared Republican controlled state police would be used primarily as strike breakers.⁶⁶ Some labor leaders in their arguments against the bill claimed that the state was already adequately protected and that the support of a state police force would make an already heavy burden of taxation unbearable. These were the sentiments of Thomas McMahon, president of the Textile Workers Union. He noted that five-sixths of the state's population was within thirty square miles. "In this small area we have the most efficient police force in our land today."⁶⁷ He warned that the state police force would be filled with friends of the politicians and that "the people of the state want no further taxation for the purpose of paying crooked politicians debts. The present rate of taxation is already too high and is becoming unbearable to the great masses of our citizenship."⁶⁸

On February 11 two identical Republican sponsored bills providing for the establishment of a motorized state police force for Rhode Island were introduced. The senate bill was introduced by Arthur Sherman of Portsmouth and the house bill by Roy Rawlings of Richmond. Both bills provided for a superintendent responsible to the governor, a captain, and not more than twenty-one patrolmen. The superintendent would be appointed by the governor with the consent of the Senate, but the Senate could not substitute its own selection if it did not approve the governor's appointee. The superintendent's salary was set at \$5000 per year.⁶⁹

There is some disagreement as to why this bill was finally introduced. One source says that this was Pothier's bill

and that he was insistent that the Republicans consented to back the bill.⁷⁰ Senator Sherman, who introduced the bill, later insisted that the bill would have been introduced whether Pothier urged it or not; the leadership had decided that "the time was right for the formation of a state police force."⁷¹ It would seem that both sources are, in part, correct, but another factor cannot be overlooked: the campaign of the Providence Journal added to the public support of the bill.⁷²

On February 20, after two hours of debate during which three Democratic senators, Archambault of West Warwick, Barry of Central Falls, and Powers of Cumberland, spoke in opposition, the Senate passed the bill, 25 to 9, without amendment.⁷³

A week after the Senate had passed the bill, Pothier called in certain House leaders to urge them to pass the Sherman Bill in concurrence with the Senate. Feeling that the House was not acting as quickly as desirable on the bill, he told House members that the legislation was much needed and that they should pass the bill as soon as possible.⁷⁴

During March, the arguments for and against the bill dragged on. The main road blocks to House passage were the expense involved and the fear that the police force would be used as a political weapon by Republican leaders. Finally, on March 31, 1925, the house passed the State Police Bill by a vote of 69 to 26.⁷⁵ Governor Pothier happily signed the bill into law on April 2, 1925.⁷⁶

Pothler announced that he would select his choice for superintendent as quickly as possible. On April 7 he submitted the name of Everitte St. John Chaffee to the Senate. Chaffee had been prominently mentioned as a candidate, for he had an impressive record during World War I, attaining the rank of colonel. On April 9 the Senate unanimously confirmed Pothler's choice and Chaffee became the first superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police.⁷⁷

In a press interview Pothler said, "I consider the State Police Bill recently adopted as the most important piece of legislation adopted by the Assembly at its present session."⁷⁸ Later he would say that this was the most important piece of legislation that he had advocated during his administration.⁷⁹

During the 1925 session the General Assembly also passed another very important piece of legislation, a popular referendum to amend that part of the constitution concerned with the property qualifications for voting. Although the measure was included in the Republican platform and Pothler had advocated it in his inaugural address, it came as a surprise to many when a Republican sponsored bill calling for the referendum was introduced in the General Assembly. These people were often more surprised when the bill passed the house. The final surprise came when the senate unanimously passed the bill on April 1, 1925.⁸⁰

The bill had gone through the General Assembly without much fanfare and almost no opposition. What puzzled many people was why the Republicans who had opposed the measure for many years were now in favor of

It. Even more baffling was how the bill passed the Senate unanimously when in the past Republican controlled senates had proven a graveyard for the bill. At least two answers have been offered. The first says that the abolition of the property qualification had become such a popular issue that the Republicans realized it eventually had to come; they wanted to take credit for the reform while they still could.⁸¹ The second answer ties in very closely with the first. If the conservative party was to remain in power, it must, from time to time, give into popular reform issues. The Republicans felt that this was the time to concede.⁸²

Although the bill had passed the 1925 session of the General Assembly, it had to be reviewed again in 1927 before it could be placed before the voters in November, 1928. It should be pointed out the Republicans were not really surrendering very much. Even if the people approved the amendment in 1928, it could not be effective until the elections of 1930. Thus, at the same time they were putting themselves in a position to benefit from a popular cause, the Republicans were still certain to be safe until 1930.

The productive and sometimes lively session of the 1925 General Assembly was followed by a comparatively dull session of 1926. The Republican majority created several new positions among which were the offices of finance commissioner, which Pothler had recommended and jury commissioner, which he had not recommended. Dual office holding seemed to be the day, for both positions were filled by Republican members of the Senate - Frederick Peck of Barrington became finance

commissioner and Arthur Sherman of Portsmouth, the Jury commissioner.

As fall approached the Democrats were divided on their choice of the candidate for governor. There were some who felt that Felix Toupin should again be the candidate, while others favored Joseph H. Gainer, who for many years had been mayor of Providence. What had been expected as a close, hard convention fight turned into a rout when Gainer won an easy first ballot victory by a vote of 145 to 45.⁸³ The Democrats adopted a platform calling for the continuation of constitutional reform. It included continued support for the abolition of the property qualification for voting, reapportionment of the state Senate, and more executive powers for the governor.⁸⁴

The Republicans again wanted Pothier to be their candidate for governor. By now Pothier was seventy-two years old and in failing health. However, he was advised that it would be an easy campaign and so consented to run on the condition that the other members of the ticket bear the brunt of the campaign.⁸⁵ On October 13, 1926, the Republican State Convention "unanimously, harmoniously, and smoothly" nominated the entire slate of officers headed by Pothier.⁸⁶ The Republican platform avoided state affairs while pledging support for national Republican policies.⁸⁷

The main issue of the campaign was the power given to the new finance commissioner, Frederick Peck. The Democrats felt that the powers given to Peck would allow him to become boss not only of his Party but of the state as well.

The law gave Peck the power to draw up the annual appropriations bill. The part of the law that caused objection, however, was the section giving Peck the power to put the appropriation into effect if the General Assembly had not passed an appropriations bill by April 15.

Galner made his position clear in a Providence speech. He said, "I am absolutely opposed to this law because of its autocratic and un-American powers which it places in the hands of a single individual, in this instance the boss of the Republican machine."⁸⁸

In one of his infrequent speeches Pothier answered Galner:

He [Galner] has laid considerable stress upon the fact that the finance commissioner has the power to prepare and to put into operation an appropriations measure provided that the General Assembly has not passed the annual appropriations bill by April 15. This is so. It was for this purpose and to prevent any future holdups of the state funds and that our institutions might operate and function properly and to avoid the disgrace that was ours in 1923 and 1924 that I advocated and caused this office.⁸⁹

Pothier criticized Galner for not commenting on the Democratic platform and for endorsing tactics used by the Democrats in 1923 and 1924.⁹⁰ This last comment became the main thrust of the Republican attack. It associated Galner with the Democratic leaders of the 1924 legislature and accused him of being the new leader of

the old and hostile Democratic Party. A statement issued by the Republican Speakers Bureau asked the question:

Why should the public have to take a chance with the activities of such an army when the record achieved by Governor Pothier and the Republican Legislature of the last two years indicates that it has the ability to give the state orderly and sound administration?⁹¹

The voters of the state did not want "to take a chance," for on election day Pothier won by a 12,692 vote plurality.⁹² The victory was expected but the small margin compared to his 1924 plurality surprised Pothier. One explanation was that many of the Irish voters had voted for Pothier in 1924 in preference to Toupin, but in 1926 these voters backed Gainer.⁹³ Another reason was that over 40,000 fewer Rhode Islanders cast their ballots in 1926 than in 1924.⁹⁴ It can be assumed that most of these had voted Republican in 1924, but with no presidential contest and no race for a United States Senate seat, many stayed home on election day.

Pothier's message to the 1927 General Assembly offered nothing new, but rather reviewed what had been done. It lacked the urgency of many of his earlier messages. The governor was almost inactive in 1927. There appeared to be no battles to be fought, or perhaps Pothier did not wish to fight them. One associate years later asserted Pothier's inactivity was due in part to old age and declining health.⁹⁵

January, 1928, again brought Pothier before the General Assembly. Most of his

address simply commended the Legislature for their actions of the recent past, including giving final passage to the placing before the people the question of abolishing the property qualification.⁹⁶ He also gave a progress report on his favorite project, the state police:

Reports from all sources show that through this department, there is being steadily developed a police organization of great and growing value to Rhode Island. I am proud of the fact that this department was created by the General Assembly as a result of recommendations made in my 1925 Inaugural Message.⁹⁷

After 1921 when he suffered his first stroke Pothler's health had been declining. His poor health coupled with old age had made Pothler a mere shell of his former self. Throughout most of January, 1928, he had been under a doctor's care and on the evening of February 3, he suffered a severe stroke. On the following day Aram J. Pothler died at his home in Woonsocket. On February 8, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Providence, William A. Hickey, sang a Pontifical Requiem Mass for the former governor. Later in the day, Pothler was buried in Precious Blood Cemetery in Blackstone, Massachusetts.⁹⁸

VI - Summary

After extensive investigation it is still difficult to measure Pothler's popularity and effectiveness as governor. One factor that certainly contributed to his seven victories was that he was a Republican in an era when Republicans were usually successful. It has been said that

the Republican party of Rhode Island in Pothier's day was so well organized and financed that "unless a great controversy arose, a Republican victory was automatic."¹ The implication here is that as long as there was no major controversy involving the Republicans, almost any Republican could win. There was no better example of this than the election of 1926. In that year the Democrats nominated an experienced and respected candidate for governor who campaigned as best he could, while Pothier put very little effort into his campaign. There were no major issues and Pothier and the rest of the Republican ticket were elected by a comfortable margin.

Another factor that contributed to Pothier's success was the influence of other Republican candidates, nationally and in Rhode Island. Two of Pothier's victories came in presidential years when Republicans won great national victories by landslide proportions. Pothier's first gubernatorial victory in 1908 was accomplished by William Howard Taft's defeat of William Jennings Bryan and in 1924, while Pothier was defeating Toupin, Calvin Coolidge was winning over John Davis. In each case Pothier ran behind the Republican presidential candidate. Because both Pothier and Olney Arnold were relatively unknown in 1908, Taft's victory over Bryan aided Pothier more than the presidential victory in 1924 when the state issues and candidates dominated the campaign.²

In 1910, a non-presidential year, Pothier's campaign was almost non-existent while his opponent Lewis Waterman, campaigned vigorously. Although Pothier

won, his margin of victory was only 1,140 votes which was 10,000 votes fewer than his plurality.³ An analysis of this election showed that Congressman George Utter's 5,000 vote margin in the Second Congressional District probably saved Pothier from defeat.⁴

While it may be argued that Pothier was the benefactor of circumstances, it is a fact that he was eagerly sought by party leaders as their candidate for governor. This was true every time Pothier was a candidate and in particular in 1911, 1912, and in 1924. His appeal to party leaders and to the voters of Rhode Island was based on several factors, none of which was more important than his ethnic background. He was French in a period when the French vote was sometimes the decisive factor in achieving victory. The best example of this was the election of 1912. Although just about everything seemed to work against Republican chances of victory and the Democratic candidate for president carried Rhode Island, Pothier's strong showing in the heavily French communities of the Blackstone Valley continued Rhode Island Republicans in power.

There were many French candidates available in that year: Why was Pothier singled out by party leaders? It appears that Pothier was unique. He was honest in a period often associated with corruption; he was dignified when it appeared that many in the political world had no conception of what the word meant; and he was loyal to his party at a time when promoting one's personal ambition seemed to have been the order of the day.

Pothier's Party loyalty, although a political asset, had the greatest influence in limiting his effectiveness as governor. It appears that Pothier had the ability and the appeal to have been a Party leader and a dominating force in state affairs. On the few occasions when he did exert his influence he was successful in gaining his objective; his efforts to reapportion the House of Representatives fairly in 1910 and his intercession on behalf of Judge Hebert in 1914 demonstrate this. Although Pothier's influence in creating a state police force in Rhode Island has been questioned, it is clear that his efforts were a contributing factor in that organization's birth.

Pothier was governor when many important reforms were put into effect but more often than not he seemed willing to let legislative leaders and party bosses determine what would be done and how it would be done. Rather than asserting his leadership he often projected the image of a willing tool of his Party. He believed that the Party was more important to the state than any one man.⁵

Pothier was convinced that the conservative policies of the Republican Party were best for his state. While he advocated many of the great political changes that came about during his administrations, he was no crusader. He was, rather, a leading spokesman for the party that tempered the wave of reform that poured over the state during the first quarter of the twentieth century.

FOOTNOTES

I-BACKGROUND OF THE GOVERNOR

¹New England Families: Rhode Island Edition (New York: American Historical Society, Inc., 1929), p. 246.

²J. H. Beers (ed.), Representative Men and Old Families of Rhode Island (Chicago: J. H. Beers and Co., 1908), I, 411.

³Ibid.

⁴Beers, p. 412.

⁵Marie L. Bonier, Débuts de la Colonie Franco-Américaine de Woonsocket, Rhode Island (Framingham: Lakeview Press, 1920), p. 297. Hereafter cited as Bonier, Débuts.

⁶Thomas W. Bicknell, The History of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations (New York: The American Historical Society, Inc. 1920), I, 377.

⁷Bonier, Débuts, p. 296.

⁸Bicknell, p. 277.

⁹Interview with Arthur A. Sherman, November 26, 1965. Mr. Sherman was Senate majority leader during Pothier's later years as governor and was a member of the Republican State Central Committee.

¹⁰Bicknell, I, 379.

¹¹Woonsocket Call, December 4, 1893, p. 1.

¹²Ibid.

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴Woonsocket Evening Reporter, November 22, 1894, p. 2.

¹⁵Ibid.

¹⁶Woonsocket Evening Reporter, November 22, 1894, p. 1.

¹⁷Woonsocket Call, November 25, 1894, p. 1

¹⁸Dyer's plurality was 10,643 of 41,823 votes cast.

¹⁹Woonsocket Call, February 6, 1928, p. 3.

²⁰Interviews with Arthur Sherman, November 26, 1965, and Gustavus Ide, November 22, 1965. Mr. Ide was a member of the Republican State Central Committee for many years.

²¹Bicknell, I, 377.

²²Beers, p. 412.

²³Bicknell, I, 377.

²⁴Bonier, Debuts, p. 298.

²⁵Ibid.

²⁶These publications will be referred to in the next chapter.

²⁷This information was obtained in several interviews with Pothier's contemporaries. These sources will be cited throughout the paper.

II-THE ELECTION OF 1908

¹Frank Putnam, "State on the Upgrade," The New England Magazine, 37:151, October, 1907.

²Earl C. Tanner, Rhode Island - A Brief History (Providence: Rhode Island State Department of Education, 1954), p. 50.

³The law called for one senator to represent each town and city, no matter what its population.

⁴Tanner, Rhode Island - A Brief History, p. 50.

⁵Paul Gleeson, The Development of a Democracy (Providence: Rhode Island Department of Education, 1957), p. 56.

⁶Putnam, New England Magazine, XXVII, 151.

⁷Because the Journal is used often as a reference in this paper, a supplement to the bibliography has been added for information concerning the Journal's political affiliations and leanings.

⁸Republicans had won all other state offices in 1906 and 1907 as well as maintaining majorities in both branches of the General Assembly. Providence Journal Almanac, 1907-1908.

⁹Providence Journal, September 17, 1908, p. 1.

¹⁰Providence Journal, October 2, 1908, p. 1.

¹¹Erwin Levine, Theodore Francis Green: The Rhode Island Years, 1906-1936 (Providence: Brown University, 1963), p. 44.

¹²Providence Journal, October 4, 1908, p. 1.

¹³Providence Journal, October 7, 1908, p. 1.

¹⁴According to the Rhode Island Census of 1905 the Irish-born population of the state was 32,629 while the French-Canadian population was 31,659. The state population was 480,000.

¹⁵Interview with former United States Senator Félix Hébert, December 28, 1965. For several years Mr. Hebert was a district court judge for Kent County, a member of the Republican State Central Committee, and from 1928 to 1934, U. S. Senator from Rhode Island.

¹⁶Levine, Theodore Francis Green, p. 44.

¹⁷Providence Journal, September 12, 1908, p. 1.

¹⁸Providence Journal, September 12, 1908, p. 1.

¹⁹Putnam, New England Magazine, XXXVII, 151.

²⁰Ibid.

²¹Interview with Félix Hébert, December 28, 1965.

²²Interview with Félix Hébert, December 28, 1965.

²³This was one of the "big three" in Rhode Island banking circles. The other two were the Industrial Trust and the Rhode Island Hospital Trust.

²⁴Levine, Theodore Francis Green, p. 46.

²⁵Providence Journal, September 26, 1908, p. 8.

²⁶Providence Journal, October 27, 1908, p. 1.

²⁷Ibid.

²⁸Interview with David Patten, December 29, 1965. Mr. Patten is a former State House reporter for the Providence Journal who later became its managing editor. He has written three books and many articles on the history of Rhode Island.

²⁹Providence Journal, October 27, 1908, p. 6.

³⁰Providence Journal, October 21, 1908, p. 3.

³¹Godfrey de Tournancour, "Personality of Pothier," The New England Magazine, 47:168, October, 1908.

³²Fibre and Fabric, 48:6, October 17, 1908.

³³Ibid.

³⁴The American Cotton Reporter, 22:20, October 15, 1908.

³⁵Interview with Félix Hébert, December 28, 1965.

³⁶Interviews with former State Senator Arthur Sherman, November 26, 1965, and former Governor William S. Flynn, December 8, 1965.

³⁷Providence Journal, September 12, 1908, p. 1.

³⁸Providence Journal Almanac, 1909.

³⁹Rhode Island Manual, 1961-62.

⁴⁰Levine, Theodore Francis Green, p. 44.

⁴¹Providence Journal Almanac, 1909.

⁴²Editorial in the Providence Journal, November 5, 1908, p. 6.

⁴³Editorial in the Woonsocket Call, November 6, 1908, p. 6.

III-ELECTION AND REFORM

¹James Q. Dealey, Political Situations in Rhode Island (Providence: Brown University, 1928), p. 15.

²Ibid.

³Erwin Levine, Theodore Francis Green: The Rhode Island Years, 1906-1936 (Providence: Brown University, 1963), p. 5.

⁴Levine, p. 15.

⁵Levine, p. 6.

⁶Providence Journal Almanac, 1909.

⁷Levine, Theodore Francis Green, p. 6.

⁸State of Rhode Island, Message of James H. Higgings, Governor of Rhode Island, to the General Assembly, January, 1907 (Providence: E.L. Freeman, Company, 1907), p. 4.

⁹State of Rhode Island, Message of George H. Utter, Governor of Rhode Island, to the General Assembly, January 1906, (Providence: E. L. Freeman Company, 1906), p. 3.

¹⁰State of Rhode Island, Message of James H. Higgings, Governor of Rhode Island, to the General Assembly, January, 1907, p. 5.

¹¹Editorial in the Providence Journal, April 11, 1907, p. 10.

¹²Providence Journal, April 13, 1907,
p. 1.

¹³State of Rhode Island, Message of James H. Higgings, Governor of Rhode Island, to the General Assembly, January, 1908, p. 3.

¹⁴Providence Journal, March 21, 1908,
p. 3.

¹⁵Levine, Theodore Francis Green, p. 43.

¹⁶Providence Journal, March 24, 1908,
p. 1.

¹⁷Providence Journal, March 26, 1908,
p. 1.

¹⁸Providence Journal, April 3, 1908,
p. 1.

¹⁹Providence Journal, April 11, 1908,
p. 1.

²⁰Providence Journal, October 25, 1908,
p. 1.

²¹Ibid.

²²State of Rhode Island, Message of Aram J. Pothier, Governor of Rhode Island, to the General Assembly, January, 1909 (Providence: E. L. Freeman, 1909), p. 7.

²³Levine, Theodore Francis Green, p. 45.

²⁴Ibid.

²⁵Providence Journal, October 28, 1909,
p. 1.

²⁶Providence Journal, October 28, 1909,
p. 1.

- ²⁷Providence Journal, October 30, 1909,
p. 1.
- ²⁸Providence Journal, October 28, 1909,
p. 8.
- ²⁹David Patten, "Special Bulletin Centennial Issue," The Rhode Islander, January 27, 1963, pp. 34-41.
- ³⁰Rhode Island Manual, 1961-62, p. 221.
- ³¹Ibid.
- ³²State of Rhode Island, Address by Aram J. Pothier, Governor of Rhode Island, to the General Assembly, January, 1910 (Providence: E. L. Freeman Company, 1910), p. 8.
- ³³Providence Journal, February 20, 1910,
p. 1.
- ³⁴Providence Journal, February 19, 1919,
p. 12.
- ³⁵Providence Journal, February 20, 1910,
p. 1.
- ³⁶Ibid.
- ³⁷Ibid.
- ³⁸Levine, Theodore Francis Green, p. 46.
- ³⁹Providence Journal, February 23, 1910,
p. 8.
- ⁴⁰Editorial in the Providence Journal,
February 23, 1910, p. 1.
- ⁴¹Ibid.
- ⁴²The commission consisted of the following: Frederick Easton, a textile manufacturer from Pawtucket; Samuel Hudson, the editor of

the Woonsocket Call; Dionis Vincent, a Warren businessman; Whitney Metcalf of Richmond, treasurer of a textile firm; W. R. Harvey, a Newport lawyer; F. G. Jillson, a Providence lawyer, N. G. Littlefield, a Pawtucket lawyer; William Hodgman, a Warwick lawyer. The first six were Republicans, Gorman and Littlefield, Democrats, and Hodgman, the Lincolnian.

⁴³ State of Rhode Island, Report of the Commission to Reapportion the House of Representatives to Governor Aram J. Pothier, August 1, 1910 (Providence: E. L. Freeman Company, 1910).

⁴⁴ Providence Journal, August 3, 1910, p. 1.

⁴⁵ Providence Journal, November 3, 1910, p. 2.

⁴⁶ Providence Journal, November 2, 1910, p. 6.

⁴⁷ Providence Journal, October 23, 1910, p. 1.

⁴⁸ Rhode Island Manual, p. 221.

⁴⁹ Providence Journal, November 6, 1910, p. 1.

⁵⁰ State of Rhode Island, Address to the General Assembly by Governor Aram J. Pothier, June, 1910 (Providence: E. L. Freeman Company), p. 7.

⁵¹ Providence Journal, January 12, 1910, p. 14.

⁵² Providence Journal, April 21, 1911, p. 1.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴Editorial in the Providence Journal,
October 5, 1911, p. 10.

⁵⁵Letter from Aram J. Pothier to General
Charles Wilson in the Providence Journal,
October 19, 1911, p. 1.

⁵⁶Editorial in the Providence Journal,
October 18, 1911, p. 16.

⁵⁷Providence Journal, October 27, 1911,
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⁵⁸Providence Journal, November 7, 1911,
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⁶⁰Rhode Island Manual, 1961-62.

IV-VICTORY AND CONTROVERSY

¹Henry B. Parkes and Vincent P. Carosso,
Recent America: 1900-1933 (New York: Thomas Y.
Crowell Company, 1963), p. 192.

²John D. Hicks, The American Nation
(Cambridge: Houghton-Mifflin Company, 1955)
p. 379.

³Providence Journal, September 28, 1912,
p. 1.

⁴Levine, Theodore Francis Green, p. 51.

⁵Levine, Theodore Francis Green, p. 19.

⁶Providence Journal, October 2, 1912,
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⁷Interview with Félix Hébert, December
27, 1964.

⁸Providence Journal, October 10, 1912,
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- ⁹Levine, Theodore Francis Green, P. 52.
- ¹⁰Levine, P. 56.
- ¹¹Levine, P. 55.
- ¹²Providence Journal, October 27, 1912,
p. 1.
- ¹³Editorial in the Providence Journal,
October 14, 1912, p. 6.
- ¹⁴Ibid.
- ¹⁵Ibid.
- ¹⁶Editorial in the Providence Journal,
October 14, 1912, p. 6.
- ¹⁷Providence Journal, October 16, 1912,
p. 16.
- ¹⁸Providence Journal, October 18, 1912,
p. 2.
- ¹⁹Providence Journal, October 15, 1912,
p. 1.
- ²⁰Ibid.
- ²¹Providence Journal, November 1, 1912,
p. 2.
- ²²Editorial in the Providence Journal,
October 23, 1912, p. 20.
- ²³Providence Journal, November 2, 1912,
p. 1.
- ²⁴Providence Journal, November 3, 1912,
p. 2.
- ²⁵Providence Journal, November 6, 1910,
p. 1.

- ²⁶Providence Journal Almanac, 1913.
- ²⁷Interview with Arthur Sherman, November 26, 1965.
- ²⁸Providence Journal, November 3, 1912, p. 1.
- ²⁹Ibid.
- ³⁰Interview with Arthur Sherman, November 26, 1965.
- ³¹Levine, Theodore Francis Green, p. 61.
- ³²Rhode Island Manual, 1962-63.
- ³³Levine, Theodore Francis Green, p. 61.
- ³⁴Ibid.
- ³⁵Providence Journal Almanac, 1913.
- ³⁶Interview with David Patten, December 29, 1965, and Félix Hébert, December 27, 1965.
- ³⁷State of Rhode Island, Message of Governor Aram J. Pothier to the General Assembly, January, 1913, p. 18.
- ³⁸Providence Journal, February 20, 1913, p. 14.
- ³⁹Providence Journal, February 27, 1913, p. 14.
- ⁴⁰Providence Journal, March 13, 1914, p. 1.
- ⁴¹Providence Journal, March 25, 1914, p. 1.
- ⁴²Providence Journal, March 26, 1914, p. 1.
- ⁴³Editorial in the Providence Journal, March 13, 1914, p. 9.

- ⁴⁴Providence Journal, March 5, 1941, p. 1.
- ⁴⁵Providence Journal, March 12, 1914,
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- ⁴⁶Ibid.
- ⁴⁷Interview with Félix Hébert, December
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- ⁴⁸Providence Journal, January 15, 1914,
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- ⁵²Providence Journal, January 14, 1914,
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- ⁵⁴New York Times, January 16, 1914, p. 18.
- ⁵⁵Interview with Félix Hébert, December
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- ⁵⁶Providence Journal, August 6, 1914,
p. 14.
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27, 1965.
- ⁵⁸Rhode Island Manual, 1961-62.

V-POTHIER RETURNS

- ¹Rhode Island Manual.

²Providence Journal Almanac, 1921. In the presidential contest Republican Warren G. Harding defeated Democrat James M. Cox by over 52,000 votes in Rhode Island.

³Murray S. Stedman, "Rise of the Democratic Party in Rhode Island," New England Quarterly, XXIV (September, 1951), 329-41.

⁴"New England Textile Strike," Literary Digest, 73:14, April 1, 1922.

⁵Patten, The Rhode Island Story, p. 51.

⁶Ibid.

⁷Ibid.

⁸Interview with Albert J. Lamarre, February 7, 1966.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Patten, The Rhode Island Story, p. 51.

¹²Ibid.

¹³Interview with David Patten, December 29, 1965

¹⁴Ibid.

¹⁵Interview with William S. Flynn, December 8, 1965.

¹⁶Ibid.

¹⁷Interview with David Patten, December 29, 1965.

¹⁸Ibid.

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²⁰Patten, The Rhode Island Story, p. 68.

²¹Interview with Albert J. Lamarre, February 7, 1966.

²²Rhode Island Manual, 1964-65.

²³Interview with Flynn, Patten, and Lamarre.

²⁴Interview with William S. Flynn, December 8, 1965.

²⁵Interview with Arthur Sherman, November 26, 1965.

²⁶"The Great Filibuster," Literary Digest, 84:42, January 24, 1915.

²⁷Interview with Arthur Sherman, November 26, 1965.

²⁸Patten, The Rhode Island Story, p. 92.

²⁹Interview with David Patten.

³⁰Patten, The Rhode Island Story, p. 106.

³¹Interview with Arthur Sherman, November 26, 1965.

³²Ibid.

³³Patten, The Rhode Island Story, p. 118.

³⁴Interview with Gustavus Ide, November 22, 1965.

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³⁶Interview with David Patten, December 27, 1965.

³⁷Interview with Albert J. Lamarre, February 7, 1966.

³⁸Providence Journal, September 16, 1924,
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³⁹Providence Journal, October 3, 1924,
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⁴⁰Interview with William S. Flynn, December 8, 1965.

⁴¹Patten, The Rhode Island Story, p. 118.

⁴²Providence Journal, October 1, 1924,
p. 13.

⁴³Ibid.

⁴⁴Providence Journal, October 3, 1924,
p. 4.

⁴⁵Providence Journal, October 18, 1924,
p. 2.

⁴⁶Ibid.

⁴⁷Providence Journal, October 24, 1924,
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⁴⁸Interview with Albert J. Lamarre, February 7, 1966.

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⁵⁰Interview with William S. Flynn, December 8, 1965.

⁵¹Providence Journal, October 6, 1924,
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⁵⁶Providence Journal, October 20, 1924,
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⁵⁷Carroll, Rhode Island-Three Centuries
of Democracy, 1, 688.

⁵⁸Providence Journal Almanac, 1925.

⁵⁹Rhode Island Manual, 1965-66.

⁶⁰Providence Journal Almanac, 1925.

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of Governor Aram Pothier to the General Assem-
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⁶⁴Providence Journal, February 4, 1925,
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⁶⁶Providence Journal, February 4, 1925,
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⁶⁷Ibid.

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- 71 Interview with Arthur Sherman, November 26, 1965.
- 72 Interview with David Patten, December 27, 1965.
- 73 Providence Journal, February 21, 1925, p. 1.
- 74 Interview with Albert J. Lamarre, February 7, 1966.
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- 76 Providence Journal, April 3, 1925, p. 1.
- 77 Providence Journal, April 10, 1925, p. 1.
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- 79 Providence Journal, October 21, 1926, p. 1.
- 80 Providence Journal, April 2, 1925, p. 1.
- 81 Interview with Albert J. Lamarre, February 7, 1966.
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- ² Providence Journal, November 5, 1908,
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SUPPLEMENT TO BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Providence Journal has been a major source of information in relating the story of Aram J. Pothier's years as governor of Rhode Island. This paper has been used more than any other because it was the major newspaper of the state and the only one to have statewide circulation. It is also the only paper in Rhode Island to be thoroughly indexed by the Providence Public Library.

Because of this reliance on the Journal it might help to clarify matters if some background information is presented with emphasis on the paper's political leanings. Until 1884 the Journal was under the control of Henry B. Anthony, a prominent Republican. During the Anthony era the Journal was little more than a Republican party organ.¹ Upon Anthony's death, however, the paper achieved political independence. In 1884 it supported the Democratic candidate for governor and in 1888 endorsed Grover Cleveland for President.² At the Republican State Convention of that year the Journal's political policies were denounced and it was officially read out of the party. In an answer to the Republicans the paper determined its future policy by stating that it would continue to support Republicans only when it was in the best interest of the state and nation and that its goal would be to report the truth. The Paper added that it would not support candidates who found the truth to be

objectionable. As a result the Journal became "one of the most significant influences in state and municipal politics, as the weight of its support was thrown to party or candidate which met its approval."³

During the late 1890's the Journal supported the "sound money" policies of the national Republican party and generally endorsed Republicans on the state level.⁴ In the next decade the paper not only supported the party but was controlled by party leaders. The names of Nelson Aldrich and Samuel P. Colt appeared on the board of directors of the Journal.⁵

In 1905 the Journal was reorganized and Aldrich and Colt disappeared from the scene. This reorganization continued until 1906 when John Rathom was brought to Rhode Island by the Journal's directors to manage the paper. Under Rathom's leadership the newspaper began a campaign against bossism with Charles Brayton as its main target.⁶ Rathom managed the paper from 1906 until his death in 1923. According to his policies the Journal advocated several constitutional amendments and progressive reforms on the state level and was more concerned with issues than with personalities.

During Pothier's seven campaigns for governor the Journal opposed him only when he was against an issue advocated by the paper or when the candidate seemed slow to take a stand on a popular issue. In 1911 after Pothier had taken an active part in reapportioning the House and had supported biennial elections, the Journal gave him its endorsement. But adhering to its policy the Journal supported his opponent the following year when Pothier avoided certain state issues.

It is argued that there are more reliable sources than the newspapers. In this case, however, the Providence Journal seems to give a fairly accurate picture of the Pothier years.

STATE GOVERNORS OF FRENCH DESCENT

ALABAMA:

Henry Collier

NEVADA:

Paul Laxalt

DELAWARE:

Pierre DuPont

NORTH CAROLINA:

John Sevier

LOUISIANA:

Jacques Villere
Henry Thibodeaux
Pierre Derbigny
Armand Beauvais
Jacques Dupré
Andre Roman
Alexandre Mouton
Paul Hébert
Newton Blanchard
Edwin Edwards

RHODE ISLAND:

Aram Pothier
Emery San Souci
Philip Noël

SOUTH DAKOTA:

Arthur Mellette

TENNESSEE:

John Sevier

MASSACHUSETTS:

Williams Gaston

WISCONSIN:

Robert LaFollette
Philip LaFollette

MICHIGAN:

James Blanchard

GOVERNORS OF TERRITORIES OF FRENCH DESCENT

ARIZONA TERRITORY:

Charles Frémont

FLORIDA TERRITORY:

William Duval

DAKOTA TERRITORY:

Arthur Mellette

IDAHO TERRITORY:

David Ballard

**EPIDEMICS IN FRENCH-CANADA AND NEW ENGLAND
SINCE THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY
by Dr. Richard L. Provost**

When you were researching your family history, you probably noticed that there were more deaths in some years than in others. This is because of epidemics.

In this article, I'll discuss the epidemics which have occurred in what is now Quebec and New England since the 17th century. I'll also mention a few which happened in adjacent areas. These epidemics have been of smallpox, diphtheria, typhus, measles, scarlet fever, polio, and strep throat.

Smallpox:

The first recorded epidemic occurred in 1607-8. Because records are vague, the nature of this epidemic can't be determined. It was either one of measles or smallpox. It was probably an epidemic of smallpox which was the prevalent disease of the 17th and 18th centuries.

There were some 15 epidemics of smallpox between 1630 and 1792. The first of these lasted 10 years. It affected mostly the indians. It killed some 20,000 Hurons within a three-year period. In Massachusetts alone, a tribe of 1,000 was reduced to 50 within two weeks.

Hundreds of Winnibagoes and some French died in what is now Michigan and Wisconsin in a 1641 outbreak.

There was another outbreak from 1662 to 1666. Although it killed some French in Montreal, it hit the Iroquois harder. In fact, the French invaded the Iroquois at

this time because the colonists knew that the epidemic had left the indians at a disadvantage.

There were other smallpox epidemics in 1678, 1682, 1696, and 1699. The latter killed over 300 people. Another epidemic in 1702-3 killed over 1,000.

Cotton Mather (1663-1728), the well known Boston clergyman, is generally credited with bringing an end to smallpox epidemics. He was probably the most learned man in America at the time. He had a wide acquaintance with books and foreign languages. He was the author of some 380 publications including Wonders of the Invisible World in which he tried to prove that witchcraft is a reality and Magnalia Christi Americana, a church history of New England. One of his books, Memorable Providences Relating to Witchcraft and Possessions, was quite influential in causing the executions of 19 victims at Salem in 1692.

Mather was interested in science. His writings in that field so impressed British scientists that they elected him to the British Royal Society. He also received an honorary degree from the University of Aberdeen. He was especially interested in diseases, not so much their causes but rather their cures.

Medical science was rather stagnant at the time. Only two cures had been found since 1700. One was quinine for malaria and the other was mercury for syphilis.

Most colonists had such a low regard for doctors that they would go to one only as a last resort. Many credited their longevity to staying away from doctors.

During this period, doctors were very conservative and dogmatic. On the other hand, Puritan ministers, though conservative in religion, were very liberal in science and medicine. It was their constant pressure that caused the doctors to try new methods. Smallpox was a case in point.

In 1714, Cotton Mather read an article by a Turkish doctor in the Transactions of the Royal Society in London. It described the procedure for inoculating a healthy person with material from a person suffering from smallpox. This usually produced a mild case of the disease from which the person readily recovered and was thereafter immune.

In 1721, an epidemic of smallpox from the West Indies swept through Boston. Mather saw his chance. He appealed to the doctors to try inoculating the colonists. This resulted in a great controversy because the doctors resented being told by a minister how to practice medicine. What's more, being Christian, the doctors also resented the fact that the method of inoculation had been pioneered by a Moslem doctor. The fact of the matter is that, from the seventh to the 19th century, medicine as practiced in Moslem countries was the most progressive in the world. There were many reasons for this. Foremost among them was the fact that the Catholic Church and many Protestant churches frowned on medical research. For instance, the Vatican had decreed that a Christian body was not to be violated and anyone who performed an autopsy would receive the death penalty. It was not until the 19th century that autopsies were allowed in Christian countries. Also, the main anatomy book used in Christian Europe until the 18th century had been writ-

ten by Galen (129-199) in the second century. The Moslems had no such laws and so carried on research on bodies. They were also quick to translate all the Greek and Roman medical knowledge and added to it through the centuries.

It's interesting to note that most European nobles were well aware of the differences between Christian and Moslem medicine. In fact, most royal courts had Jews or Moslems as doctors because they had been trained in Arabian medical schools.

Many of the clergy rallied to Mather's side. They asked for a fair trial for inoculation. Some doctors, who sided with Mather, inoculated a sufficient number of people to prove that the risk of death was infinitesimal when compared to the risk of smallpox that was naturally contracted.

After the worst of the epidemic was over in 1722, Mather pointed out to the secretary of the Royal Society in London that, of the nearly 300 Bostonians inoculated, only 5 or 6 had died and these may have been infected before their inoculation. Of the more than 5,000 persons who caught the disease naturally, nearly 900 had died. This meant that there was about nine times as much chance of death if one caught the smallpox in the ordinary course of infection as compared with the danger of inoculation.

The word of these results spread and soon doctors in the English and French colonies began to inoculate their patients. By the time that the next smallpox epidemic was imported from Ireland, most doctors were inoculating their patients.

A smallpox epidemic struck the Detroit area in 1733. Other epidemics occurred in

1746 and 1752.

By 1760, the British colonies were regulating inoculations rather than trying to prohibit the practice.

Early in the American Revolution, the army carried smallpox all over the colonies. General George Washington, on the advice of Doctor John Morgan, the physician-in-chief of the American armies, ordered the inoculation of the entire army. Washington also ordered an inoculation for his wife, Martha, who visited him frequently in army camps. This mass inoculation in special hospitals set up for this purpose was probably the most extensive experiment of its kind up to that date.

There was a smallpox outbreak in 1773-4. When smallpox came again to Boston in 1792, nearly half of its 20,000 inhabitants were inoculated. After 1798, cowpox was used to inoculate for smallpox. By 1800, smallpox as a disease was pretty much under control.

Measles:

An epidemic in 1615-19 was definitely of measles. Again, it affected the Indians and, to a much lesser degree, the French and the English.

Diphtheria:

A diphtheria epidemic broke out in the eastern part of New England in 1734-5. Its symptoms were a swollen white-flecked throat, profound weakness, and a tough slime that could ultimately suffocate many patients. This epidemic almost wiped out the entire infant population of Essex, Massachusetts.

Diphtheria struck again in 1751-3, 1776, and 1796.

I can remember my parents telling me when I was a boy about my grandparents and their experiences during two diphtheria epidemics.

The first of these struck the Richelieu River-Lake Champlain area in 1874. My Aunt Ernestine Provost, who was 3 years old, contracted it. She died from it on December 24, 1874.

People had a great fear of this and other such diseases. There were no vaccines and they did everything they could to avoid contracting a disease.

My parents told me that the children who were not affected were sent to live with relatives. One parent would usually stay with the infected child. If it was a one-parent family, the oldest child would take care of the others.

After the infected person got well or died, a tub of water was set to boil in the yard. Clean clothes were laid out for the recovered person and the person who had taken care of him or her. The clothes that had been worn during the illness were thrown on the fire to burn. They would then take a bath in the hot water and put on fresh clothes.

Some morticians would not handle the bodies of persons who had died in an epidemic. Many grave-diggers would also not handle their coffins. This is what happened to my Aunt Ernestine. My Grandfather Leon was a cabinet-maker so he made his daughter a coffin which he lined with velvet. He put his daughter with loving care into the coffin and sealed it. However, the grave-diggers would not bury her.

At this point, my Great Grandfather Justin DeFoy/Fraser, who lived in Redford, NY, told his daughter, Libby, and his son-in-law, Leon, to bring his granddaughter's Redford from Burlington, Vermont. A grave was dug on Fraser property and the child was buried. I often wonder how many other people found themselves in this situation in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The second diptheria epidemic struck in Cahoes, NY, and then Burlington, VT, in 1895. One of the many people who contracted this disease was my mother. She was 10 years old at the time. She told me that she remembered the high fever as well as her hair falling out. The hair grew back but it was always thin. My Grandfather Henry Gifford moved his family away from Cahoes because of this epidemic even though he left a good job as foreman in a mill there. His children were too precious to him and more valuable than a job. They went to Holyoke, Massachusetts, where he got another job as a mill foreman. He spent the rest of his life there.

Typhus:

Typhus is caused by lice. The disease was found where there was a lack of cleanliness, poor diet, excessive fatigue and a proportionally higher use of linen or thin clothing than wool. Lice seemed to favor thin clothing. The early symptoms were chills, fever, tongue covered with a yellow-green crust, listlessness, and headache. This was followed by the trembling of the hand, some loss of hearing and sight and a feeble pulse. The later symptoms were irregular purplish spots, peeling skin, falling hair and, in many cases, death. There were typhus epidemics in 1772-3 and 1805.

Other epidemics:

There was an epidemic of scarlet fever in 1802.

What were some of the ways that people tried to protect themselves? I can remember my mother saying that, whenever she did a wash, she boiled her handkerchiefs in a special kettle before washing them with her regular clothes. Her grandmother and mother had told her that most diseases were transmitted by sneezes and running noses so hankies had to be boiled.

I can also remember that, when I was a youngster in the 1930's and 1940's, I was not allowed to go to any public gathering or swimming pool for fear that I would contract polio which was then an epidemic disease.

In the 1750's, the "Pest House" was a way of fighting contagious diseases. These were also known as Quarantine Hospitals. Most large cities in New England and Quebec had them. When a person developed a contagious disease, he had to go to such a hospital until he either got over the illness or died. Holyoke kept its hospital operative until the late 1940's. A person with a minor contagious disease was usually quarantined at home.

Epidemics still occur for two reasons. The first is that, although we have bested certain diseases, some people are lax about being vaccinated against them. Measles is a case in point. Some parents do not have their children vaccinated against it because they think that this disease has been eradicated. Nothing could be further from the truth. This disease and others like it are still there. They just lie in wait for those who are not vaccinated. The second reason is simply that there are many diseases for which we haven't as yet discovered cures.

I hope that this article has made you aware of why so many of your ancestors died often young in large numbers in a short period of time.

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MEMBERS' CORNER
Le coin des membres

The purpose of this column is to help our members get in touch with each other for mutual benefit. All items for this column should be sent directly to the editor,

Henri Leblond
88 John St.
Pawtucket, RI
02861-1010

before November 1st if they are to appear in the next issue. Because space is limited, they will be included on a first come first served basis. Items will not be repeated in successive issues.

IN OUR MAIL Do you have a question
Dans notre courrier about something which
you read
pages? Do you have additional information
about a topic which was treated here? Do
you want to correct a mistake which you've
spotted? Do you have a comment on an article
which you'd like to make? Do you have
a suggestion which may be of interest? If
so, write to the editor! Every letter will
be given his full attention and, if it has
general appeal, it will be printed in whole
or in part subject to the limitation of
space.

Among the letters which we've recently received was one from Helen Bertrand who wrote an article about the Old Marquette Cemetery. Her article appeared on page 65 of our last issue. She points out that we mistakenly placed the cemetery in Minnesota. We should have said that it was in Michigan.

Dr. Richard Provost and several other members wrote to ask about the delay in publishing Je me souviens. Our president, Jan

Burkhart, explains the causes of the delay on page 3. Incidentally, an article by Dr. Provost starts on page 107. There'll be another one by him in our next issue. It will deal with folk medicine.

One letter had nothing good to say about Je me souviens. It criticized everything including the space between the letters! Honest! Among his other complaints were the size of our type, our lack of accents, and poor proof-reading.

Most letters were like Bob Plante's in which he told us how enjoyable Je me souviens is. In the last issue, he particularly enjoyed the article on "Survivance" by Larry Poitras.

We've recently received several letters which can only be categorized as interesting. One such letter from France read, "My great uncle moved to the United States around 1930. He settled in the San Francisco area. If he isn't dead, he's 117 years old. His children may be living. They would be between 74 and 81. He may have grandchildren. How can I locate him or his descendants?"

Another, also from France, read, "My mother had an affair with an American soldier during World War II. She says that he's my father and that she never told him about me. I'd like him to know that I'm his son and I'd like to meet him. How can I find him?"

A third was also from France. It read, "Frank Sinatra starred in the 1968 movie, "Lady in Cement." The family name of one of the supporting actors is the same as mine. Tell me how we're related."

The last was from an American. It read simply, "My name is... Send me my ancestry."

We'd be remissed if we didn't share with you some of the many letters praising the work of our Research Committee headed by Dennis Boudreau.

Noella Letourneau wrote, "Wow! You really did it! You solved the mystery that had been lingering for so many years. There is no doubt in my mind that this is the correct lineage."

A letter from Michael Lague read, "Thank you for your research efforts on the Lague family history, including the seven generation direct lineage and your correcting follow-up note...Let me comment that I find it amazing that records going so far back are still available. I think it is just so wonderful that an organization such as AFGS exists to enable people to trace their "roots." I never expected to get this amount of information and I was somewhat resigned to believing that any trace of my forefathers was lost forever to antiquity."

Guy Marchand, Committee President of the Beupré Family Association, wrote "Dennis Boudreau was a veritable help to us. He not only assisted us in our research, but also found for us other living descendants of François Beupré living in the United States. Without his help, we never would have found these delightful cousins."

A one-liner from Marie Guthrie read, "Thank you again for the wonderful research you did for me."

Hilda Silva penned this note: "This is to acknowledge receipt of your information on my direct lineage...I can see that I have my work cut out for me. It should prove to be very interesting. Hope to use your library in the near future to complete the research on which you gave me such a wonderful start."

WORK IN PROGRESS What family are you
Travaux de nos membres researching? Would
you like to hear
from others who are working on the same
family? We will list here free of charge
the name of the family which interests you
along with your name, address, and phone
number. If you are working on more than
one family, we will list each of them as
space permits.

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phone number to the editor. If you have more
than one request, we'll list them if there's
room.

*Linda Petersen, 2336 14th Street, North Bend,
Oregon, 97459, is interested in buying a copy
of Our French-Canadian Forefathers by Lucille
Fournier Rock.

BOOKS FOR SALE Do you have a genealogical or **Livres à vendre** historical book which you no longer use but which may be helpful to others? Are you interested in selling it? We will list your book here at no cost. Send the name of the book and your asking price along with your name, address, and phone number to the editor. Do you have more than one book to sell? We'll include them if we can.

*A. J. Beliveau of RD2 Box 458 Williston, VT, 05495, wishes to sell Vermont Roster of Soldiers in the War of 1812 for \$43, Vermont Rolls of the Soldiers of the Revolutionary War for \$120, and Vermont Army and Navy Civil War Volunteers 1861-1866 for \$250.

*Linda Dubé of 39 Birch Street, Madawaska, ME, 04756, has a three-book set on the Bouchards for sale. The set contains 1050 pages and more than 1300 photos. An index at the end of the third volume is particularly helpful in locating specific Bouchards. The text is in French and English. No price was specified.

*Dr. Armand Chartier of the University of Rhode Island has written a new history of the Franco-Americans. Histoire des Franco-Américains de la Nouvelle-Angleterre, 1775-1790 is for sale at the Librairie Populaire, 18 Orange Street, Manchester, NH, 03104. It costs \$25 plus handling. Do not send money with your order. You will be billed. Phone orders are accepted: 603-669-3788.

*Rollande S. Gelinas of 3075 DeBlois, Trois Rivières, Québec, G8Z 1R4, Canada, has a book entitled Les Miens et les Vôtres, recueil de titres d'ascendance for \$20 plus \$4 postage and handling. The book traces 192 lines.

OF INTEREST
D'interêt

KBYU-TV and the author of Roots, Alex Haley, are involved in a television project on family history. "Ancestors," a prime time series for PBS, documents individual searches for links to their ancestral past. It will focus on the rich dramas that unfold as a result of family history research. The programs will feature stories and storytellers with the ability to capture imagination and bring family history to life. KBYU TV is currently in the process of conducting a nationwide search for such material. To find out how your family history and research experiences can be a part of "Ancestors," write to "Ancestors," KBYU-TV, Provo, Utah, 84602, or call either BaBette Davidson or Marci Brown at 801-378-0050.

The Société Archiv-Histo (4315, boulevard Rosemont, Montréal, Québec, H1T 2C8, Canada) has over 200,000 notarized documents (marriage contracts, wills, land grants, sales, gifts, and so on) of the French period (1635-1765). These may be of help to you in reconstructing your family history. There's a minimum charge of \$10 and a limit of 5 requests. Each answer is a summary of the document and costs \$4. Copies of documents and translations are available at extra cost.

The Institut généalogique J. L. et associés, inc. (C.P. 325 Succ. Ahuntsic, Montréal, Québec, H3L 3N8, Canada) has a data bank of marriages between 1730 and 1835. The cost of looking up a marriage is on a sliding scale: \$10 for 1 down to \$7 each for 5 or more. Money is not refundable if the marriage is not found.

The Berkshire Family History Association (P.O. Box 143, Pittsfield, MA, 01202) will hold its 8th Annual Genealogical Seminar at the Berkshire Community College's Koussewitzky Art Center on Saturday, October 5th. The topic will be "Western Massachusetts: Gateway to the West." The cost of admission is \$25.

Glastonbury, Connecticut, will celebrate its Tercentennial in 1993. The Tercentennial Descendants Subcommittee would like to hear from anyone who has family roots in Glastonbury. The Subcommittee is particularly interested in acquiring copies of documents, letters, diaries, journals, old photographs, lines of descent, and any type of genealogical information. All information collected will be preserved in a data bank at the Glastonbury Historical Society and will be available to anyone researching Glastonbury genealogy and history. Please send materials to the Tercentennial Descendants Subcommittee c/o Mary Lou Rath, Box 619, Glastonbury, CT, 06033.

FAMILY ASSOCIATION NEWS
Nouvelles des
Associations de familles

The ASSOCIATION DES DION D'AMERIQUE is planning to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the birth of Jean Guyon, one of the ancestors of the American Dions. It proposes to hold the celebration in Montreal in 1992. The celebration would be part of the festivities which will mark the 350th anniversary of the founding of Montreal. Anyone interested in more information or in joining the Association should write to

Association des Dion d'Amérique,
C.P. 232,
Loretteville, Québec,
G2B 3W7, Canada.

The ASSOCIATION DES DESCENDANTS DE JEAN MIGNAUX DE CHATILLON is making plans to celebrate in 1993 the 350th anniversary of his arrival in Canada. More information or membership in the Association may be obtained by writing to

Association des Descendants
de Jean Mignaux de Chatillon
8811, rue Centrale,
LaSalle, Québec,
H8P 1P1, Canada.

Are you a Pilon or a descendant of one? If so, you may be interested in learning that this family is planning a reunion. You can get more information from the

RASSEMBLEMENT DES PILON,
C.P. 683,
Ville-Marie, Québec,
J02 2W0, Canada.

Any items for this column should be sent directly to the editor: Henri Leblond,
88 John Street, Pawtucket, RI, 02861-1010.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Rapport du bibliothécaire

Your Library Committee - Jan, Armand, Mary, Henry, and David - send greetings from Woonsocket, RI. We hope that you've continued your research during the summer. Its fine days and warm evenings are just right for visiting places which are prominent in our family histories or for wandering through cemeteries in search of those elusive ancestors. Vacation days give us the chance to go to city halls and archives which are closed when our work days are done. We hope that your research was successful. With fall upon us, it's time to get back to the books. We look forward to seeing you back here at the library.

Our annual recognition night was a great success. It is always nice for so many of our members to come together and be recognized for the many hours of dedicated service which they give to the Society. When we have visitors from other Societies, they are always amazed at how much we are able to accomplish. They cannot believe that we have so many members willing to pitch in and work so hard for no pay. What they fail to realize is that "pay" comes from being with such an outstanding group of people. We can never thank our wonderful volunteers enough.

Several members have arranged for us to copy various records. Our thanks go to Lucille McDonald for getting permission for us to copy the records of Menard's Funeral Home; Noela Boulaine for Lauzon's Funeral Home's records; Eveline Desplaines for the baptismal records of Holy Family Church in Woonsocket, and Roger Beaudry for the records of the First Universalist Church also in Woonsocket.

For a long time, the AFGS has been recording the 19th century Franco-American

marriages of Rhode Island. If you have a relative who married here before 1900, please send us the information so that it can be included. We want our records to be as complete as possible.

We have launched a new project. We are buying microfilms of the vital statistics of Vermont. We have bought the records up to 1870. We'll buy the rest a few reels at a time over the next few years as money becomes available. These films will be a great tool for our members.

We are most grateful to all who make contributions to our Library Fund. Books are so expensive that it would be difficult to maintain our superb library without your generosity. Donations of money are applied to books on order which defrays expenses that the board has already approved. We also receive donations of books, magazines, and original works by our members. All of these donations are received with great excitement here in Woonsocket.

The Library Committee continues to collect obituaries. We have just completed our 17th book of them! Our thanks to all who participate in this project. We would welcome anyone who would like to join us. Don't forget that we also collect clippings of engagements, weddings, and anniversaries.

We have published four new repertoires: The Baptisms of St. Cecilia's Church in Pawtucket, RI; The Baptisms of St. Stephen's Church in Attleboro, MA; The Marriages of St. Anne's Church in Woonsocket, RI, and The Marriages of St. Jacques Church in Taunton, MA. Two others will be ready soon: The Baptisms of Notre Dame Church of Central Falls, RI, and The Marriages of St. John The Baptist Church of Pawtucket, RI.

RESEARCH POLICY

Please follow these steps if you wish to use our research service:

STEP ONE: WHAT YOU SEND

- Your request, and a self-addressed stamped envelope
 - PLEASE DO NOT SEND US A CHECK IN ADVANCE
 - Your choice of the type of research to be done according to the following descriptions.
- A. SINGLE MARRIAGE (Only ONE marriage to seek)
- Marriages of parents will also be counted as additional single marriages and billed as such.
- B. DIRECT LINEAGE (A straight line of either a husband or wife back to the immigrant ancestor)
- This will include each couple, their date and place of marriage, and their parents' names and location of immigrants in France.
 - Price for direct lineages will be determined by the number of generations found times the rates for research as applicable.
- C. FIVE-GENERATION ANCESTRAL CHART
(Standard 5 generation ancestor chart of 31 ancestors, with 8 marriages found. The last column of names will give parents' names only, no marriages, as they will start a new 5 generation chart.)
- Price: \$16 (AFGS members) \$25 non-members

AFGS RESEARCH RATES (Standard)

\$2 per marriage (AFGS members)
\$4 per marriage (Non-members)
\$16 for 5 generation chart (AFGS members)
\$25 for 5 generation chart (Non-members)

STEP TWO: OUR JOB

After receiving your request, return envelope and choice of research to be performed, we will start immediately upon your research. We will then notify you by mail as to our findings, and will bill you in advance for the research performed using the rates applicable above.

STEP THREE: YOUR APPROVAL

After receiving our report and billing statement, return the top portion with a check payable to AFGS. Upon receipt, we will then forward your requested research.

We believe that by following these three steps, we can offer our members a much more professional and orderly way of answering requests for research. Again, please do not send money in advance.

The AFGS Research Committee

P.S.: All requests not found by the Research Committee will be placed in the question and answer section of Je me souviens. See following pages.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Questions et réponses

In keeping with our present research policy the following marriages could not be found by our staff. We are publishing them here, hoping that others who may see them and have the answers will contact us so that we may forward this information to the appropriate researchers. All answers may be addressed to the A.F.G.S. at P.O. Box 2113, Pawtucket, RI, 02861. When answering a question, please use the call number, e.g. 14/16 14/17, 14/18. etc.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| P = Parents | s/o = son of |
| M = Marriage date and place | d/o = daughter of vf./vve = widow / widower of |
| D = Descendants | |

- 14/3 Seeking M of Alexis RICHER and Jeanne(tte) LEBLANC, parents of Jean Baptiste Richer from Trois Rivières PQ, who married Marie Charron/Charon daughter of Pierre Charron/Charon and Marie Jeanne Pelletier on 24 July 1810 at St. Pierre, Tillbury East, Kent County, Ontario. (Myrtle Pletos)
- 14/16 Seeking M and P of Alexander MUNSON to Delia METHOT ca. 1880's New York State or Lowell, MA area. (Margaret Quiles)
- 14/17 Seeking M and P of Jean-Baptiste BISAILLON to M-Louise PERRIER-OLIVIER. Their d. Angelique m. Pierre Campeau at Lachine, PQ, on 7/7/1770. (Gerard Guimond)
- 14/18 Seeking M and P of Martin LEVAC(QUE) to M. Josette VERONNEAU-DENIS. Their d. M-Antoine(tte) m Jean-Baptiste Denis at Les Cedres (Soulanges) on 7/2/1774. (Gerard Guimond)

- 14/19 Seeking M and P of George McLAUGHLIN to Victoria FENIX (PHENIX) DAUPHINAIS ca. 1879-83 in Williamsburg, Ontario, or Quebec area. (Edith Watson)
- 14/20 Seeking M and P of Francois FRANCOEUR to Angelique DELINELLE/GLINELLE. Their s. Antoine m Amable Gauthier at Notre Dame de Montréal on 21/6/1784. (Carol Jacques)
- 14/21 Seeking M and P of Paul BEAUDIN to Caroline RAYMOND, daughter of Joseph of Adams, MA. They were married ca. 1865. (Paige Danforth)
- 14/22 Seeking M and P of Camille DESJARLAIS to to Delima BRASSARD. Their son Arthur married Emelie Boissel in Woonsocket, RI, 14/5/1900. (Marie GENZ)
- 14/23 Seeking M and P of Noel BRO/BRAULT/POMINVILLE to Mathilde STE-MARIE, Montreal area ca. 1830-1840. (Joseph Brow, Jr.)
- 14/24 Seeking M and P of Paul DEMENO/DENOME/DOMINO to Pauline PACKMON/PATENAUDE Quebec Province ca. 1840-50. (Joseph Brow, Jr.)
- 14/25 Seeking M and P of Nicolas CARON/GAUTHIER to Madeleine CHAMPOUX. He re-married to Madeleine Houde at Becancour on 6/7/1795. (Anna Rifici)
- 14/26 Seeking M and P of Nelson WOOD/BOIS/DUBOIS to Adela BROCHE who married ca. 1880 in Monpelier, VT; Lowell, MA, Worcester, MA, or Malone, NY. (Roland Lapointe)
- 14/27 Seeking M and P of Joseph HARPIN/HARPER to Julie BOUTHIERRE ca. 1860 in Canada or MA. Their son Noel m.

Georgiana Landry at Grafton, MA, on
21/11/1883. (Roland Lapointe)

14/28 Seeking M and P of Joseph LANDRY to
Olive RICHARD m. in Canada ca. 1860.
These are the parents of Georgiana
in 14/17. (Roland Lapointe)

14/29 Seeking M and P of Joseph M. DALLEN
who married Margaret MOISSANT
in Bourbonnais, IL, on 3 Aug. 1850.
(Louise Tesoriere)

14/30 Seeking P of Joseph LEBEAU and his
wife, Rosanna LUSSIER, who were
married in Wauregan, CT, on 24 Feb.
1889. (Annette Boudreau Canuel)

We are most grateful to Mr. Al Bérubé of Mon-
tréal who continues to provide us with many
of the answers to researchers' questions:

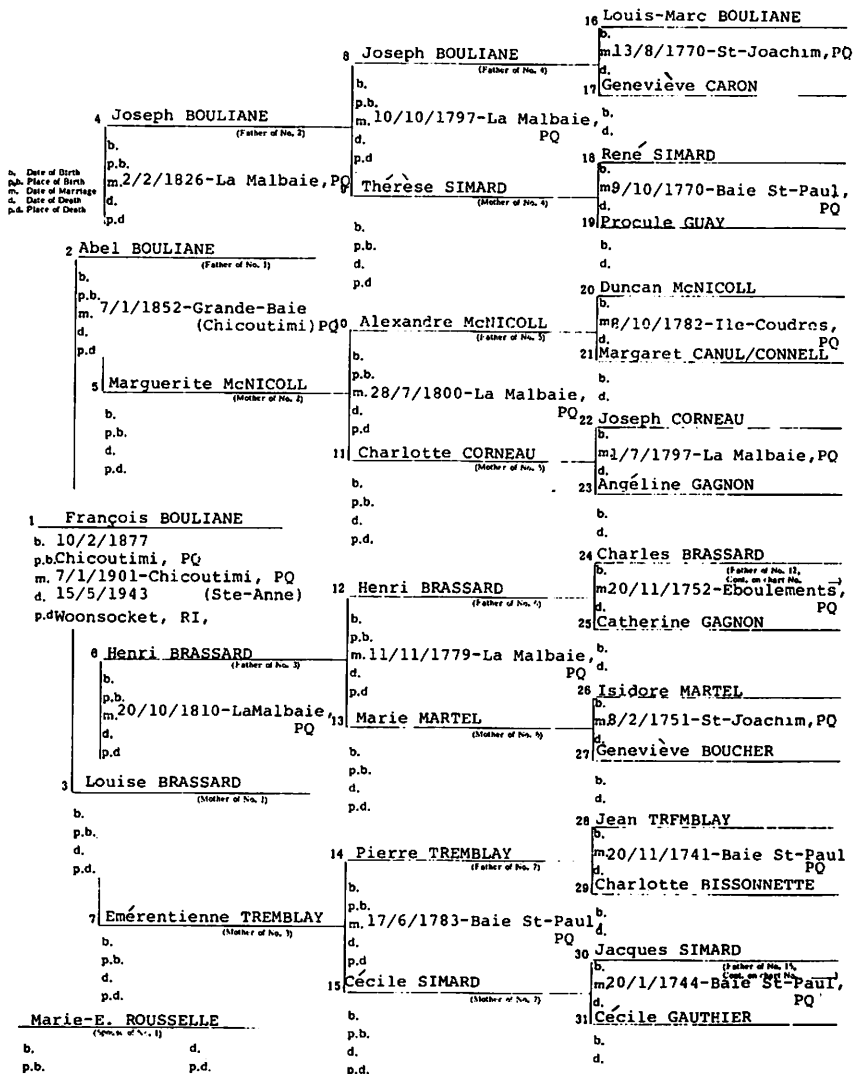
14/2 Joseph DUGUAY (Joseph & Claire Doiron)
Pauline GOUPILLE (Joseph & Barbe Poulin)
married in Caxaquet, NB, 22/11/1830.

14/9 Jacob BERTHIAUME (Moise & Marie Beaudin)
Sophie-Hermine BELAIR (Israel & Marie
Plantier married in Lacolle on 11/1/1883

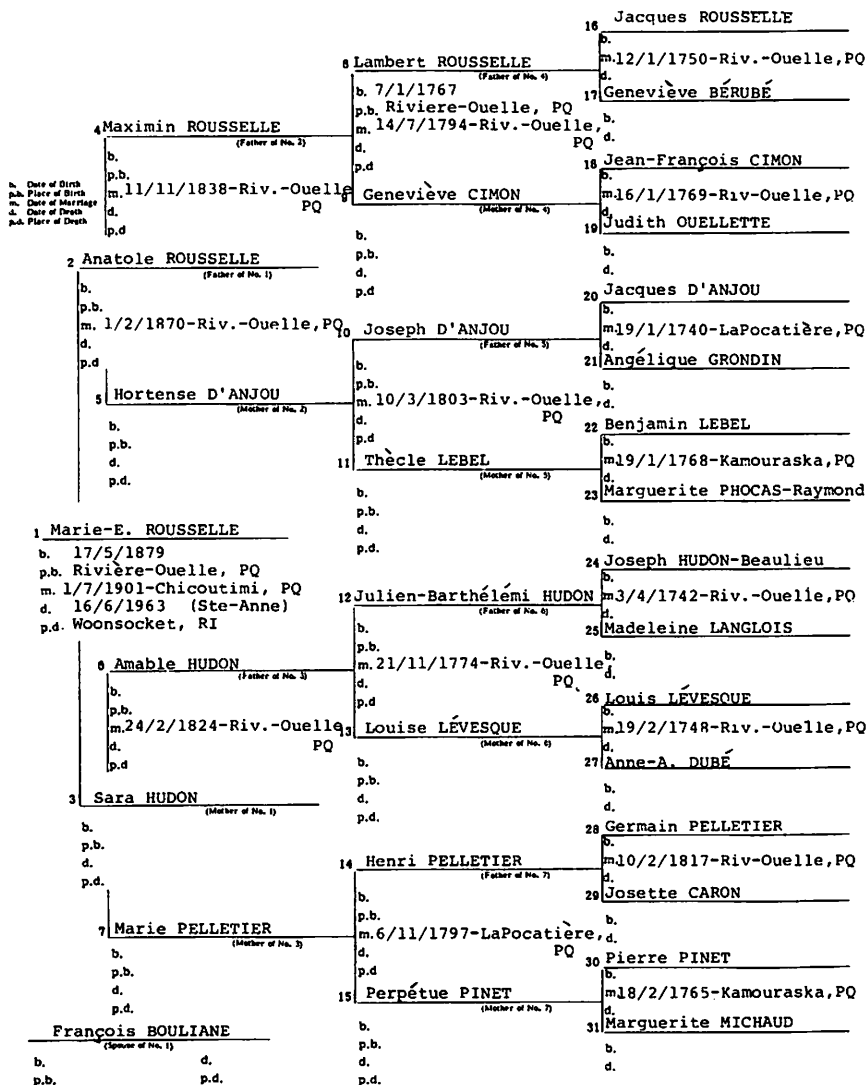
13/17 Joseph MICHON (Guillaume & Marie Ther-
rien; M. Angele BERRY who's listed only
as "Fille majeure" married in Notre Dame
de Quebec on 7/1/1801

13/19 Antoine Michel CHICOINE (Aubin & M-Anne
David); Francoise Henriette SAMUEL (Jean
& Marie-Barbe DAUBARQUE married 16-9
1800 Contrat Barschois.

Ancestor chart of
FRANÇOIS BOULIANE
 Husband of Marie E. Rousselle
 See following page



Ancestor chart of
MARIE E ROUSSELLE
 Wife of François Bouliane
 See preceding page



Ancestor chart of
GEORGE HENRY BUTEAU
 Husband of Salome Cloutier
 See following page

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <u>Henry T. Buteau</u> 4 b. circa 1822 p.b. a. 9 Jan 1843 (Sorel, PQ) d. 28 Feb 1871 p.d. Baltic, CT | <u>Louis Buteau</u> 8 b. 28 Mar 1784 p.b. St. Antoine, PQ a. 17 Jun 1805 (St. Antoine, PQ) d. 2 Jan 1872 p.d. Baltic, CT | <u>Louis Buteau</u> 16 b. 21 Jun 1753 a. 3 Feb 1777 (Contrecoeur) d. 4 Feb 1824 <u>Marie Gregoire</u> 17 b. 23 Aug 1760 d. 20 Aug 1834 |
| <u>Danase Buteau</u> 2 b. 13 Apr 1857 p.b. Slatersville, RI a. 13 Nov 1875 (Warwick, RI) d. 15 Mar 1928 p.d. Newtown, CT <u>Marie Anne Dufault</u> 5 b. 5 Oct 1822 p.b. Sorel, PQ d. 18 Apr 1904 p.d. Baltic, CT | <u>Marie Desanges Grenier</u> 9 b. 14 Oct 1787 p.b. St. Antoine, PQ d. 28 Nov 1851 p.d. Sorel, PQ | <u>Pierre Grenier</u> 18 b. 10 Oct 1751 a. 17 Feb 1783 (St. Antoine) d. <u>Desanges Brazeau</u> 19 b. d. |
| <u>George Henry Buteau</u> 1 b. 1 Aug 1877 p.b. Baltic, CT a. 26 Jun 1899 (West Warwick, RI) d. 25 Jun 1921 p.d. Preston, CT | <u>Etienne Dufault</u> 10 b. 17 Dec 1795 p.b. Sorel, PQ a. 16 Jul 1822 (Sorel, PQ) d. p.d. | <u>Jean Baptiste Dufault</u> 20 b. 12 Apr 1753 a. 6 Oct 1794 (Sorel, PQ) d. 21 Jan 1832 <u>Marie St. Martin</u> 21 b. 5 Oct 1767 d. 10 Apr 1838 |
| <u>Louis Lussier</u> 6 b. p.b. a. 3 Jan 1837 (St. Damase, PQ) d. p.d. | <u>Therese Tessier</u> 11 b. 18 Aug 1800 p.b. Sorel, PQ d. 25 Sep 1875 p.d. St. Victoire, PQ | <u>Joseph Tessier</u> 22 b. 23 Jan 1771 a. 23 Oct 1797 (Sorel, PQ) d. 26 Aug 1847 <u>Therese Ethier</u> 23 b. 12 Feb 1780 d. 26 Aug 1847 |
| <u>Delphine Lussier</u> 3 b. 27 Aug 1859 p.b. St. Damase, PQ d. 5 Jan 1927 p.d. New Bedford, MA | <u>Jean Baptiste Lussier</u> 12 b. p.b. a. 11 Oct 1802 (S. Hyacinthe, PQ) d. p.d. | <u>Christophe Lussier</u> 24 b. a. 5 Feb 1759 (Vercheres) d. <u>Reine Desmarais</u> b. d. |
| <u>Angelique Jarret Beauregard</u> 7 b. p.b. d. p.d. | <u>Marie Josephite Saudreau</u> 13 b. p.b. d. p.d. | <u>Louis Saudreau Chavaudreuille</u> 26 b. a. 8 May 1775 (Chambly, PQ) d. <u>Josephite Brouillet</u> 27 b. d. |
| <u>Salome Cloutier</u> (Wife of No. 1) | <u>Michel Jarret Beauregard</u> 14 b. after 1793 p.b. a. 9 Jan 1815 (Vercheres, PQ) d. p.d. <u>Marie Louise Lussier</u> 15 b. p.b. d. p.d. | <u>Michel Jarret Beauregard</u> 28 b. a. 6 Oct 1793 (Vercheres) d. <u>Elisabeth Langevin</u> 29 b. d. <u>Joseph Lussier</u> 30 b. a. 17 May 1780 (Vercheres) d. <u>Marie Chalut</u> 31 b. d. |

Ancestor chart of
SALOME CLOUTIER
 Wife of George Henry Buteau
 See preceding page

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <u>Antoine Cloutier</u> 4 b. p.b. a. 6 Jul 1841 (Nicolet, PQ) d. p.d. | <u>Charles Cloutier</u> 8 b. p.b. a. 23 Jul 1804 (Nicolet, PQ) d. before 1841 p.d. Nicolet, PQ | <u>Alexis Cloutier</u> 16 b. a. 13 Jan 1766 (S. Pierre Sud) d. <u>Madeleine Picard</u> 17 b. d. |
| <u>Antoine Cloutier</u> 2 b. Apr 1843 p.b. a. 3 Oct 1864 (Trois Rivières, PQ) d. p.d. <u>Leocadie Desfosses</u> 5 b. p.b. d. p.d. | <u>Louise Salmon</u> 9 b. after 1783 p.b. Nicolet, PQ d. p.d. | <u>Nicolas Salmon</u> 18 b. a. 10 Feb 1777 (Nicolet, PQ) d. <u>Angelique Baron</u> 19 b. d. |
| <u>Salome Cloutier</u> 1 b. 2 Jul 1884 p.b. Suncook, NH a. 26 Jun 1899 (West Warwick, RI) d. 19 Jun 1976 p.d. Burrillville, RI | <u>Louis Desfosses</u> 10 b. 11 Aug 1797 p.b. Nicolet, PQ a. 16 Jul 1822 (Baieville, PQ) d. p.d. | <u>Francois Desfosses</u> 20 b. a. 25 Aug 1754 (Baieville) d. <u>Marie Charlotte Lemire</u> 21 b. d. |
| <u>Anicet Larose</u> 6 b. 8 Apr 1820 p.b. Pointe du Lac, PQ a. 10 Nov 1840 (Yamachiche, PQ) d. 15 Jul 1860 p.d. Trois Rivières, PQ | <u>Julie Dionne</u> 11 b. p.b. d. p.d. | <u>Louis Dionne</u> 22 b. a. 1 Aug 1791 (Kamouraska) d. <u>Elisabeth Chasse</u> 23 b. d. |
| <u>Marquerite Larose</u> 3 b. Jan 1844 p.b. d. 5 Jan 1927 p.d. Rhode Island | <u>Louis Antoine Chefdevergne Larose</u> 12 b. p.b. a. 17 May 1802 (Pointe du Lac) d. p.d. | <u>Louis Chefdevergne Larose</u> 24 b. 1753 a. 12 Sep 1774 (Pointe du Lac) d. 29 Dec 1813 <u>Marie Anable Bertrand</u> b. 8 Feb 1760 d. 29 May 1804 |
| <u>Julie Gagnon</u> 7 b. p.b. d. p.d. | <u>Marie Anne Bellemare</u> 13 b. p.b. d. p.d. | <u>Etienne Gelinus Bellemare</u> 26 bapt. 20 Sep 1743 a. 19 Feb 1765 (Yamachiche) d. <u>Marie Madeleine Lefebvre</u> 27 b. 8 Nov 1738 d. |
| | <u>Jean Baptiste Gagnon</u> 14 b. p.b. a. 21 Oct 1799 (Yamachiche, PQ) d. p.d. | <u>Louis Gagnon</u> 28 b. a. 7 Jan 1777 (Yamachiche) d. <u>Marie Marquerite Germain Magny</u> 29 b. d. |
| | <u>Marie Vaillancourt</u> 15 b. p.b. d. p.d. | <u>Ignace Vaillancourt</u> 30 b. 20 Oct 1744 a. 11 Jan 1768 (St. Jean, IO) d. <u>Marie Anne Turcot</u> 31 b. d. |

George H. Buteau
 (Husband of No. 1)

NEW MEMBERS
Nouveaux membres

1795

Armand ADAMS
404 Shore Dr
Laconia, NH
03246

1793

MM James ANDRADE
151 Carriage Hill Rd
N Kingston, RI
02852

1802

Michael ARSENAULT
PO Box 594
Millbury, MA
01527

1804

Normand AUBIN
26 Garden St
Woonsocket, RI
02895

1797

John BEAUDETTE
1107 Calumet Av
Calumet, NI
49913

1808

Sylvia BOCKSTEIN
172 Jackson St
Jefferson, MA
01522

1807

MM Anthony BONAVENTURE
19 Pidge Av
Pawtucket, RI
02860

1821

Alfred BURKE
13 Ledge St
Central Falls, RI
02863

1803

Geralda CARRIER
20 Main St
Lakeville, MA
02347

1803

Virginia CARRIER
20 Main St
Lakeville, MA
02347

1816

Norma COUTURE
575 High Hill Rd
N Dartmouth, MA
02747

1818

Jacquelyn DAWLEY
431 School St
N Kingston, RI
02852

1817

Edward DOIRON
51 Melrose Av
Hamden, CT
06518

1815

Donald FAVREAU
2503 E Garnet Av
Mesa, AZ
85204

1806
Marie GENZ
3509 NE 77th Terr
Kansas City, MO
64119

1810
Bertrand GUERIN
39 Elvira St
Bellingham, MA
02019

1812
Marie GUTHRIE
112 N 7th St
Alpena, MI
49707

1800
Anita HARRINGTON
189 Wampanoag Rd
E Greenwich, RI
02818

1788
Michael LAGUE
Wilner Rd
Somers, NY
10589

1789
MM E LAMONTAGNE
15 Brookwood Ln
Cumberland, RI
02864

1798
George LA NORE
4511 19th Av SE
Lacey, WA
98503

1805
Hector LA POINTE
132 Arizona St
Fall River, MA
02723

1774
Robert LAVOIE
136 Harley St
Coventry, RI
02816

1799
Carol LEAVITT
161 Lucas Rd
E Greenwich, RI
02818

1813
Charles LESIEUR
26 Garden St
Woonsocket, RI
02895

1784
Linda MADEN
80 Udalia Ct
West Islip, NY
11795

1814
Jean MANDEVILLE
169 Reynolds Av
Providence, RI
02905

1819
Rita MCKEOWN
639 W Maple Av
Monrovia, CA
91016

1809
Estelle OWENS
900 W 11th St
Plainview, TX
79072

1792
Linda PETERSON
2336 14th St
N Bend, OR
97459

1794
Albert PROVENCHER
18 Crest Rd
N Smithfield, RI
02895

1796
Margaret REIMAN
5411 Dupont Dr
Santa Rosa, CA
95409

1787
Robert ROCHEFORT
66 Lexington Av
Cranston, RI
02910

1790
MM Jeremy SMITH
119 Prospect St
Shrewsbury, MA
01545

1811
Hilda SYLVIA
1245 Drift Rd
Westport, MA
02790

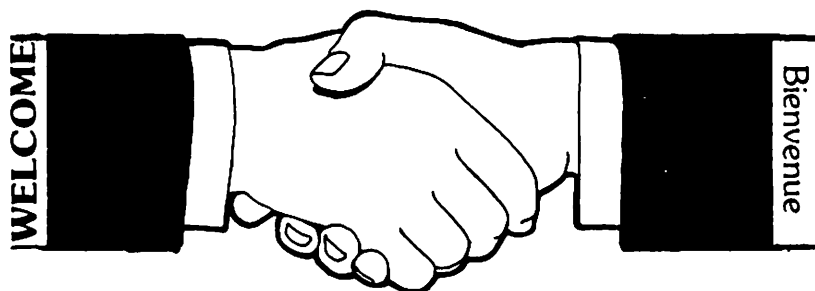
1791
A. J. THOMAS
124 Chippendale Dr
Hendersonville, TN
37073

1801
Philius VAILLANT
268 Dulude St
Woonsocket, RI
02895

1785
Robert VALOIS
PO Box 19764
Raleigh, NC
27619

1820
Cathleen WALSH
9 Meadow View Rd
Wayland, MA
01778

1786
Jeannette WILES
16 Cedar Rd
Shrewsbury, MA
01545



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NOVEMBER 26

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JANUARY 28

Business Meeting

FEBRUARY 25

Business Meeting

MARCH 24

Business Meeting

All meetings are held in our library which is located in the basement of the First Universalist Church at 78 Earle Street in Woonsocket, RI. They begin at 7 p.m. and last about an hour during which time the library is not available for research. They are open to the public at no charge.

ABOUT OUR COVER

Our Society's seal contains its coat of arms: a shield with an oak tree, a symbol of genealogy, above which is a star representing the United States flanked by two fleurs-de-lis representing France and Quebec. Our motto is the same as Quebec's: "Je me souviens" (I remember). The coat-of-arms is ringed by acorns, another symbol of genealogy, and circled by the words "American French Genealogical Society, 1978." The border represents the molten wax used to seal documents. Our coat-of-arms and seal were designed by our founder, Henri Leblond. They are registered with the Committee on Heraldry of the New England Historical and Genealogical Society in Boston, MA.