JP/LA

Je Me Souviens

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RESEARCH

The Society does undertake research for a fee. Please see our research policy elsewhere in this issue

ARTICLES

Original manuscripts are welcomed. Please see our author's guide elsewhere in this issue and at our website http://www.afgs.org.

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From the President's Desk

It has been a very productive year for AFGS. Our membership remained steady at about 1,400. We are quite fortunate to maintain a consistent membership. Without our dedicated members it would be difficult for our Society to survive. A strong membership also enables us to expand our programs and benefits.

Not every member has the opportunity to visit our Franco-American Heritage Center in Rhode Island. However, we are working to develop an online library for members only. This will allow those unable to visit us in person to access some of our library resources . Webmaster Bill Pommenville has been working diligently on this project for the past several months and we expect to unveil our "virtual library" early next year.

As I mentioned in our last issue, we are planning to deliver news on a more frequent basis via e-briefs. This will likely mean the printed newsletter will be discontinued, probably by mid-year. If you have not provided us with your current e-mail address when you renewed your membership recently, please do so by contacting Bill Pommenville at wpommenville@afgs.org.

On behalf of the officers and members of your board of directors, I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2013.

Authors Guidelines

Je Me Souviens publishes stories of interest to members of the American-French Genealogical Society and people of French Canadian and Acadian descent. Articles focusing on history and genealogy are of primary interest, although stories on related topics will be considered. Especially desirable are articles dealing with sources and techniques, i.e. "how-to guides," related to specifics of French Canadian research.

All manuscripts must be well-documented (i.e. with sources) and well-written material on French-Canadian or Acadian history, genealogy, culture or folklore, but not necessarily limited to these areas. However, there MUST be a French-Canadian connection to what you submit. They can be of any length, though we reserve the right to break down long articles into 2 or more parts.

We prefer a clear, direct conversational style. A bibliography is desirable, and documentation is necessary for genealogical and historical submissions. Please use endnotes, rather than footnotes. All articles should be single-spaced and left-justified. Do not use bold, italics or underlining for headings.

All submissions must be in electronic form. Any word processing file will be accepted but we prefer .txt, .doc, and .rtf files. Please no PDFs. All illustrations and photos should be submitted as JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) files. You may also submit printed black-and white photographs for publication. These photographs should be labeled with the submitter's name and contact information and the caption for the photo, preferably on the back. We are not responsible for loss or damage to originals and they may not be returned.

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of all materials submitted.

All material submitted for publication must be original. Previously published material, except that which is in the public domain, will be accepted only if it is submitted by the author and is accompanied by a signed release from the previous publisher.

Articles that promote a specific product or service, or whose subject matter is inappropriate, will be rejected. Submissions received that do not fit these guidelines will be returned to the author.

The Generous Family of Connecticut

By Libby Generous Smith and George H. Buteau

Pierre Genereux came to New France in 1686, a member of a company of Franche-Marines who were sent there to protect French settlers from marauding Iroquois. When peace had been won, these soldiers were offered land by the French king to remain in Canada and marry. Along with many others, Pierre Genereux took the offer and married Francoise Dessureaux in 1699. We probably will never know Pierre Genereux' actual surname and, thus, his ancestry because it is believed that Genereux was a "nom de guerre" that Pierre, like many of his fellow soldiers, gave himself when he joined the Franche-Marines and, which he kept throughout his lifetime. Pierre Genereux and Francoise Dessureaux were the ancestors of all North American families with the surname Genereux and also of many families with the surnames Genereaux, Generaux, Generoux, Jeneroux and Generous. Generous, the English translation of Genereux, is the surname taken by descendants of Louis Genereux who settled in Connecticut in the nineteenth century.

Louis Genereux was born on November 1, 1847 in Berthierville, Berthier County, QC, the son of Joseph Elie Genereux and his wife, Genevieve Riviere. He was baptized Louis Joseph Genereux the same day in Ste. Genevieve parish church in Berthierville. In the U.S. Census recorded on June 9, 1900 in Sprague, CT, Louis indicated that he had immigrated to the U.S.A. in 1863 as a teenager. He may have first settled in the Boston area; in the U.S. Census recorded in Chelsea, MA on August 26, 1870, twenty-two year old Louis Generous, native of Canada, was employed there making bricks.

Louis' Genereux ancestry is traced back five generations to Pierre Genereux and Francoise Dessureaux. His paternal grandparents were Bernard Genereux and Angelique Dandon-

neau who married in 1823. Bernard's parents, Joseph Francois Ambroise Genereux and Marie Francoise Beaugrand dite Champagne, were married in 1783. Francois' parents were Jean Baptiste Genereux and Marguerite Riviere who married in 1742 and his paternal grandparents were Pierre Genereux and Francoise Dessureaux. Among the Generous family members, it is believed that Joseph Elie Genereux' wife, Genevieve Riviere, was an Amerindian. The couple's 1847 marriage record in Ste. Genevieve parish in Berthierville states that the bride was illegitimate but did not indicate whether she was an Indian. A birth record for her cannot be found.

Louis married Lena Belanger, also a native of Canada, around 1873. They were most likely married in Connecticut. Lena was born in St. Guillaume d'Upton, Yamaska County, QC, on June 7, 1851 the first child born to Joseph Belanger and his wife Edwidge Burck. She was baptized Celine Belanger in St. Guillaume parish church the day she was born. Because of infant mortality during the 18th and 19th centuries, it was customary in French Canada for Catholic families to have their newborn babies baptized the same day they were born or the very next day. The Belanger family, consisting of teenage Lena (she was listed as Clina), her father, her mother, her five sisters and her three brothers, were listed in the U.S. Census recorded in Sprague, CT on June 9, 1870. Lena indicated in the 1900 U.S. Census that she had immigrated to the U.S. in 1863. She was said to have been well educated in Canada having attended convent schools and probably the university for a while before coming to the United States with her family.

Louis and Lena lived on and off in North Windham, CT and Baltic, CT most of their married lives although in the 1910 census they were in Lisbon, CT and were living in Norwich, CT when the 1920 census was recorded. Although their surname appeared as Genereux in the 1880 U.S. census and other records and even as Genereaux in the 1900 U.S. Census, locally the family went by the surname Generous, which has become the surname of all their descendants.

Louis Generous was a highly skilled millwright. Mill owners would often attempt to lure him away from his current employer. On one such occasion when he was working in a mill in Baltic, CT, he was hired away by a Mr. Hall to work in his textile mill in North Windham, CT. He became Hall's right hand man and the person entrusted with the keys to the mill and in charge of all the machinery and equipment. He would open the mill daily and assign the workers their daily tasks. He also repaired machinery and kept the mill operational.

On one occasion Mr. Hall sent Louis to Willimantic to the train station to pick up a shipment. Louis was to drive Mr. Hall's new team of horses for this assignment. Louis loved horses and particularly this team which he apparently took care of on a regular basis. While at the station in Willimantic Louis met someone who claimed that his team was better and faster than the team Louis was driving. There ensued a heated argument followed by a bet and the two men were off racing their respective teams pulling their freight the entire eight miles to North Windham. As they raced into town, Mr. Hall saw his horses all heated and lathered up and followed Louis into the stables to berate him. Louis calmly picked up Mr. Hall and threw him into a manure pile and then proceeded to wipe down, brush and feed the horses. Mr. Hall got up and with whatever dignity he could muster he silently walked out of the stables. This was on a Friday night. On Monday morning when Louis went to the mill to open it, all of the locks had been changed. Assuming this meant he had been fired, Louis simply packed up his family and returned to Baltic to another mill that had wanted him. About six months later, Mr. Hall appeared, hat in hand, begging Louis to come back making a presumably irresistible offer because Louis accepted and returned to North Windham.

Louis and Lena had four sons, Louis, Henry M., Robert W. and William A. The 1900 U.S. census recorded that Lena had given birth to six children but only four survived. A daughter, Anna, died in 1891 at the age of five years. There is no available record of another child who died before 1900.

Their oldest son, Louis Generous, was born in January, 1876. He married Hattie Charlotte Polley around 1896. They had seven children. Following are Louis and Hattie Generous' descendants:

Louis Generous, b. Jan 1876 in CT, USA, d. 28 Dec 1951 in Manchester, CT
+**Hattie Charlotte Polley,** b. Sep 1876 in CT m. circa 1896, d. 11 May 1954 in Manchester
├── **Raymond L. Generous,** b. 17 Oct 1896 in CT d. 9 Mar 1982 in Windham
│ +**Aldina (Ardina) Martin,** b. circa 1895, m. circa 1921, d. 5 Jan 1969 in Windham
│ ├── **Harry R. Generous,** bap. 4 Sep 1921 in Willimantic d. 1 Aug 1962 in Windham
│ │ +**Lucille Gendreau,** bap. 2 Nov 1924 in Fall River, MA m. 4 Sep 1943 in Fall River
│ ├── **Pearl E. Generous,** b. circa Jan 1925 in CT
│ ├── **Shirley J. Generous,** b. circa Nov 1926 in CT
│ ├── **Betty A. Generous,** b. circa Nov 1928 in CT
│ ├── **Living Generous,** b. circa 1933 in CT
│ └── **James R. Generous,** b. 30 May 1937 in CT d. 30 Mar 2007 in CT
│ +**Living,** b. circa Jan 1935, m. 11 Oct 1969 in Windham
├── **Arthur G. Generous,** b. Mar 1899 in CT d. 2 Sep 1956 in Hartford
+**Dorothy Tryon,** b. circa 1906 in CT, m. circa 1924, div. aft 1930
├── **Arthur G. Generous Jr,** b. circa 1925 in CT
├── **Kenneth T. Generous,** b. 19 May 1926 in CT d. 2 May 1986 in Hartford
+**Theresa R. [--?--],** m. before 1950
+**Ann I. Winans,** b. 10 Aug 1931 in CT m. 14 Jun 1968 in Manchester d. 4 Nov 1993 in Hartford
└── **Donald E. Generous,** b. 27 Mar 1928 in CT d. 20 Sep 1995 in FL
+**Jacqueline M. [--?--],** b. 27 Dec 1928 in CT m. Jun 1953 in MD, d. 11 Jul 2007
+**Living,** b. circa 1945, m. 15 Jul 1978 in Manchester
+**Grace [--?--],** b. circa 1908 in ME m. circa 1935
└── **Living Generous,** b. circa 1936 in CT
├── **Harry W. Generous,** b. 3 Nov 1900 in Chaplin, CT d. 6 Feb 1991 in Stratford

| +**Ruth Thorpe,** b. 18 Nov 1902 in CT m. 1939, d. 17 Jan 1979 in Bridgeport, CT

| ├── **Living Generous**

| | +**Living,** b. circa 1946, m. 22 Jun 1968 in Stratford

| └── **Living Generous,** b. circa 1942

| +**Living,** b. circa 1954, m. 7 Sep 1974 in Bridgeport

├── **Lena E. Generous,** b. 7 Feb 1904 in CT d. 14 Jun 1978 in NY

| +**Raymond W. Hardie,** m. after 19 Aug 1934 in Hartford d. before 1958

├── **Jennie Generous,** b. circa 1906 in CT

├── **Hattie (Harriet) Polley Generous,** b. circa 1909 in Windham d. 1994 in Titusville, FL

| +**James Henry Darby Jr,** b. 1913, d. 1994

└── **Howard J. Generous,** b. 27 Dec 1914 in CT d. 3 Nov 1998 in Manchester

+**Bertha [–?–],** b. circa 1911, d. 2 Sep 1966 in Manchester, CT

+**Esther L. Dart,** b. 27 Mar 1910 in CT m. 18 May 1968 in Hartford d. 15 May 1998 in Manchester

Note: [--?--] indicates that the surname is not known.

Louis and Hattie's third son, Harry Generous, was the subject of an article in *The Courant Magazine* of February 13, 1966, titled "A Generous Share of Flying." They pointed out that "Generous, who retired recent-ly after ten years with Sikorsky Aircraft, is well-known in Con-necticut's early aviation history. He was a barnstorming pilot in the mid-1920s, an aviation cadet with the Army Air Corps, Connecticut's first deputy commissioner of aeronautics, a leader of the Connecticut Air National Guard, an emergency test pilot for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft and a pioneer in development of the Army glider program during World War II... He learned how to activate an atomic bomb. He helped develop the Atlantic missile test... He was awarded the Veterans of Foreign Wars Trumbull Trophy."

Louis and Lena's second son, Henry Michael Generous, was born June 16, 1878 in Baltic. He married Mariam Delia Roberts around 1901. Delia was born on October 4, 1875 in Oneco, CT, the daughter of Thomas Roberts and Roselia Melotte. Delia died May 2, 1948. Henry died in Hartford, CT on May 2, 1958, ten years to the day after Delia died. They had six children.

Most of Henry and Delia's married life was spent in the small village of North Windham about 8 miles from Willimantic. They probably lived for a time in Willimantic as they both worked in a local jewelry factory there and neither drove an auto or owned other means of transportation. Delia was educated in French convent schools as a child and was completely bilingual, and could, read, write and speak both French and English, although in her father's home French was spoken. Henry moved with his parents, Louis and Lena, to several towns in eastern CT, mostly between Baltic and North Windham, as his father was lured from one mill to another during Henry's early elementary school years. Depending on where the family was living, Henry spent some time in French speaking Catholic parochial schools and the rest of the time in the public schools where only English was spoken. He had great difficulty with reading and was essentially illiterate. Because there is a history of dyslexia among some of his descendents, he may have also been dyslexic or he may simply have had difficulty switching back and forth between French and English. He spoke English outside of his home but both Henry and Delia spoke French in their home during their early married years. Their daughter, Anna, didn't learn English until she went to school at age 6. At some point they decided they would only speak English at home from then on so that their younger children would not learn French at all. They were afraid that if their children spoke French they might speak English with an accent and that would lead to their being discriminated against. The only time French was spoken was on rare occasions when Henry and Delia were having private discussions that they didn't wish their younger children

to understand. They didn't permit their children to speak French at all. The two youngest, Alfred and Oliver, weren't around when the family spoke French so they never learned it. They were very close, in part because the older siblings were grown and married when Alfred and Oliver were young. They were also mischievous, something they never seemed to outgrow. When Oliver returned from Germany and before he had the opportunity to notify his family, he signaled his return by flying over North Windham and neighboring Scotland, CT. He broke the sound barrier and a few windows. He took the tops off a couple maple trees in Alfred's yard and shook the bricks out of an old chimney on the colonial farmhouse Alfred and his wife were restoring. The first author and her brother were so terrified that they dove under their parents' bed and stayed there for the entire afternoon. The adults knew that "Oliver's back." The unwitting citizens of North Windham called the command at Otis Air Force Base and complained. That is until they found out it was their beloved Oliver. Then they tried to "uncomplain," which did get him out of trouble but he was given the admonition that it had better never happen again.

Henry worked in the textile mills and on the railroads for the most part. Delia worked for a few years for a local doctor, possibly as his housekeeper and as his assistant in his home office. Either before they were married or shortly thereafter, Henry had a disagreement with a parish priest and left the Church. In spite of that, he and Delia had all their children baptized in the Catholic Church. Henry allowed his children to attend the local Congregational Church, which virtually everyone in town did because the owners of the local mills were members there. Delia adhered to her Catholic roots and attended Mass when possible at St. Mary's in Willimantic. Though Henry's children and their families considered themselves to be associated with the Congregational church, the first author's father, Alfred Generous, married a Catholic and a few years later became a practicing Catholic him-

self. Both Henry and Delia are buried in the North Windham cemetery adjacent to the Christian Society meeting house that had been leased to the Congregational church and is the property of the town. The meeting house burned down in the late 1980s. The town has maintained the cemetery over the years, but except for family plots not yet filled, it is closed to new burials. All of Delia and Henry's relatives were buried in St. Joseph's cemetery in Willimantic. Alfred said that when he was growing up one would hear French spoken in the streets and stores of Willimantic more often than English, such was the population of the city. Henry Senior's birth and baptismal records both give his surname as Genereux. All of Henry and Delia's children's birth records, however, use the surname Generous but their baptismal records at St. Mary's give their surname as Genereux.

One of the first author's favorite family stories involves Grandpa, Henry Michael, as a youngster. His mother, Lena, always baked for the week on Saturday mornings, but sometimes by the following Friday she would run out of bread and would send one of the children down the road to the general store to get bread. On one particular Friday she sent Henry to the store on this errand before dinner. He never came back. He had seen the circus passing by and left with them. He was gone for months and his parents didn't know what had happened to him. One can't imagine today that terrible feeling of having your twelve year old disappear. When the circus came back through the area about a year later, Henry returned home. He waited until dinner time, brought the bread with him and acted as if he had been gone for only a few minutes. There's reason to believe this story because, even in his 60s and early 70s, Henry would do acrobatics and would juggle the fruit kept in a bowl on the dining room table. He would also take an old wooden wheelbarrow and balance it on his chin by one handle. He did have reading trouble in school and quit by the time he was 12 and went to work in the mills. So he was doing a man's work in the mills unlike kids at that age today. It was in an era before the requirement to stay in school until the age of six-

teen. Henry was very athletic. He also played baseball in the minor leagues. This love of baseball has been inherited as current Generous family members are serious baseball fans and most of them are follow the Boston Red Sox.

Henry Michael and Delia's oldest son, Henry Emerson, quit school against his parents' wishes when he was fifteen or sixteen years of age. His father made him get a job in short order as the rule was to stay in school or work to help support the family. He was around twenty two years old when he married Emily Lewis. Emily was about a dozen years older than Henry and had been married before but no one in the family ever knew whether she was a widow or divorced. Henry and Emily had a marriage that lasted about fifty seven years but they never had children. Henry died in December, 1981 at age seventy nine. Emily lived for four and a half more years and died at age ninety one. They were very funny and every time Henry said something outrageous, Emily would look horrified and say, "Oh Hubby" as she would laugh uncontrollably as she wiped her eyes. When the nieces and nephews were children, Uncle Henry would line them up and look at them sternly saying in an accusing voice "Who broke the lock on the chicken house door." Of course they all denied any knowledge of such an offense. Eventually they learned there was no chicken house, lock or culprit. He also would save all his change in a huge jar and about once a year would have the children sit in a circle on the kitchen floor. Then he'd dump out all the coins and there would be a scramble to pick them up. Aunt Emily was a diminutive woman with huge breasts and very short legs. We had to have a chair with a very low seat for her to sit in. Her brother-in-law, Alfred, would tease her and she loved it. He would also tell her outrageous jokes. She would wipe her eyes with her ever present flowered hanky and say over and over "Oh Alfred." Henry liked to hunt and he had an old black and tan coon hound named Crowder. After Grandma Delia died, Henry Sr. lived with Henry and Emily for a few years. Then he moved to East Hartford with his daughter Anna for a couple of years before going to a nursing home because in his mid to late 70s he suffered from

Parkinson disease.

Anna Generous Spiller attended the little one room school house in North Windham as did all of Henry and Delia's children. When she graduated from eighth grade she rode the school bus to Windham high school but left before graduating to get a job. She married Percival Spiller not long after that and worked until her retirement at age 65 or so for Travelers Insurance in Hartford. Anna and Percival had a son and grandchildren. Anna's brother Alfred always said she was the most intelligent of all the Generous siblings and it was a crime that she hadn't completed her high school education and gone on to college. She and Perce loved music and dancing and were very sociable people. They were involved with the Masons and a women's associated organization. Perce played a piano and organ. Anna was a lively lady who was slim and trim and didn't look at all her age even when she died at age 84. She was something of a fashion plate and somewhat vain. The night she was hospitalized she had been attending a ball and was annoyed because a patch containing her heart medication showed above the edge of the neckline of her gown. She decided it wouldn't hurt to go without it for one evening. She might have had the heart attack and died even had she worn the patch. But removing the patch through vanity was such an Anna thing to do. And it had nothing to do with her intelligence or an aging mind. It was simply her priority to look her best.

Alvina or Albina was born in April, 1906 and died in October, 1907.

Cecelia Generous was born on January 12, 1910. She never went to high school because she was really shy and wouldn't ride the bus all the way to Willimantic. She married very young at fifteen or sixteen years of age to John F. Bennett who was almost a year and a half younger. The young couple lived with Cecelia's parents for the first few years of their marriage before moving to Willimantic where they resided the remainder of their married life. They had seven children, twelve grandchildren and a number of great grandchil-

dren. Cecelia always regretted her lack of education and stressed the importance of an education with her own children. Three of them are or were long-time teachers and two went to business colleges. Cecelia had a tendency to be superstitious and was always doing things like reading tea leaves, or throwing salt over the shoulder to ward off bad luck. Her brother Alfred said he had no idea where this came from because neither his parents nor anyone else in the family were superstitious. Cecelia was very influenced by her husband who tended to be the more dominant of the two. John was affable in social situations and he and Cecelia seemed to have a good time. They did a great deal of traveling by automobile. John Bennett died in an apparent drowning accident at around sixty five years of age when he probably fell into the freezing river in Willimantic in the wintertime and his body wasn't found until later. After he died, Cecelia moved with her two youngest daughters to a house they owned or rented in Manchester, CT. She died on December 1, 2010 about a month before her 101st birthday. Less than six months before she died, she was still riding to Boston with her daughters to attend Boston Red Sox games.

Alfred Robert Generous, the first author's father, was born April 12, 1916 in North Windham where he spent his childhood. He was an energetic and athletic child and a bit mischievous. A family story involves a Tom Sawyer-like episode from his youth. He and his best friend, Ed Burnham, were fooling around in the stream that ran behind the cemetery adjacent to the Congregational Church. The church was often used as a sort of community center for town meetings and entertainment events. Various individuals came to town and requested the use of the church for their upcoming performances that ranged from piano or fiddle recitals to theater, to speeches and séances. Séances were particularly popular although only a few folks took them seriously. On this particular day the boys came into the cemetery, saw everyone entering the church and managed to sneak in without paying the fee, or maybe didn't have to pay because they were children. A séance was about to begin and the spirit

medium, or seer, asked everyone in the audience to put a personal item such as a piece of jewelry or a scarf or handkerchief on the tray that was being passed around. In his pocket, Alfred had a large bull frog that he had caught in the stream. Ed Burnham leant his handkerchief, which Alfred wrapped around the frog and when the tray came to him he dropped it on the tray. For whatever reason, the frog never moved. The séance began and the seer would touch an item on the tray and call the dead relative of whoever owned the item he had touched. There would be the usual rapping noises, etc. Finally the seer reached out and touched the handkerchief in which was wrapped the frog. As soon as he touched the handkerchief the frog jumped up in the air and the handkerchief floated down. Everybody went screaming out of the church except, of course, the two boys. It was at this point that they were apprehended and ejected and told not to return. One wonders how successful the seer was at rounding up his frightened audience. After graduating from high school Alfred worked to put himself through college. He studied mechanical engineering at the University of Connecticut and at Hillyer College (later renamed University of Hartford). He entered the Army Air Corps and was accepted in cadets. He was a B17 pilot and he was injured in a plane crash during a training mission. While recovering from his injuries he met and married Mary Louise Campany of Croghan, New York. At the time, Mary was serving as an Army Nurse attached to the Air Corps. They were married at St. Stephen's church in Croghan. After the war and after spending the first year and a half of their marriage in Croghan, they moved back to Connecticut. Alfred returned to work at Pratt and Whitney Aircraft (PWA) where he stayed for 38 years as the general foreman responsible for quality control in the North Haven, Southington and Middletown plants. He helped set up and open those plants and he worked out of the North Haven plant during this time. The quality control system that PWA used and, which was eventually used throughout all of United Aircraft and eventually all of United Technologies, was designed by Alfred. The system

remained in use for many years but was probably replaced as computers entered the picture. Mary was an RN who graduated from St. Elizabeth's Hospital School of Nursing in Boston back when it was operated by the Allegany Franciscan Sisters.

Alfred and Mary had eleven children, twenty three grandchildren and a number of great-grandchildren. When Al and Mary returned to Connecticut after the war and was discharged from the military, they lived in Willimantic for two years. They then bought a farm on Pinch Street in Scotland, CT about 8 miles from Willimantic where they began the slow process of restoring the home. They leased some of the fields to a neighboring dairy farmer and the barn to a poultry farmer. Shortly after they moved there, Alfred was flying a small private plane that he had rented at the airport in North Windham and crashed it across the road from the house, re-injuring the same ankle he had so badly injured during the war. The engine on the plane failed and Alfred put the plane down in the pasture across the street, making every effort to keep the plane totally intact in order to be able to have the FAA investigate. Following the investigation the airport was cited for faulty maintenance on their planes. The only things damaged in the crash were the propeller and Alfred's ankle. It took months for him to recover, during most of which time he was on medical leave from his job. A couple of years later, Alfred was transferred from East Hartford to North Haven where he was to help the company open a new plant and set up the quality control department. So the family moved again. In the middle of this transition Mary was hospitalized in the sixth month of her sixth pregnancy. All of the children went to Croghan, NY to stay with their maternal grandparents for four months. Al remained at the North Haven plant until he took an early retirement in 1974 at age 58. For the next 28 years until Alfred needed to go to a nursing home/rehab facility the family lived in Croghan. Alfred Generous died at age 87 in Morrisville, NY, and is buried in St. Stephen's cemetery in Croghan. Mary resides in an assisted living facility near Syracuse, NY and just celebrated her ninety-second birthday.

The youngest of Henry and Delia Generous' children was Oliver Elwyn who was born on April 9, 1920. Although four years apart in age Oliver and Alfred were only two years apart in school and close companions. Oliver took the same route Alfred did in putting himself through the University of Connecticut and entering the Army Air Corps. After WWII, Oliver remained in the Air Force serving in Germany and at Otis Air Force Base in Falmouth, MA on Cape Cod. He was among the US Air Force's first jet pilots. The Fall 1954 issue of United Aircraft's Bee-Hive quarterly magazine's feature article "Flying the Night Picket" focused on Oliver's Squadron, Fighter Intercept Squadron 58, whose mission was flying guard in Lockheed F-94C Starfires over New England during the cold war. During that time he was periodically on assignment to the Air Guards of various states. On May 14, 1956, he was test flying a jet for the Pennsylvania air guard out of a Pittsburgh base. His engine failed. He ordered his co-pilot out of the plane. He stayed with the plane until he could get it away from a populated area. By the time he jumped, the plane was too close to the ground for his chute to open and he died that afternoon at around 5 p.m. Local Pittsburgh, PA newspapers heralded Oliver as a hero for staying with the plane long enough to spare people in two nearby houses. As a result of this accident, the ejection seat was developed that shoots the pilot high enough into the air for his chute to be operational even if the plane is actually sitting on the ground. Oliver is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. His widow, Philomena, remarried and divorced but retained the surname Generous. She is buried beside Oliver in Arlington. Oliver and Philomena had three children and several grandchildren who are still living. One of the grandsons is an air Force pilot.

Louis and Lena Genereux/Generous' third son was Robert Wyndham Generous who was born on September 22, 1884 in North Windham. In 1909, he married Irene H. Stubbs. Robert died on October 15, 1958. Robert and Irene had two daughters, Doris born in 1910 and Irene Anne born in 1913. Doris married Roy LaMothe around 1944. She was a teacher for

many years in New Canaan, CT, retiring just a month before she died in July, 1973. Irene married Fowler F. White in 1943. Divorced, she died at eighty years of age in October, 1993.

William Alfred Generous was born on September 2, 1886, the fourth and last son of Louis and Lena Generous. In the 1930 U.S, census, William had been married for nine years to Margaret Heacox, ten years his junior. Two sons, one born around 1922 and one around 1925 were also recorded in that census. A third son was born after 1930. William was employed for around thirty-five years by the New Haven Railroad. He died at age fifty four on November 25, 1939 in Noroton, CT. Margaret died January 28, 1971 in Wallingford, CT.

Although not all Generous families in the U.S. are likely Genereux descendants, the family discussed above is not the only family of Genereux descendants in Connecticut or even in New England to have adopted the surname Generous. Jean Baptiste Genereux, for example, a 4th cousin to Louis Genereux, settled his family into Sprague, CT around 1900. Jean Baptiste and his family used the surname Generous as adults rather than Genereux. Like the Louis Generous descendants, the choice to do so may have not been entirely their own but may also have been that they were influenced by local officials who continued to anglicize their surname to Generous.

About the Authors

Libby Generous Smith and George H. Buteau are 7th cousins one generation removed as their common ancestor is Pierre Genereux, the ancestor of all North American Genereux families. Libby and her husband, Bob Smith, live in upstate New York on 25 wooded acres. George Buteau is a long-time AFGS member, an assistant editor of JMS and a frequent contributor.

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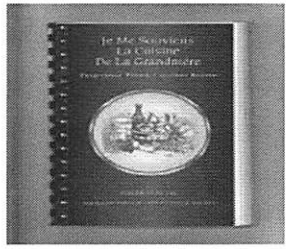

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ELISE'S LIST

By Maxine Tourigny

Sorting through my mother's things after her death, I found a small booklet, frayed and worn around the edges with some pages torn out. The cover says, "Ovide Rousseau,"my grandfather's name! On the pages that were left inside, my grandmother had recorded the births and sometimes deaths of her 15 children. She listed their names and birth dates one after the other with first names of Joseph for the boys and Marie for the girls, following the French Canadian tradition meant to keep the bearer close to the Church.

The first entry in the booklet is the date of her marriage: "Ovide Rousseau et Elise Bernier se sont marie le 27 Octobre en l'annee 1878." She was 16, he was 23. She was born in Lotbiniere, he in Ste Croix, both near the St. Lawrence River in Canada.

Memere recorded their first child: "Marie Delia Rousseau nee le 15 Mai en l'annee 1880 le Samedi a Manchester." Manchester is in New Hampshire. What were they doing there? The next entry is of Marie Delia's death on July 30, 1880. That's all we see of Manchester because Marie Josephine was born on March 17, 1882 and baptized up in St. Albert, Canada, south of where Elise and Ovide were born.

Moving back and forth continued. Memere's list has them going from St. Albert to Warwick for a baby girl, back to St. Albert for two girls and one boy, then one girl and one boy in Laconia, NH, and back to St. Albert for two girls and one boy. A steady journey south began in 1903 with Marie Blanche Yvonne and Joseph Eugene Edouard born and baptized in New Market, NH. Then came Joseph Marice Ernest Emille, born in 1906 in Leominster, MA. This is where they stayed, she for 33 years and it is here, at age 46, that my mother, Marie Alexcine Loretta Beatrice, Elise's 15th child, was born on May 14, 1909. By this time Memere's handwrit-

ing is very large and not as neat as her other entries, for this her last record.

Recently, I took out my daughter's baby book. She's my oldest and in it I had carefully made note of the events of her first years. Even though I have three children, hers is the only baby book I completed. I wonder at my grandmother's persistence in keeping her record. Did she want to remember each as special and this was her way of holding them close so that none would be overlooked?

Other than this list, I know very little about my grandmother. I know she designed and had built two three-deckers in Leominster, across the street from St. Cecilia's convent at 197 and 201 Mechanic Street. She nurtured and managed her growing family all while my grandfather came and went. Besides his family, Pepere Ovide's claim to fame is recorded in his obituary which reads: "Three times he prospected in the gold fields of the Klondike, Alaska." (*Leominster Enterprise,* 4-25-32, p.2)

By the time I came along, Memere was living with us, my father, my mother and me. I don't remember her, except I've been told she liked to hug me very tightly. She died when I was three.

Besides this document that she left us , we also have her name, Elise. None of her children had it. She left that for me, my daughter and two granddaughters. Elizabeth is my middle name and my daughter's first. Eleeza Mei is one granddaughter's name and the other's is Sara Elizabeth. Even though the spelling has changed, her name is part of us, and we have become part of her and her list.

So if you have very little information to begin your family genealogy, be careful what you throw out as you clean up your parents's belongings.

BOOK REVIEW:

DNA-USA

A Genetic Portrait of America

By Bryan Sykes

Liveright Publishing Corporation, 368 pp. $27.95

By Thomas Allaire

I have reviewed the book "DNA-USA" by Bryan Sykes. Mr. Sykes is a trained geneticist from Oxford University in England who has opened up the study of DNA to the masses. The public seems to be responding favorably to it. It is catching on like wildfire within the genealogical community. In the previous decade DNA was used successfully to follow human migration out of Africa and around the world. He has written other successful and informative books. Here he takes on the task of telling the story of the settlement of the United States from the DNA signatures of its people. Normally, his latest opus would be eagerly awaited, and it was, but in my opinion, the book does not live up to its promise. It lacks professional proof-reading, editing, fact-checking and peer-review.

The first problem with the book is the numerous mis-composed and un-proofread statements in the first chapters, fewer in the second half. On page 38, there is the sentence "But what were conditions were like at the time?" How did that get there? A good proofreader could have caught that. On page 65, we have "since when the great majority of immigrants have originated from outside Europe". What did the editor think of that? If "when" was "then", the sentence would have worked better. There are the passages "And always getting caught" as a complete sentence on page 178, and "which are a basically a pow-wow" another sentence with an extra word on page 253. There are others. It seemed

initially that Mr. Sykes proof-read his own book - never a good idea.

There are also numerous mis-statements, contradictions and obvious mistakes in the early chapters. Most unforgivable are his accounts of the number of chromosomes in the human genome. I have found three different figures: 24 chromosomes on page 68, 23 on pages 155, 156. The correct number, 46, is given elsewhere in the book. Good peer-review could have stopped that. He also gives confusing explanations about mutation rates. His assertion on page 23 of one mtDNA mutation every 20,000 years is close enough in magnitude to the 10,000 year figure that other people use, and he, himself, used in an interview last April in Washington, DC. But then he says that nuclear DNA mutates at 1/20 that rate and that is way off. Is he saying that the nuclear DNA mutates only once every 400,000 years? He can't be serious. Evolution would not proceed. There are two kinds of mutations to consider and one kind occurs 20 times as fast as the other. He makes no distinction between the two kinds in this critical passage. He also does not take into account that nuclear DNA has MUCH more space to accumulate mutations than mitochondrial DNA has, mutations that will come even though it has correcting abilities that the mtDNA does not. The forensics people and genealogists depend on it. If I were his editor I would have told him to rewrite that section. His discussion of mitochondria counts on page 23 should also be recomposed. I believe he means to say that there is one copy of each of the 23,000+ nuclear genes in a cell, but "hundreds or even thousands" of copies of each mitochondrial gene in a cell. Well, if that's what he means, then that's what he should say. Tying the two together invites multiplication which over exaggerates the count.

There are also lesser mistakes that happen occasionally. He actually says that a person has 16 great-great grandparents (correct) on page 156, and directly under that line on the same page says that a person has 32 great-great grandparents, repeated on the next page. Obviously, he left out one "great".

Speaking of 16, 2 to the 16th power is 65,536, not 65,538, page 157. Portland, Oregon is not a coastal city - it is about 80 miles from the Pacific by car, and not at the mouth of the Columbia River. The first census of the US was taken in 1790, not 1800, page 133. There are more. Where is the fact-checker? There are other statements that are not directly incorrect, but still controversial or counter-intuitive. For instance, he says things about the history of the ancient Hebrews, Indian archeology at the time of the end of the ice age, the arrival of Polynesians to the Americas from Taiwan by way of Alaska, proto-Norwegians skirting the ice packs between Iceland and Greenland to arrive in Labrador, the similarities between the Dine and Algonquin language groups, the value of a dollar in 1803 and many other statements, some not in his area of expertise, most devoid of evidence (present in this book, anyway). Raising these issues here does nothing for the book and requires more fact-checking. He seems to have a certain self-confidence when writing that doesn't serve the science and anthropology sections very well. It seems to invite ambiguity and mis-understanding. It detracts from the book when combined with counter-intuitive arguments, proof-reading flaws and obvious factual mistakes. All these problems, large and small, accumulate, and they damage the credibility of everything else he says.

The second half of the book is largely devoted to his trip across the United States to collect samples of DNA here and there. He is obviously fascinated by the sheer size of the US as compared to his much smaller home country of England. Many web reviewers have complained that the travelogue section is out of place in a book about science and that the samples are too few in number to give any meaningful results. Well, the documented trip serves to define the scope of his conclusions and is useful here. The tales of his trip were pleasurable and easy reading and added to the book's enjoyability. Some readers may like the book on those grounds. I also liked the descriptions of his work on Scottish surnames - the Clan Donald, etc. He did terrific work in that area, of

great interest to people who grew up in England. He was also quick to point out certain past mistakes and incorrect assumptions he made. Good for him. He uses terms such as "African-Americans" and "Native-Americans" slightly more than half the time, making it seem that he thinks he must do so since he is writing for an American audience. However, he lets the terms "blacks" and "Indians" slip in often enough so that he does not seem a total slave to American-style political correctness - also good.

Because of his forays into these other areas of history, anthropology and genealogy, this cannot be considered a book about the DNA profile of the USA in general. He does not draw enough of the story from genetic evidence. He uses the genetics to confirm what we already know. We have not occupied this country long enough to establish our own recognizable signature yet, and our settlement history includes great numbers of people and groups that actually do have their own signatures. This also cannot be considered a beginner's book on DNA science. Better explanations of the science are available elsewhere. I'm sorry to say, I am disappointed with Bryan Sykes' latest book. If he had had more people involved in the production and a little more editorial oversight, it could have been a better product. Thumbs Down.

The First Muirs of the Province of Quebec

By Edward Wallace Phillips

Including two Millers, James and William Muir, their origins in Scotland, and the descendants of James Muir of Beloeil, Vercheres, Quebec, who settled in various towns in Quebec, Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

Adam Muir, 1768/70–1829, soldier at Montreal.

James Muir, 1769–1821, miller at Beloeil, Vercheres,

William Muir, 1775–ca. 1828, miller at St. Constant, Laprairie,

Archibald Muir, ca. 1785–1837, weaver at Russelltown.

John Mure, ca. 1776–1823, merchant at Québec City.

Five Muirs in the same vicinity at the same time and two of them were millers—coincidence—probably not. After much research in Québec as well as Scotland records, evidence has been found that supports James and William as brothers, with Adam and Archibald probably closely related and with no apparent relationship to John Mure.

The research was motivated by the curiosity to discover who our ancestors were, what they did, and what may have brought them to a new land. Secondly, other descendants of these pioneering men have speculated as to their origins without engaging in proper research to support their conclusions. Some of these researchers believe James and William came to America with their father before the American Revolution then fled with Loyalist families who travelled up the Hudson to the Richelieu River and settled in Québec. While many families who did not support the American Revolution did flee across the border to seek a new home in Canada it does not appear any of these Muirs did. It would appear after much

research into the records of these men that they came for money or the opportunity to improve their lives. John Mure came probably in the 1780s as a merchant, Adam about 1799 as a soldier in the 41st Regiment of Foot, Archibald probably about 1808 as a weaver, James probably in 1795 as a miller, and William possibly a couple years later, also as a miller.

My wife's grandmother Clara Muir was the main reason this research began almost ten years ago, as she was the granddaughter of a French Canadian immigrant, but the surname Muir was not of French origins. This curiosity led to this research and eventually to the discovery of Clara's great-grandfather's baptism in Scotland.

The most significant challenge in researching and preparing a genealogy of this magnitude was the constant variation in a single individuals name from record to record. When these individuals or families travelled from one country to another and were recorded in various records such as baptisms, marriages, deaths, or censuses, the spellings of their names were heavily influenced by the local magistrates who kept the records, i.e., priests, notaries, town clerks and census workers. James became Jacques, William became Guillaume, etc. Additionally, names were influenced by the French custom of "dit" names. A dit name is an alias, or an additional descriptive to distinguish one family with the same surname from another. In many families these dit names would be used haphazardly, appearing in a baptism record for instance but not when the child married years later or visa versa. These dit names would disappear when the families immigrated to New England, and in many cases the surname would be dropped and the dit name would remain. Additionally, first names would be translated or anglicized when the families immigrated to America, for example Pierre becoming Peter, Hermas becoming Henry, and at least in one case Fisalem becomes Benjamin!

One of the challenges was to find every individual in this genealogy in every census that he or she lived. In many cases this involved page by page reading of one or more towns to locate these families because of spelling variations even be-

tween family members. In many cases the census workers were given the nickname of the family members to record, most likely because the nickname was the name these people used in their daily lives. All of this created a unique challenge in presenting these names in this genealogy. Do you use the birth name, the baptismal name, the name used in the marriage record, the name given at death, or the nicknames that appear in the censuses, even when many different names or spellings were used over a single individual's lifetime? The format that I finally settled on was to use the full baptismal name, if the baptism record was found, as the most "correct" spelling, and I use the word "correct" lightly. Next, if a nickname is found in any one or in several records it was added in quotation marks such as "Hattie." Third, if an individual was born in Québec and the baptism record was found and then they moved to New England and the name, first or last, changed, or was "anglicized," the new variation would be appended in brackets [] to the name that changed. Several examples to demonstrate how the names are presented throughout this genealogy are as follows: Joseph Gauthier/[Gokey][dit Landreville]. His baptism name was Joseph Gauthier and in some records he appeared as a Landreville. Gauthier was anglicized to Gokey in America.

Mary [Paquet dite] Lavallée/[Lovely]. Her baptism record could not be found so her name was presented as her fathers was so she would have been presumed to have been baptized as Mary Lavallée, or possibly Mary Paquet dit Lavallée. When her family arrived in Vermont the Paquet name was dropped and the surname Lavallée was anglicized to Lovely.

It is also important to understand the history of the place or places where your ancestors lived. The province of Quebec came under English rule following the end of the French and Indian War in November 1763. Also called the Seven Years War by the Canadians, this signaled British conquest of Canada was complete. Many British and Scottish merchants took this opportunity to begin trade with Canada, and many made their fortunes in the following decades, interrupted for a time

by the American Revolution (1775–1783). Men such as William Grant, Simon Sanguinet, and John Mure, to name a few, made their fortunes during this time.

William Grant (1744–1805) owned the seigneury of Beloeil as well as numerous other lands, placing his nephew David Alexander Grant in charge of his holdings. In January 1796 James Muir signed a contract with David to run these mills. William died in 1805, and after James Muir's death, the administration of his estate included a land grant from David's widow, Dame Marie Charles Josephte LeMoyne.

Simon Sanguinet (1733–1790) purchased the seigneury of Lasalle [Montreal] in 1782 and died childless in 1790. His brother Christopher, who had become seigneur at Varennes in 1776, contested the will and soon afterwards had his son Louis Sanguinet managing the properties at LaSalle. Louis was present at William Muir's marriage in 1799 when William was called the master miller of the seigneury of La Salle. William Muir moved to LaPrairie where he was a miller until his death in about 1828.

James and William Muir were probably recruited in Scotland and brought to Lower Canada in the 1790s to run the mills of these rich land barons. Archibald Muir, possibly another brother or maybe a cousin, was probably brought to the Huntington area in 1808 to run the mill there. (Archibald was called a *tisserand* [weaver] in most of his children's baptism records.) Archibald travelled several times to the parish church where William Muir was living to have his children baptized, one child even on the same day as one of William's children. Adam Muir, who served in the 41st Regiment of Foot, the only English regiment in Canada in the first two decades of the 1800s, probably arrived in Canada in 1799, and was also possibly related to these three other Muir's. William, Adam, and James Muir attended the wedding of Thomas Hébert and Marie Richard at St. Mathieu de Beloeil in 1802. Thomas Hébert was the nephew of James wife.

The baptisms of James and William Muir were found in Scotland. Neither Archibald's nor Adam's baptisms have been

found, and Adam's presence at the 1802 wedding is the only clue of a relationship with the others. At William's baptism in Scotland, a James Cleghorn was one of the witnesses. He was said the be a "Wright" or millwright, and was perhaps the man who was responsible for James and William's training as millers.

The biography of John Mure, who presumably appears in Montreal about 1782, says he named two sons William and James, although this author was not able to find any record of either of these children. In his marriage contract of 1798 his parents are named, clearly indicating he wasn't a brother. James Muir was married at the Anglican church at Sorel in 1796 because he was not a Catholic. The first families at Sorel, Richelieu, Québec, Canada, were United Empire Loyalists who had left the newly formed United States of America after the Declaration of Independence on 4 July 1776. In 1779 those first families signed a petition with Canadian Governor Frederick Haldemand asking him to name a minister who would establish a parish at Sorel in order to provide them with the "benefits of their religion." The newly formed parish church was called Christ Church, and was the first Protestant parish in the province of Québec.

It was in this church that James Muir married in October 1796. It appears James had arrived in the mid 1790's from Scotland, probably because his trade as a *meunier* (miller) was needed in the village of Beloeil where he and his new bride settled after their marriage. William Muir lived nearby in the parish of St. Constant, La Prairie County, and was married in St. Gabriel's Presbyterian Church in Montreal to Catherine Bertrand. The notary *Edme Henry* issued the marriage license to William and Catherine which named William's parents as James Muir and Anna Ellis.

James wife's nephew Thomas Hébert was married at St. Mathieu de Beloeil 20 September 1802 and in the parish register the priest noted those present including Guilaume [*sic*, one "l"], Adam, and James Mior [*sic*], with James signing the parish register "James Muir." Clearly Guillaume [William], Adam, and James knew each other. Based on the notary rec-

ord naming William's parents his baptism record was found in Scotland. William had an older brother James baptized in the same parish in Scotland and who fits with the James living at Beloeil. A baptism record was not found for Adam but based on his age when he married he was probably a year or two older than James.

The actual marriage record for James and Marian reveals a couple interesting facts. Firstly, the Rector John Doty wrote that both James and Marian were of "full age," and he called Marian a "spinster." Wikipedia says the term spinster originally identified girls and women who spun wool (medieval times), and in the Elizabethan era the term spinster came to indicate a woman or girl of marriageable age who was unwilling or unable to marry. The term also evolved into a legal term to describe unmarried woman, and was commonly heard in the banns of marriage of the Church of England. This latter definition is the applicable one in this case since Christ Church was an Anglican Church. Also in the marriage record of Adam Muir to Elizabeth Bender, Elizabeth was called a spinster and the record gave her age as sixteen. Interestingly, the phrase "both of full age" would suggest James and Marian were both over 21 years old. In 1782 a law was passed by the British Parliament which set 21 years as the age of majority and became effective 1 January 1783 in both Canada and Britain. Although Marian was only 16 on the marriage date James was age 26. Marian's father Jean Baptiste Hébert and an Archange Hébert signed by the mark "X", while a John Scullen signed in larger letters than all the others, and in an excellent cursive style. John Scullen's name was also found on the marriage record of Joseph Burel to Marie Maillet at St. Mathieu de Beloeil on 21 February 1791. Marie Maillet was probably his wife's sister. Jean Scullin, an Irishman, died at St. Charles-sur-Richelieu 15 April and was buried there 17 April 1812 age 64 years 5 months leaving his wife Marie Rose Mayu/[Maillé?]. James entered into an extended lease of land at St. François Le Neuf with Jean from 1797 to 1804. St. François Le Neuf was part of St. Charles-sur-Richelieu parish. Finally the marriage record states "with the consent of

their parents," suggesting James parents were still living. No trace of his parents have been found after William's birth in 1775. Marian's father was living but her mother had died at Varennes 10 November 1790 at age 53 years.
James and Marie Archange's first-born son Jacques died in November 1797 and his death record said James was "the *meunier* (miller) of Mr. Grant." This confirms the contract James had signed the year prior to run the mills at Beloeil. The inventory of James estate, which was taken in February 1821 a month after James death, listed a "contract of concession" or a land contract with Dame Marie Charles Josephte Lemoine, the widow of David Alexander Grant.There were records at Christ's Church at Sorel of other "Moore's" recorded around the time of James marriage. A Joseph and Eleanor Moore baptised a son Fawk 2 March 1790, a daughter Elizabeth on 15 July 1792, and a Matilda Rebecca on 19 January 1795. The various sponsors at these baptisms were Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Matilda Moore, Richard Jones, John Jones, Robert Jones, Mary Jones, Thomas Jones, and Mrs. Cox. A Francis Moore, who was a loyalist, was buried there in 1801, a widow Mary Moore was buried there 31 July 1810 at the age of about 60 years, and a Jane Moore was married there 15 June 1801 to Henry Jeremiah Judah. This was a small community at this time and the same minister recorded all of these records, except widow Mary Moore's burial in 1810, using the same spelling for their surname as he had used for James Muir at his marriage. No connection has been made with either William or James to these "Moore's."
The book also contains the children of each of these five Muir as well as five generations of the descendants of James Muir. Many of his descendants migrated to the cities of New England between about 1850 and 1895 to work in the mills. The baptisms of most of their spouses which name their parents were also included in this genealogy. For the first time the descendants of these Muir men, especially James, can better understand where their ancestors fit into the history of Quebec.

*The book is available from the author in hardcover for $44.95 plus $5 for shipping, or from the publisher iUniverse (iuniverse.com) in either softcover or hardcover. Contact the author at either ephillips4064@charter.net, or Edward Wallace Phillips, 35 Oak Drive, Upton, MA. 01568- **Editor***

.A seigneury was a landed estate held in Canada by feudal tenure until 1854 (*www.meriam-webster.com/dictionary/*).

. Much of these first two paragraphs were found in the biographies of William Grant, Simon Sanguinet, and John Mure, in the Canadian Biography Online project (Roberts, *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*).

. BAnQ, Felix Tetu, notaire, Marriage contract of John Mure and Margaret Porteus.

. Jacques Muir household no. 14, 1881 Canadian Census, St. Georges de Windsor, Richmond & Wolfe, Québec, FHL film no. 1375833, district C-13197, sub-district A, p. 3, abstracted online at *familysearch.org*. Jacques[3-2-1]) stated he and his children were of Scottish origins.

. St. Gabriel Presbyterian Church, Montreal, parish register.

. BAnQ CN-6004903, reel 3244, Edme Henry, notaire, Muir–Bertrand; AFGS, *Répertoire Alphabétique des Mariages des Canadiens-Français, 1760–1935: Ordre Féminin*, vol. 6, incorrectly listed the parents as John Muir and Catherine Mullin-Ellis while citing Edme Henry's notary record.

. St. Mathieu de Beloeil parish register.

. American-Canadian Genealogist, 20(Summer 1964):61 no. 3, p. 152, citing Aegidius Fauteux, "L'age de majorite," *Bulletin Des Recherches Historiques* 35(1929):363–64.

. St. Mathieu de Beloeil parish register.

. St. Charles-sur-Richelieu parish register.

. BAnQ CN-6005942, reel 2415, 2417, J.M. Mondelet, notaire, lease 24 April 1797 to 7 May 1804.

. Varennes parish register.

. A pencil sketch of William Grant was published in Parker and Bryan, *Old Quebec: The Fortress of New France*, p. 221, in Simcoe and Robertson, *Diary of Mrs. John Graves Simcoe*, p. 98, and finally in Audet and Surveyer, *William Grant*, pp. 21, 24; Roberts, *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*.

. Simmons, *Christ Church, Anglican, Sorel, Quebec, 1784–1899, Index to Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials*, p. 182; Vokey, *The 175th Anniversary History of The Parish of Christ Church, Sorel, Que.*. Rev. John Doty was the first minister serving from 1784 to 1802.

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The Latour Dit Forgit Family in New England

By Roy F. Forgit

This article was originally published in the Spring 2003 issue of *Je Me Souviens.*—**Editor**

Le Fondeur de Cloches: The Bellmaker

The year was 1712 when a twice married widower of about age 41 sailed from La Rochelle in the small maritime Province of Aunis on the southwestern coast of France. There was a relative peace in Canada's three small colonial settlements along the St. Lawrence River. The famed Carignan Regiment had succeeded in the task of controlling the murderous raids of the Iroquois from the forests of the inland to the south. Forts guarded the approaches to Montréal and Québec along the Richelieu and Chaudiere Rivers, respectively. New France was about to embark on a period of economic expansion which would last a quarter-century, beginning in 1713 when the Treaty of Utrecht was signed. The result would be a doubling of the population of these French colonies of North America, from under 20,000 in 1712 to over 40,000 by 1739.

The *Sun King*, Louis XIV, still ruled France, but the aging absolute monarch was nearing the close of his long reign, 1643-1715. He had been *Le Roi* since age 5, but was now 69 years old and would be deceased within three years, to be succeeded on the throne at Versailles by his son, Louis XV.

Born in 16711 at Saintes in the Province of Saintonge, which was just southeast of La Rochelle, Pierre LATOUR was the son of a minor official, a *Huissier* (Bailiff). His father was Louis LATOUR, also titled *Archer de la Marechaussée de Saintonge,*2 which means he was a bowman in the militia of

the local general, as a *Marechal* was a General Officer. His mother was Marthe MICHEL. Only two of Pierre's siblings are known, both sisters: Suzanne, born in 1686, and Marie, born in 1688, who died in 1700, at age 12.3 Pierre first married on 15 November 1688 in the Church of *Saint Sauveur* (Holy Savior) at La Rochelle. His bride was Renée DUBOIS, daughter of Emmanuel DUBOIS and Marie VIAU. His father-in-law was also a Bailiff, from Beauvais, a town in the valley of the River Sevres. There are no found records of children born of this union, nor do we know when Renée passed away. We do, however have a remarkable copy of the original record of this first marriage, written in 'old French' script, with the signatures legible, courtesy of I.F.G.H.4 See appendices. His second marriage was to Jacquette LEVASSEUR on the 3rd of February, 1706, at the church of *St. Jean*, also in La Rochelle. He is then termed a *fondeur* and the widower of Renée DUBOIS. He resides in the city, in the Parish of *St. Barthelemy*. The bride is the daughter of Louis LEVASSEUR, an innkeeper, and of Elisabeth BOUTIN. We are fortunate to have received, also from I.F.G.H. in La Rochelle, a copy of this marriage in the original handscript (See appendices).
Most likely the *fondeur* crossed the ocean in the springtime, after the threat of the Atlantic's winter storms. It also appears that he had companions on the sea voyage, which often took two months at that time. Records of his marriage contract of 23 September 1712, so well completed by the Notary CHAMBALON, and of his October 3rd
marriage at Beauport to Catherine CHEVALIER, state that several friends of the groom were present. Among them were Jacques PAYANT *dit* Saintonge, his cousin, and Jacques BERTHAULT, a friend.5
PAYANT was a rope maker and BERTHAULT a barrel-maker, both crafts in high demand, as New France was increasing exports to France and to her possessions in the West Indies.

that several friends of the groom were present. Among them were Jacques PAYANT *dit* Saintonge, his cousin, and Jacques BERTHAULT, a friend.5 PAYANT was a rope maker and BERTHAULT a barrel-maker, both crafts in high demand, as New France was increasing exports to France and to her possessions in the West Indies.

We learn too, from CHAMBALON that LATOUR had apparently hurried his preparations to sail from France. He had failed to take the time to inventory the joint property of his second wife, Jacquette, who was recently deceased at age 34. What is more, he had left his six-year-old daughter, Suzanne, in France without appointing a guardian.6 What a critical notary he had!

It is fairly certain that his own parents, Louis and Marthe, couldn't have taken in the child, as other references indicate that they were then deceased. But his sister, Suzanne LATOURCROZETIERE, 7 had married well in La Rochelle and she most likely raised the girl, who being her name-sake was probably her god-child. Pierre had been godfather to Suzanne's own daughter, Marie, at her baptism on 9 January 1705 in La Rochelle. So these two little girls, first cousins, were only about a year apart in age. Marie herself would marry well in 1725 to André GRESSEAU, *Seigneur de St. Benoit*, the rich son of a counselor to the King. The CROZETIERES were politically connected it appears, as the husband of Suzanne LATOUR, Geoffroy, was in 1709 the caretaker of the Royal Prisons at La Rochelle and a merchant. Unfortunately, we found no further record of the life of Pierre's older daughter by Jacquette, Suzanne. However, another daughter is recorded by GODBOUT in his writings. He lists a bell for the Cathedral of Québec. This to be not only a work of art, but also an engineering feat simply in the raising to the bell-tower. Sad to say, it no longer exists. We are informed, again by Morisset, that it:

"...was destined to be wrecked during the siege of 1759, probably in the course of the terrible bombardments at the end of July."

Two years later in 1718, the family is at Montréal where a

third child, Madeleine-Marguerite, would be born and baptized on September 20th. This move of some 156 miles is just the first of baptism on 23 June 1711 at La Rochelle of Françoise LATOUR, daughter of Pierre and Jacquette.8 Why is she omitted by CHAMBALON? This child would have been about eight months old when Pierre left for Canada, if indeed she was still living.

In his third marriage, his new wife was a 20-year old native of Canada, her family having been one of the earliest to settle in Beauport, sometime before 1656. Her parents were Jean CHEVALIER and Marguerite-Madeleine AVISSE, who had themselves wed there in 1686.9 Jean was a stonemason. The parish at Beauport was named *Notre-Dame de la Misericorde.* It had been established in 1673 and the first church erected in 1684. This tiny settlement lay just east of Québec. The biographer of LATOUR, Gerard MORISSET, duly notes that one of his first pieces of workmanship in Canada was a bell of the *fondeur* intended for the church at Beauport.

By 1716 Pierre is well established with a business as a merchant in the lower city of Québec, residing on the *Rue du Sault-au-Matelot.* But the times are sad. Their first two children had both died within months of their births at Québec. Marie-Josephte was born in July 1713 and died that September. Pierre-Charles had been born in August 1715, but he only lived until February 1716.10 LATOUR's first large contract was with the 1716 commission to cast an 1800-pound bell for the Cathedral of Québec. This to be not only a work of art, but also an engineering feat simply in the raising to the belltower. Sad to say, it no longer exists. We are informed, again by Morisset, that it:

"...was destined to be wrecked during the siege of 1759, probably in the course of the terrible bombardments at the end of July."

Two years later in 1718, the family is at Montréal where a third child, Madeleine-Marguerite, would be born and baptized on September 20th. This move of some 156 miles is just the first of many to be recorded as Pierre's business required on-site castings of the church bells. Travel was by river boats

or *bateaux*, as no roads yet connected the three major settlements of New France. It would be 1737 before a one-horse carriage could travel all the way from Québec City to Montréal in four days. Even then, ferries were needed to cross the larger tributary rivers, chiefly the St. Maurice at Trois- Rivieres.11 During the winters, a road was marked out with spruce trees on the ice of the wide St. Lawrence, which was truly their 'Main Street'.

What is more fascinating is that the bell-maker did not travel at all lightly, as his tools of trade were heavy! These included hammers, chisels, tongs, bellows and molds, plus a supply of copper and scrap-iron. A wonderfully descriptive paragraph by Morisset tells us in some detail what this craftsman bell-maker did in a day's work:

"...it depends on the written records, tower by tower, precise or odd, that we show the caster at work, busy around his furnace, heating up the fire or cooling it, proportioning the bags of iron pellets that he collected at the homes of the inhabitants of each village where he labored, filing and polishing with pains the roughly cast bronze, seeking the essential harmonics, taking care finally at the installation of his bells so that they rang the most agreeably as possible."12 The 'iron pellets' referred to are grapeshot (Fr.: *mitraille*), and we asked why people living in a dangerous frontier area would give him ammunition which they needed to defend against Indian raids. We believe now that LATOUR had to scrounge about for these bits of iron and that the 'collecting' in the local homes meant that he dug them out, literally, from the exterior log walls of cabins and palisades.

Next we find the *fondeur* back down-river at Beauport in 1720, but Catherine remained at Montréal where her fourth child, Jean-Baptiste, was born on March 10th. Once again, sad to relate, this child would not survive to adult-hood. He died on 7 September 1720. The years 1720-27 would show parish records with Pierre's name over a wide area, indicating a great deal of travel, but no impressively large bells being cast. He was in Bellechasse in 1724, Lauzon and Beauport in 1726, and in both Yamachiche

and Berthier-enhaut in 1727. An interesting fact is that he was sometimes paid by means of agricultural products; for example, at Grondines, he received 66 *minots de bled*, or wheat. A *minot* was equal to 1.05 bushels. Later on at Varennes he was given 30 *minots* of corn, at an exchange rate of 2 *livres* per *minot*.13 A *livre* was a currency unit. The need for barter was evidence of the problems with achieving a stable currency in the colony. Lanctot discusses this matter at some length in his historical writings, to quote: "... commercial activity was seriously hampered by the scarcity of coin in the colony.

Each year the King's ship brought a large quantity of species from the Royal Treasury, chiefly for payment of the troops, but much of it went back in the autumn to pay for imports, and part of what remained was hoarded. The dearth of small change had become so acute since 1719, the year card money was abolished, that in 1722, in an effort to silence complaints, the West India Company fabricated and sent to Canada 20,000 *livres* of copper money. The people, however, refused to accept it because it was heavy and awkward to handle, and its circulation was limited to the colony. It had, therefore, to be sent back to France."14 Card money was re-instituted in 1729 by Louis XV, and so successfully that people hoarded it, requiring a new issue in 1733. This type of currency then continued to command credit as a viable means of exchange.

In 1722 a fifth child had been born to the LATOURs, this time at Québec City, on July 15th. He was baptized Michel on the 16th. As had happened with three earlier babies, Michel would live a short life. He died at Québec, only age three, on 7 September 1725.

Their sixth child, Marie- Josephte, arrived in September 1723. She and Madeleine would both survive to adulthood and marry at Québec City, but after the demise of their father. The six offspring recorded by René JETTE are considered an incomplete listing. We know that the other issue of Pierre and Catherine, perhaps several, are not mentioned due to lost baptismal records.

Our own next generation ancestor, Antoine, is stated as their son on his marriage record of 1737.15 The very fact of this couple's frequent change of domicile gives credence to the idea that some other births have been missed.

A large assignment was won by our *fondeur* in Montréal on 12 June 1728. This was a commission for a 1200-pound bell for the Church of Notre Dame. It became a three month long project, as the completed bell was not mounted in its belfry until the end of December.

A second bell of 100 pounds was cast for Notre Dame just two years later, in September of 1730. In between the two bells at Montréal, he made one for Ste. Anne de Beaupré, a considerable distance away, as this shrine is well east of Québec City. That bell was consecrated on 31 May 1730, and raised to the beautiful belfry which had been designed by Claude BAILLIF and added to the church in 1696. This church no longer stands, as after partially rebuilt in 1787- 89, it was carefully deconstructed in 1878. The materials were then used to build a replacement, the Memorial Chapel.16 We understand that the bell now there is a facsimile to LATOUR's, put up in 1788 to replace his original.17

We should note here, too, that a plaque on the front wall of this chapel is dedicated to the memories of Louis and Pierre GAGNE and their wives, who helped to establish the original church in the 17th century. These are the ancestors of our uncle, Clarence GAGNE, as documented in his family history, and his extensive genealogy.

The year 1730 also saw the *fondeur* at the villages of La Prairie and Boucherville, both opposite Montréal on the south bank. He was paid 200 *livres* in each case for similar small bells. As best we now know, La Prairie marks the most westerly point in his travels. It lies just below the notorious Lachine Rapids of the St. Lawrence, the site of many drownings.

The final entries of MORISSET in his loggings of the bell-castings of LATOUR concern the work he did at Varennes. There are said to be fifteen separate notes on one page for a bell of 80 pounds which he cast in 1733-34.

These include the *Abbé* Ulric's costs for tin, wood, bricks, tallow, iron-shot, and labor, plus brandy and the 'Blessing'– no doubt a celebration. LATOUR would not receive his final payment until 1735. Could this be that this very meticulous priest wished to be quite certain that the bell would not crack? The risks found in Pierre's profession did not come only from his handling of a hot forge and molten metals, nor in climbing the scaffolds of many high belfries. Other accounts tell us of a 1732 earthquake at Montréal, which brought down walls at the hospital (*Hôtel-Dieu*) and at the Recollet Monastery. Later a smallpox epidemic began at Montréal in 1733 and spread all through the country, resulting in the deaths of 900 people. The hospitals of all three major towns were overworked. Finally, a third disaster befell the city in 10 April 1734 when an arsonist set fire to the *Hôtel-Dieu* and its chapel. This catastrophe destroyed 46 houses before being put out.18

As noted earlier, the *fondeur* was all about the area during these calamitous events. The labors of the bell-maker would cease in 1736. He died at Montréal on January 19th of that year. We located his brief three line burial notice in the records of Notre-Dame de Montréal.19 He is said to be the *fondeur de cloches*, so there is no mistaking him. It states that he is a resident of Québec, but omits any reference to his wife which indicates that they knew but little of him. He was buried in the cemetery of the poor. The age of 70 is stated however this is of some doubt and is questioned by MORISSET and others.

Three people signed his burial notice, two of whom were priests, PEIGNE and BREUL. The third signer was Simon MANGINO, perhaps just an available person who could write. Pierre LATOUR was not the first *fondeur* of New France. Earlier accounts of the Church of Notre-Dame de Québec indicate that a man by the name of Jean HAMMONET or AMOUNET had cast bells there in 1664 or 1665.20 He is also listed in the census of 1666mas *maitre-fondeur, 38 ans*.

It is reasonable to wonder whether Pierre's son, Antoine, con-

tinued in this particular craft, being also a blacksmith. We find no definitive answers. But MORISSET provides some background when he writes: "His bells, many of which were very small, have been replaced by much heavier bells, and more clarion-like. Who could have foreseen, in the period of 1730, the rapid development of the colony...when they began to erect large belfries and huge light-towers? It is without doubt the unexpected change in the weight of bells that had discouraged the successors of Pierre LATOUR."21 His widow, Catherine, would remarry in October of 1741 to François RAGEOT, a notary for the French Crown (*Notaire Royal*), at Québec.22 She would have been age 49 by then. Their two daughters also wed at Québec, in the Church of Notre-Dame. Madeleine married Louis BARDET, a *navigateur*, on 15 September 1744.

Her sister, Marie-Josephte, married François LEMAITRE, widower, on 11 November 1749.23 Their stepfather was present at both weddings, so it is to be assumed that he gave away the brides. Also, each of the girls was present at the other's ceremony, but no mention is made of their mother, Catherine. Since Pierre LATOUR is deceased is duly noted, it must be that their mother is still living. Further research may locate the record of her demise. However, a real possibility exists that she may have left Québec with her husband, as many French officials did, following the Conquest in 1759, in fear of the British.

In review the above is a remarkable account, a lode of information concerning one man's life, lived over two hundred and sixty years ago. Pierre LATOUR was neither wealthy nor famous. He was made unique by his occupation. Although just a humble artisan, his efforts produced a product that was much valued, even capable of being termed a coveted possession, as it had a great utility to the clergy who contracted his services. In so doing

they did also a great service to his later renown, in their scrupulous accountings of the costs of casting a bell for their parishioners, and for the Glory of God.

This must be termed, too, a half biography, as it encompasses only the latter half of his life. How many bells did he cast in France? We can only guess whether there exist dusty volumes containing the name Pierre LATOUR in the library archives of Aunis and Saintonge provinces.

Footnotes

1 JETTE, Réné, *Dist. Généalogiquedes Familles de Québec. Les Presses de l'Univ. De Montréal*, 1983, Vol. 3, p.661. He cites the census of 1716 which states the age of LATOUR is 45 years.
2 Ibid.
3 Suzanne is listed by JETTE, above. Marie is found in GODBOUT, Pere Archange, *Emigration Rochelaises en Nouvelle-France*, Archives de Québec, 1970, p.141.
4 *Institut Francophone de Généalogique et d'Histoire*, La Rochelle, France. Correspondence. I became a member in 1999.
5 MORISSET, Gerard, *Le Fondeur de Cloches, Pierre Latour, La Revue de l'Université Laval*, Québec, Vol. 3, No. 7, p.566. He discusses the marriage contract by CHAMBALON, interpreting it. (We should note, too, our discovery that MORISSET is evidently descended from Suzanne LATOUR CROZETIERE, Pierre's older sister, perhaps explaining his interest.)
6 Ibid.
7 GODBOUT, see #3 above, p.63.
8 Ibid.
9 Drouin files, vol. DRN 069, p.269, Library of A.F.G.S, Woonsocket, RI.
10 JETTE, See #1 above.
11 LANCTOT, Gustave, *A History of Canada*, Vol. 3, p.34, translated by M.M. Cameron, Harvard U. Press, Cambridge, MA. 1965.
12 MORISSET, see #5, p.567.
13 Ibid. p.568.
14 LANCTOT, see #11, p.31.
15 TANGUAY, *Complement au Dictionnaire Généalogique Tanguay*, Vols. 1 & 2, p.116.

16 GAGNE and ASSELIN, *Sainte Anne de Beaupre, Pilgrim's Goal for Three Hundred Years*, a brief history of the shrine, translated from the French by Eric W. GOSLING, 1966. A note of credit found on the back of this booklet reads: "This publication is greatly indebted to the research of Mr. Gerard Morisset. Director of the Inventory of Works of Art of the Province of Québec...:
17 MORISSET, see #5. In his footnote no. 9 on p.570 he states: "C'est le clocher, refait en 1788 d'apres le même dessin, qui courenne la Chappelle commemorative de Sainte Anne."
18 LANCTOT, see #11, p.32.
19 Drouin files, microfilm @ A.F.G.S., Roll 1173, *Notre Dame de Montréal, 1736.*
20 GOSSELIN, Amedée, Ptre. *Fondeurs de Cloches au Canada. Bulletin des Recherches Historiques*, Vol. 26, Nov. 1920, pp. 334-336.
21 MORISSET, see #5, p.571.
22 Drouin files, *Notre Dame de Québec, 1744*, @ A.F.G.S.
23 Ibid. 1749.

French Accents for PC

Examples of how to produce French Accents on a PC. French accents can be accessed on a PC by pressing and holding the ALT key plus selecting the numbers on the right key pad.

ALT key plus 133 = à	ALT key plus 0192 = À
ALT key plus 160 = á	ALT key plus 0193 = Á
ALT key plus 131 = â	ALT key plus 0194 = Â
ALT key plus 132 = ä	ALT key plus 0196 = Ä
ALT key plus 135 = ç	ALT key plus 0199 = Ç
ALT key plus 130 = é	ALT key plus 0201 = É
ALT key plus 138 = è	ALT key plus 0200 = È
ALT key plus 136 = ê	ALT key plus 0202 = Ê
ALT key plus 137 = ë	ALT key plus 0203 = Ë
ALT key plus 139 = ï	ALT key plus 0207 = Ï
ALT key plus 140 = î	ALT key plus 0206 = Î
ALT key plus 141 = ì	ALT key plus 0204 = Ì
ALT key plus 161 = í	ALT key plus 0205 = Í
ALT key plus 149 = ò	ALT key plus 0210 = Ò
ALT key plus 162 = ó	ALT key plus 0211 = Ó
ALT key plus 147 = ô	ALT key plus 0212 = Ô
ALT key plus 148 = ö	ALT key plus 0214 = Ö
ALT key plus 0156 = oe	ALT key plus 0140 = OE
ALT key plus 151 = ù	ALT key plus 0217 = Ù
ALT key plus 163 = ú	ALT key plus 0218 = Ú
ALT key plus 150 = û	ALT key plus 0219 = Û
ALT key plus 129 = ü	ALT key plus 0220 = Ü
ALT key plus 0171 = «	ALT key plus 0187 = »

THÉRÈSE LAURA SÉVIGNY Griffin

By Kathryn Deborah Griffin Henry

Ms. Henry's story, Sévigny in the Spring 2012 issue of JeMe Souviens was incomplete. The account of Thérèse Laura Sévigny Griffin was not included. We are printing it in this issue to complete her family story. - ***Editor***

My mother was born on 3 April 1927 in Warren, Rhode Island. Her parents were Alexandre Joseph Sévigny and Rose Emma Dallaire Sévigny. She was born at her home at 31 Haile Street. My mother attended French grade school at St. Jean Baptiste in Warren, R.I from 1933 to 1941. She rode her bicycle to school in 7th and 8th grades. She had to learn geography and religion in both French and English. She came in third on her grades but the first two students could not speak French so when it came time for the prize to be awarded on the stage at the graduation ceremonies, she was awarded the French prize from the Society of St. Jean Baptiste in Woonsocket, R.I. It was a heavy, round, copper, paperweight engraved with the Society's emblem. Before graduation all the students who spoke French put on a play *De la Jeune Fille du Miracle* which was about a blind girl and her mother who took care of her. One day while the mother was praying at church a miracle happened at home. When she arrived back from church, the blind girl exclaimed: *Je Vois, Je Vois*!

My mother grew up when President Franklin D. Roosevelt was in office and during The Great Depression in the 1930's. Her household chores were doing the dishes and cleaning her bedroom! She loved reading comic books! The most special event she could remember was when her father bought his 1941 Pontiac. Most of her grandparents had passed away by this time but she did say her Pépère Sévigny (Narcisse Joseph Sévigny) came

to her wedding. My mother took piano lessons for seven years as a child and played for three years at different school performances. She loved dancing, knitting, embroidery and crocheting and made her first quilt before she was married. Her Aunt Lorraine Dallaire Crépeau was a seamstress and she taught her to quilt. I always loved when she told us the story about the ragman:

> "This was in the 1930s. My mother saved a lot of clothes that weren't much good anymore and about once a month the ragman would come up the street with his horse and wagon, yelling out, "Any rags, any rags?". He would weigh all the rags and give money for it (it wasn't much money either!)"

Another story she remembers:

> "My Uncle Philip was very funny and always tried to make us laugh, especially at family parties. Once, he dressed up funny and pretended he was talking with a microphone holding a vacuum cleaner. This was at a Halloween party for all the family of Dallaires and everyone had to come in a costume. It was hilarious!"

She was then enrolled at Bayview Academy in East Providence in 1941 and graduated in 1945. Every Sunday night during the summer there was a band concert in the back of the town hall in Warren, which she attended with her friends. The first car she remembers riding in was a 1936 green Chevrolet with a rumble seat that belonged to Ferdinand Thiverge, her Aunt Regina Dallaire Thiverge's boyfriend's (who she later married. They drove to Federal Hill for ice cream! What fun! She had her first television set after she was married – in 1950. The Texaco Program, Phil Silvers, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz were on!

She remembers Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of England being a good friend of President Roosevelt. She believed the Chancellor of Germany and Nazi Dictator, Adolf Hitler, to be the worst enemy during World War II. Growing up during

the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, she wrote:

> "I was at home that Sunday, December 7th, at 31 Haile Street not doing much of anything. This was right after my dad bought the 1941 Pontiac in September. I couldn't believe that Japan could turn against the U.S. and start a war with us. I believe U.S. would have entered the war without the Pearl Harbor attack because the Germans were in France already and the U.S. was there helping the English. The boys in my area were being drafted and leaving for camps. Many also enlisted in the Navy, etc. We had air raids and blackouts in town every so often to prepare us for an attack."

As to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's death on 12 April 1945, she wrote:

> "The whole nation mourned President Roosevelt's death and felt a great loss. That's when President Truman took over the presidency. We all felt that President Roosevelt was one of the greatest presidents the nation ever had. Dwight Eisenhower as General of the U.S. Army helped win the war and subsequently became President of the United States. General Patton also helped win the war in Europe and General Douglas MacArthur in the Far East against Japan."

As to the day the U.S. dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, she wrote:

> "We thought it was a terrible thing but trusted President Harry Truman knew what he was doing which brought the war to an end.
>
> "We used to go to the local movie theatre in Warren or go into Providence on dates or go dancing at Crescent Park or Rhodes on the Paw-

tuxet, but, as a result of the war from 1941 to 1945, there were very few boys around to ask to go to a dance at school. But we did meet a lot of servicemen and used to write to them. We had a pamphlet of ration stamps used for rationing food and gas. One day when I was working for the Internal Revenue Service there was a notice that nylons were selling at the Shepard Company in Providence so all the girls rushed over there on their lunch hour to buy nylons. At that time, there was no meat or sugar available – all these things went to the servicemen in the armed forces. We practically lived on Spam."

My mother's first job was at Woolworth's 5&10¢ Store in Warren. She was paid 35¢ an hour, but it was only on weekends and during the Christmas rush. One summer when she was seventeen, she worked at Crown Zipper factory in Warren. It was during the war when they made Army zippers for different things. She was on the "Victory" shift from 4:00 to 10:00 p.m. every day! She was employed with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service from 1945 to 1947 before her transfer to the R.I. Division of Personnel. There she met my father, William Henry Griffin, where she worked as a secretary from 1947 to 1949. My father's parents were John Henry Anthony Griffin, Clerk of the Probate Court for the City of Providence from 1935 to 1961, and Olivette TEMPLE Griffin. My parents were married on 28 May 1949, at St. Jean Baptiste Church in Warren, R.I. They lived at 126 Melrose Street, Providence for one year. After my mother became pregnant with my older sister, Arlene, they moved into a duplex at 196 Atlantic Avenue, Providence, which was a six-family duplex tenement house and was co-owned by my grandmother, Olivette L. TEMPLE Griffin and my father. My parents lived there until July 1957, after having five children. They then purchased our home at 176 Congress Avenue, Providence where we lived until 1973. I remember the day we moved into that house. I was four years old at the time. After we moved there, my mother gave birth to three more children.

My mother's present hobbies are quilting, collecting miniatures for her dollhouse, gardening and oil painting. My mother still plays the piano and organ. She is a seamstress and made many of our clothes. We sat and watched as she braided rugs for our home, cutting up our old woolen skirts in strips to use for the braided rug. Also, over the years, she has done much knitting and crewel work. From 1984 -1986, she was President of the Cranston Garden Club, winning many awards for her club, including Programs, Civic Beautification, Arbor Day, Publicity, etc. At a club flower show in 1987, she won a Tri-Color Award for best flower design arrangement.

Alexandre and Rose Sévigny with their daughter Thérèse Laura Sévigny Griffin.

My father, William Henry Griffin, was born 24 July 1921 in Providence, Rhode Island, on 35 Grand Street, Providence. When he was just two years old, his family moved to 275 Adelaide Avenue, until 1938 when his family moved again to 177 Lexington Avenue. My father attended grade school at Reservoir Avenue School from 1926 to 1932 and junior high at Gilbert Stuart on Princeton Avenue in Providence from 1932 to 1934. Starting in 1934, he went to Classical High School, as his father and mother did, and graduated in 1939. From there he attended Providence College until his graduation under an accelerated program (because of World War II) on 20 December 1942. He was in the U.S. Army from 13 February 1943 to 26 January 1946. During these years he was able to attend Oklahoma A & M College in Stillwater, Oklahoma in 1943 and the

University of Pittsburgh in 1944 to learn Russian. After his discharge from the Army, he was employed by the R.I. Department of Administration, Division of Personnel from 1946 to 1949 and again in 1955 until his retirement in 1983. From 1949 to 1955 he was employed by the R.I. Department of Employment Security.

My father liked to collect toy trains and model cars. He and my mother always enjoyed long trips by car. When we were growing up, we had table tennis set up in our basement where I learned that my father was an absolute expert at table tennis! He used to play bridge, and he always loved dogs. But the most outstanding quality I see in my father is that he loved to read. He was the most intelligent man I have ever known. My father died on January 18, 2000 and is buried at St. Ann's Cemetery in Cranston.

My mother was completely devoted to her large family, putting all her effort into raising her children, constantly trying to make our home attractive, amicable (which wasn't easy with eight children!) and comfortable, hand-making braided rugs, sewing, knitting and crocheting for us all kinds of clothing such as sweaters, scarfs, mittens, dresses, and slippers. She was always home waiting for us to come from school, always being there for us while we were growing up. She would help me with my homework, brainstorming ideas for school projects. She worked very, very hard at home and continually put forth the most effort for each of our birthdays and all the family traditional holiday celebrations. My mother was always humble, constantly putting her children before herself. My mother is invariably a strikingly beautiful woman, not only physically but inside as well.

My mother was quoted recently as saying, "My greatest accomplishment in life was having my eight children." Here is the list of all my sisters and brothers from oldest to youngest:

My older sister, **Arlene Thérèse Griffin Marcotte-Beale**, was born on 13 June 1950. She is currently living in North Attleboro, Massachusetts with her husband, Charles Beale. They

were married on 25 February 1989. He is a retired software engineer at Factory Mutual Insurance Company. She has one child, Jeffrey Marcotte, born 24 April 1979 from a previous marriage to Roger Marcotte. Jeff has been recognized in two newspapers of *The Conway Daily Sun* on March 22, 1996 for his work as a snowmaker at Mt. Cranmore in New Hampshire and on August 13, 1996, as a Conway, New Hampshire Police Cadet. He has been a flight attendant for American Airlines since 2000. Arlene is a special education middle school teacher.

The author, **Kathryn Deborah Griffin Henry** was born on 17 October 1952, and is now living in Rancho Santa Margarita, California, with her husband, Stephen Craig Henry (everyone knows him as "Slim"). We were married on 4 July 1980. We moved to California in 1986 from Cranston, R.I. Stephen and I have one child, Jason Paul Henry, born 20 November 1981. Jason is currently enrolled at The International Culinary Schools at The Art Institute of California – Orange County, CA due to graduate in March 2013 with an Associate's Degree in Culinary Arts. The writer was previously married to Ralph Albert Mattera, Jr. in 1971 and had one child, Ralph Albert Mattera, III, born 2 April 1974. He was married to Vicki Kristene Jacobs, born 10 August 1974, in Warwick on 2 May 1999. They had two girls, my beautiful grand-girls, Anna Katherine Mattera born 16 May 2000, and Emily Paige Mattera born 4 August 2002. Vicki's death came suddenly in Portland, Maine on 21 September 2011. My grand-girls live with their father in Ladera Ranch, California. My husband, Stephen, was previously married and fathered a son, Joshua Matthew Henry, born 16 September 1975. I worked as a legal secretary and law office administrator for many law firms in Orange County, California until my retirement in 2011. Now I have more time to research further into my genealogy!

Paul Michael Griffin was born on 11 March 1954. Paul fathered a girl with Lisa Northup named Rebecca Lee Griffin, date of birth 16 May 1986. Rebecca married Adam Robert Klawuhn, (date of birth 25 November 1981) on 21 July 2008. Paul lived for six years in Florida before moving back to R.I. in

1995, and has taken after our grandfather, Alexandre Joseph Sévigny, in occupation as a finish carpenter. Paul has two beautiful grand-girls from Rebecca and Adam: Kathryn Elizabeth Klawuhn born 9 April 2004 and Ashlyn Samantha Klawuhn born 8 August 2008. Paul was married on 16 July 2011 to Janice Coe.

Susan Marie Griffin Van Leaven was born on 25 April 1955. Susan married Larry Dean Van Leaven on 29 April 1995, and was employed as a professional licensed social worker at The Providence Center from 2007 to 2011. At the present time Susan works part time at the Kent County Hospital in Warwick. Susan lived for 12 years in San Clemente, California, but moved back to Rhode Island in 1992. Larry is a welding engineer at Electric Boat Division in Groton, Connecticut and a Retired Chief Petty Officer with the Navy Reserves.

William Henry Griffin, Jr. was born on 9 June 1957. He was married to Doreen Martins on 6 September 1980 but later divorced. Bill works as a house painter and handyman and lives in Cranston, R.I. He was married to Antonia Selma Lira from Brazil on 21 July 2012.

Jeanne Elizabeth Griffin Bragger was born on 1 March 1960. She attended four private Catholic schools: St. Michael's Grammar School, Cranston/Johnston Catholic Regional School, St. Xavier High School and graduated from Providence College in 1982. She married James Quintan Bragger on 2 June 1984 on Block Island. They have four children, Michael James, born 15 February 1986; Jennifer Lyn, born 28 April 1988; Tyler Albert, born 29 September 1994 and Nathan Griffin born 19 October 1996. Jeanne worked for many years at Pier Bank in Narragansett. Subsequently she worked at Citizens Bank and Bank of America. "Jimmy" is employed with Amtrak Train.

Patricia Ann Griffin Papa ("Tisha") was born 12 March 1962. She married Thomas Papa on 10 July 1988 and they both owned and operated Papa's Grocery Store on Boone Street in Narragansett. They had two children, Alexandre Thomas Papa

(named after my grandfather, Alexandre Joseph SÉVIGNY) born 12 June 1990 and Magdalen (Maggie) Edith Papa, born 1996 April 12. Maggie was named after her great, great Aunt Magdalen Menzies, Thomas Papa's mother's sister, who worked at South County Hospital where there is a mural with a photo of her. Tisha divorced Thomas Papa and subsequently married Robert Petrucci. They had two children, Elizabeth Annabelle Petrucci born 11 January 2000 and Amelia Patricia Petrucci born 2001 August 30. Tisha is currently single and working at South County Hospital in Wakefield, R.I.

The youngest child in our family, **Denise Marie Griffin**, was born 19 January 1965. She lived in San Clemente, CA for a period of time. She is not married, but worked in an accounting department in Warwick, R.I. She currently owns an on-line company selling health foods. She lives in Coventry, R.I.

2012 AFGS French Canadian Hall of Fame Inductees

The 10th annual AFGS French Canadian Hall of Fame induction ceremony was held recently at the AFGS Franco-American Heritage Center.

Pictured in the photo (from left) AFGS president **Normand T. Deragon**, inductees, Acadian genealogist **Stephen A. White**, Woonsocket educator **Romeo G. Berthiaume**, retired college professor **Claire H. Quintal**, former Rhode Island Lieutenant. Governor **Roger N. Begin**, and AFGS Hall of Fame Committee chair **Sylvia D. Bartholomy**.

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Family Photographs

By David Mishkin

So your mother, father, aunt, uncle just unloaded a shoebox full of family photographs on you because of your interest in the family history. You have finished identifying the relatives as well as possible and now have no idea how to store the photographs for future generations. You realize that some of them are in great shape but some are fading, some are sticking to each other and some photographs have mold on them....Yuck!

What is a genealogist to do now? It is a good idea as a first step to be able to identify the most common types of photographic processes. This will help confirm the period of time the photographs were made of that member of your family.

I have worked with several genealogists to help identify their photographs. On one occasion, a positive identification of a salt print allowed us to determine that this photograph was of the researcher's great-grandmother, whereas most of her family believed it was their grandmother. On another occasion, the identification allowed us to learn the proper orientation of an image. This allowed the researcher to conclude that this was in fact the house his grandfather was born in.

Photographic Identification

In the beginning...Ah! But where is the beginning? Did photography start in the year 1,000 AD when Alhazen described the principal of the "Camera Obscura" - a drawing aid meaning a dark chamber. 500 years later, Leonardo da Vinci described the same device and operated one outside his studio in Florence. Or should we consider the beginning in the 1560's when lenses were fitted to the Camera Obscura, allowing an image to be sharply focused on a piece of ground glass and allowed the operator to trace a picture on a thin sheet of

drawing paper laid over the glass.

Daguerreotypes

Most authorities will agree that the first practical form of photography was encouraged through the experiments and developments (no pun intended) of Louis Jacques Mande Daguerre. Although William Henry Fox Talbot had been working on a process that recorded a negative image, Daguerre was the first to publicize his results and the discovery of the photographic process is attributed to Daguerre. The daguerreotype, popular from 1839-1860, was produced on a metal support of thin copper, with a highly polished mirror-like coating of silver. They are sealed in glass to protect the plate from atmospheric and physical damage. In America, daguerreotypes were most often placed in small hinged cases made of wood with a leather or paper covering. The daguerreotypes distinguishing features are its highly polished silver support and its quality of appearing as a negative, or a positive depending upon the angle of viewing and the direction from which light falls upon it.

Due to limitations and difficulties of producing a large plate, daguerreotypes were rarely made any larger than 6 ½ to 8 ½ inches, known as whole-plate size. The most common size produced was sixth-plate size and measured 2 ½ by 3 ¼. It is estimated that by 1853 as many as three million daguerreotypes were made in the United States alone.

Another advance in photographic history was the use of gold toning. In this process, the silver image was partially converted to gold by treatment in a solution containing gold chloride. This process was first applied to paper prints in 1847. It changed the image tone on a silver paper from reddish-brown to purple and significantly improved the stability of the silver image. Most prints that are in excellent condition today, are that way because they have been toned.

Ambrotypes

In 1851, Frederick Scott Archer announced his wet plate collodion process. Collodion is celluose nitrate (or cotton) dis-

solved in ether and alcohol. In order to provide the most sensitive film (fastest), the plate had to be exposed while still wet, hence its name. This system provided a transparent negative and although through other methods this negative image could be made positive (as in the ambrotype), its most significant contribution was the use as a transparent negative. The use of the wet-plate negatives to produce positive images on albumen paper truly altered the course of photography, but the most popular use of this was the ambrotype. By backing the collodion negative with a dark material the image appeared as a positive. In some examples, dark purple, blue or red glass was used as a support, thus eliminating the need for a backing. Ambrotypes were presented in mounts and cases in the same fashion as daguerreotypes and because of this they are commonly mistake for daguerreotypes. It is a simple matter to distinguish between the two since ambrotypes appear as positives at all angles of viewing as opposed to the daguerreotype which is truly visible as a positive only at certain lighting angles.

Ambrotypes were most popular from 1851-1880.

Tintypes

The idea of using a thin sheet of iron with a surface coated with a black varnish as a support instead of glass with a dark backing was patented by Hamilton Smith in 1856. This process would be more properly called ferrotype, since there is no tin in it at all. This expensive and easily handled form of photography was a particular favorite of traveling photographers from the time of its introduction in 1854 to as late as the 1930's. They were made in the millions and are very commonly found today. America was the favorite place of production. Early tintypes were cased like daguerreotypes and ambrotypes. It is very difficult to tell an ambrotype from a tintype when it is under glass in a case. Uncased tintypes are readily identified by the thin metallic plate holding the positive image. Occasionally tintypes are found on plates that are brown or red instead of black. Most tintypes were varnished to protect the surface from abrasion and atmospheric attack.

They were made in a variety of sizes from the most common format being 2½ x 3½ inches, the same size as the carte de visite paper prints.

Other Lesser Known Processes

The next 40 years in photographic history became experimental with many new processes and techniques being used. Because there were far less of these photographs produced, it is not as necessary to elaborate on these processes as with the more major contributions.

Crayon Portraits

Crayon portraits were made from the 1860's through the turn of the 20th century. A weak photographic image was used as the basis for the extensive handwork with charcoal or pastels. They were usually life sized and were neutral black images on a matte-surfaced paper as the underlying photographic 'sketch.'

Carbon Prints

In 1839 Mungo Ponton discovered a new process based on the light sensitivity of bichromates. When added to gelatin, bichromates render the coating insoluble upon exposure to light. In other words, wherever light touched the coating, that part of the emulsion would not dissolve away. Carbon black was one of the first pigments used, hence the name - carbon prints. Sometimes pigments were chosen for their ability to mimic albumen print image colors. The beauty and durability of carbon prints was undisputed, but they were too time-consuming and difficult to challenge the silver papers.

Platinum Prints (Platinotypes)

A platinum print, or platinotype, consists of finely divided platinum metal and are exceptionally stable. The process came into use around 1880 and was popular until about 1930. These prints have a matte surface; most have a steely-gray image color, although some variations of the process produced browner image hues.

Cyanotypes

This is the actual and true color of a cyanotype.

The cyanotype, or 'blueprint' process, was another of astronomer Sir John Hershel's contributions to photography. Although the process dates back to the 1840's, it was used rather infrequently until the 1880's. Like the platinotype, the cyanotype has a matte surface and its process is based on the light sensitivity of iron salts. The image stability of cyanotypes is good, though not as stable as the platinotype. Cyanotypes fade when exposed to light, but the lost image density is regained in large measure during storage in the dark. Gelatin and collodion printing-out papers became popular in the mid 1800's, replacing albumen paper as the dominant photographic printing material. These papers were the forerunners of our modern photographic papers. They no longer had to be coated by the photographer and were coated on long continuous rolls with much greater sensitivity to light. These papers offered a wide range of surfaces, image colors and contrasts and their image stability was superior. Sales of slow developing-out papers increased dramatically in the last three or four years of the 19th century, led by an ever-increasing number of amateurs.

Conservation and Preservation of 19th Century Photographs

Since the early 19th century, photographs have provided a historical record and a source of information about their times. For this reason, art galleries, museums, archives, libraries and historical societies as well as government, business and private individuals all have an interest in the preservation and restoration of photographs. Through the years there has been very little factual information published on this subject. As a result, while there are some conservators who know a great deal about photographic conservation, there are many custodians of collections who have little knowledge or experience with photographic materials and how they effect the lifetime of the photographic image. In addition, they have no knowledge of the techniques and procedures that can be used

to protect or restore old photographs. Photographic conservation is a relatively new field that started gaining popularity only within the past decade. The field of photographic conservation is still in its infancy as a separate area of study. In 1982 there were perhaps as few as only 24 professional photographic conservators in the world.

Black and white photographs, when properly processed and stored, are both stable and permanent. Generally, these two requirements have not been applied to many historic photographs, causing deterioration. There are four major forms of photographic deterioration which can be categorized as follows: Environmental, Chemical, Physical and Biological deterioration.

Environmental Deterioration

The most common form of deterioration also happens to be the easiest to control. By far, the single most serious cause of deterioration is excessive humidity and is quickly followed by extremes in temperature, which are both forms of Environmental deterioration. The "ideal" humidity for photographs should be 50% relative humidity ±5% and the temperature should be 68°F ±2°F. These are quite rigid specifications, especially in the northern parts of the United States and may be beyond the means of most owners of photographs. The most practical system for environmental control would be an air conditioned room in the summer and the use of electric heat in that room in the winter. There is one additional controlled environment that a genealogist once asked me about and which I thought was such a wonderful idea, that this is where I now store all of my family photographs. Most banks have 'safe' deposit storage boxes that are not only very secure, but are kept in an environment which is close to ideal. Perhaps the most devastating conditions for photograph storage would be cyclic heat and humidity such as you would find in an attic. Controlled humidity and temperature would help prevent curled prints, mold growth, fungus, foxing (blotchy, reddish-brown stains on prints or mounts), negatives sticking to containers or themselves and photographs sticking to glass

frames. Obviously, the worst places to store photographic materials would be in an attic or basement, yet this is where 60-70% of all personal photographs are kept. Are you guilty???

In addition to humidity and temperature under the environmental list, air contamination would be the third most significant type of environmental deterioration. One of the serious problems in preservation is the relatively large quantity of oxidizing gases in the atmosphere in certain areas. Large cities must contend with coal-burning industries, gasoline and diesel engines and oil and gas-burning systems. High pollution also exists in areas where paints, printing inks, lacquers, enamels, varnishes and cosmetics are being used. Near the seacoast, very small amounts of airborne salts may infiltrate into storage areas which not only accelerates chemical degradation, but also encourages the growth of microorganisms.

Chemical Deterioration

The second most common form of deterioration is chemical degradation. The two kinds of chemical degradation that are most frequently observed are image fading (discoloration) and stains. The black image which is most commonly a silver product, will turn a yellowish-brown with inadequate processing techniques. This occurs most often when fixer is left in the print or film because of insufficient washing. The job of the fixer in the photographic process is to reduce the unexposed silver to a salt product that can be washed away. When the fixer is not removed, it acts like a bleach to the silver and, in effect, reduces or removes the silver. It acts on the highlight (lightest) areas first and thus reduces the contrast n the print. When fixer is not removed from the print, it causes the silver to appear as if it is 'fading.' This can be improved by the restoration process which will be explained in a later section. The second type of chemical degradation is created by insufficient fixing. During the later half of the 19th century, photographers were not aware of the consequences of inadequate processing. Additionally, they did not have the monitoring devices we have today to let us know when the chemicals were no longer useful. Consequently, at times photographers

were using fixers that were exhausted (used up) and this created dark stains on the prints. When the unexposed silver is not removed from the print by fixing it, the silver gradually darkens the more it is exposed to light.

Physical Deterioration

The third most common form of photographic deterioration is physical deterioration. This form is most prevalent in photographs that have been poorly stored. Some examples of physical deterioration are holes, scratches and spots that are caused from the abrasion of one material against another. Brittle matte board or photographs can snap and create losses in the image area. Glass plates, when not handled properly, can chip or break. Water can be a terrorist against a friendly photograph. I have seen collections totally destroyed from flooded basements, burst water pipes, spillages and have seen many photographs that have stuck to the glass from a frame due to excessive moisture.

Biological Deterioration

Biological deterioration is the fourth form of photographic deterioration. Photographic materials contain ingredients - such as gelatin and cellulose in paper - that are real treats to insects and rodents. The best preventative is to follow good housekeeping practices. Any windows that might be left open should have screening to protect against insects; they are attracted to funus and may damage the emulsion layer. Insects will actually chew away pieces of prints and even containers, especially when they are moist. Another method of protecting processed photographic materials from biological attack is to seal them in envelopes such as the Kodak storage envelopes for processed film.

Preservation

One of the most important factors affecting the preservation of photographs is the storage and display conditions to which they are subjected. This includes the material in which they are enclosed, the area in which they are stored and the manner

in which they are displayed.

Encapsulation materials, lower left. Negative preservers, top right. Interleaving paper, lower right.

Processed negatives, slides and prints should be enclosed in special envelopes, sleeve file folders, or albums to protect them from dirt and physical damage and to facilitate identification and handling. Certain paper and plastic enclosures are satisfactory, provided the temperature and relative humidity are within the previously discussed safe tolerances. However, these materials are porous and do not protect against environmental effects. The paper used should be chemically stable and have a slightly rough or matte surface to prevent sticking.

Photographic preservation has become a highly technical field of study. Although it is not necessary to know or understand the specifications of the proper paper to use, it will provide a better understanding of the necessity to use proper materials to protect your photographs. Paper that will be in direct contact with a photograph should have an alpha cellulose content in excess of 87%, be free of groundwood, contain neutral or alkaline sizing chemicals, have a pH between 7.0 and 9.5 for black and white materials with a 2% alkaline reserve, and be void of waxers, plasticizers, or other ingredients that may transfer to photographic materials during storage.

The following are a list of storage materials that are safe to use for archival storage. However, it is important to note that at times manufacturers may change their formulation without notification and this may change the product's archival properties.

Slide mount holders, lower left. Photo corner mounts for albums, center and lower right.

PAPER ENVELOPES are made from the highest quality paper and are proven to be the most satisfactory system for enclosing photographic materials. These should be acid-free, high alpha-cellulose papers that are buffered against changes in pH. Two very critical aspects of paper envelopes are the

position of the glued seam and the adhesive used to seal it. Avoid envelopes with the seam down the center and avoid seals using animal or vegetable glues. KODAK STORAGE ENVELOPES are heat-sealable, made of aluminum foil that has been coated with polyethylene on the inside and laminated to a paper on the outside. CELLULOSE ACETATE SLEEVES are transparent enclosures that provide a way to view and handle photographs without removing them from the enclosures. FOLDERS are single fold seamless holders, very much like manila file folders, but they are made from archival materials. They are also available in triacetate, polyester or polypropylene. INTERLEAVES can be made from either paper or plastic sheets that are used to separate individual photographs from coming into direct contact with each other. ALBUMS are not usually suitable for long term storage unless they are fabricated with materials that make them safe for this purpose. Albums tend to be the most popular storage medium. Archival storage albums, although more expensive than conventional albums, are available at most archival suppliers and dealers.

Plastics are one of the safest materials to use in direct contact with photographs. However, some plastics contain additives to strengthen plastics or make them more pliable, etc. Only the following plastics have been considered safe to use in association with photographs: Polyester, Mylar, Polypropylene, Polyethylene, Tyvek and Cellulose Triacetate.

A number of materials often used in the storage of negatives and prints are detrimental to the photographic image and its support. Among the materials known to be detrimental to photographs are wood and wood products such as plywood, hardboard, chipboard, low-grade paper, glassines and strawboard. There are also some concerns with the use of chlorinated, nitrated formaldehyde-based plastics, lacquers, enamels and materials that contain plasticizers. Other items that may be detrimental to processed photographic materials while they are in storage including rubber, rubber cement, Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) and hygroscopic adhesives or those contain-

ing iron, copper, sulfur or other impurities. Pressure sensitive tapes and mounting materials, as well as acid inks and porous tip marking pens that use water-base dyes should also be avoided. Adhesives that should be avoided are starch paste, animal glue, rubber cement, shellac and contact cement.

When photographs deteriorate or are damaged, there is frequently a strong desire on the part of the owners to restore them to their original appearance and condition. There are many physical and chemical treatments which can be utilized to improve the aesthetic, informational and physical strength of an aged photograph. However, there are many factors which may limit their effectiveness. In fact, owners should be aware that almost any treatment of an original photograph carries with it a potential to do as much harm as good. Photographs of great cultural, historic, aesthetic, collectible or even just sentimental value should never be treated by amateurs. Only within this past decade has the science of professional photographic conservation come into its own right. Photographic conservators are developing many ways of reviving and reclaiming deteriorated photographic images.

The five forms of photographic restorations include: Electronic restoration, Chemical restoration, Physical restoration, Airbrush restoration and Copying.

Electronic Restoration

Because of today's technology, the newest form of restoration is electronic restoration, more properly called Electronic Imaging Enhancement (or EIE). In this system, the picture to be restored is scanned and the electronic signals are digitized and projected onto a computer monitoring screen. The operator decides what restoration processes are needed and inputs this into the computer. The operator is able to remove blemishes in the photograph such as scratches or stains, etc. Although the technology has been realized, the commercial use is not quite ready to make it a practical form. The key item in the system is a sensor onto which the picture is imaged. While it has adequate resolving power, it is not as good as that of a

good photograph. Progress is being made, however, into producing better sensors with better resolution. A principal problem with EIE is the cost of the equipment. System costs are so high that to produce an image the user would find the costs to be prohibitive. Therefore it is not practical at this time to consider this form of restoration for the average person's use.

Chemical Restoration

Chemical restoration of black and white photographs is based on redevelopment or bleaching and redevelopment. A badly faded black and white photograph may have an image that is barely visible. Technically, what has happened is that the metallic silver in the image has been oxidized to form a colorless silver compound. If the faded photograph is redeveloped in a black and white developer, the silver salts in the faded areas will be reconverted to silver metal and the resulting image may be a considerable improvement over the faded original. A more effective chemical restoration procedure is to bleach the faded image and then redevelop. There are a couple of serious reservations about using the bleach and redevelopment procedure. First and foremost is the possibility of causing degradation of the old emulsion to the extent that the photograph is irreversibly damaged. Second, bleach and redevelopment irreversibly changes the original. You should never allow any work to be done on your photograph that cannot be undone. Only Photographic Conservators should be allowed to work on an original photograph.

Physical Restoration

The next restoration topic is the use of Physical restoration methods. Only one physical restoration method has been fully developed and this is based on Neutron Activation, which has provided very good results from faded images. This technique is non-destructive and so reversibility is not a problem. This procedure is a rather complicated interaction of several techniques: neutron irradiation, autoradiography and photography. Thus, though it is a restoration procedure that is highly recommended, it is not a readily available method and so has

never seen widespread application. Another physical restoration technique is the use of X-Ray fluorescence. The idea here is to scan the photograph with a beam of X-Rays and make a photograph of the X-Ray fluorescence of the silver atoms or ions in the photograph. Again, while this is a non-destructive method, the equipment needed for this is elaborate and actually not yet fully developed.

Copying

By far, the least expensive restoration is the photographic copying and duplication technique. The duplication process makes it possible to generate corrections and changes to original transparent materials such as negatives and positives. Tone reproduction can actually be improved by reducing or increasing the contrast in the duplicate. Copying is particularly helpful in lightening stains or enhancing faded prints, daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, albumen and salt prints. Family photographs have unknown or undertermined stability. A copy negative and print from a reliable lab could have archival stability if that is specified. Finally, copying provides a way of producing reprints in quantities. Photographic copies could also be considered an insurance policy to provide the protection for loss or deterioration of your precious family photographs.

Airbrush Restoration

The last form of restoration is the Airbrush Restoration and costs for this vary according to the amount of work that is required. This technique requires he skill of an artist and a paintbrush that 'atomizes' the paint. There are several steps that are required for this process and a brief explanation will give you an understanding as to what is involved in this most common form of photographic restoration work. A copy print is made and used as a work print because work should never be done to the original. The first step is to reduce major dark areas with a photographic bleach. This cleans up the highlights and opens up, or lightens, the darkest areas where detail is still important. After the work print has been rewashed and dried, adding densities to small areas will be the next step. This is

particularly useful to photographs that have fine cracks. Then the darker densities such as spots or other cracks can be lightened with wax-based opaques. Larger areas may require several applications to build up the proper density. Next step is to consider adding shading to sections such as facial features, as well as adding highlights to those areas. The artist may need to add highlights and shading to clothing, backgrounds, hair or any object that has lost some detail. Different techniques may be utilized to remove or even add a background, combine one photograph with another, open up a closed eye, repair teeth, remove an object or person from a photograph, etc. Almost anything can be accomplished with an airbrush restoration if the artist is well qualified. Keep in mind, however, that the more airbrush work that is done, the less the finished piece will look like a photograph.

Preserving our photographs is like preserving our history. Those that are able to trace their family history for several generations are very fortunate. To have the ability to see from whom we are descended gives us a unique vision of our heritage. How fortunate are those who have family photographs. For historic value or for sharing memories, let us make a commitment to pass our photographs on to future generations. The only way that this will be possible is to take care of what we have today.

Ramblings of an Amateur Genealogist

By George H. Buteau

I have been interested in my family history for as long as I can remember. When I was a young boy, I once asked my widowed paternal grandmother about my deceased grandfather BUTEAU and about her CLOUTIER family. Her reply was something along the lines of "let the dead lay in their graves." This, of course, made me all the more curious. Over the next dozen or more years, I occasionally asked questions of my parents and of my maternal grandparents and collected tidbits of information that I jotted down on notebook pages for future reference. When I was in college during the early 1960s, I was given a one day access to Woonsocket's archives because my mother worked in city hall. I quickly gathered more information, most of it births and deaths of my maternal grandfather's siblings during the late1800s and early 1900s. Over the next twenty years, graduate school followed by work kept me too busy to continue to pursue my ancestry researches. In addition, I wasn't sure where to begin a serious search.

In 1988 while at a party with friends, I got into a discussion about my long-delayed interest in genealogy with a person who happened to be a member of the Oakland Latter Day Saints (LDS) church. She advised me to visit the Family History library there where I would find all that I needed to get started in my ancestry quest. Several weeks later, remembering our discussion, I visited the LDS library one evening after work. One of the volunteer helpers asked me a few questions about what I was looking for then introduced me to a gentleman who volunteered to get me started. It turned out that he was originally from Worcester, MA and of French-Canadian descent. I had actually met him in 1969 when we had first moved to California. He was a great help and provided me with several short historical reviews of French-Canadian ge-

nealogical research that he had compiled over the years. That very same night, armed only with the name of my paternal grandfather, George Henry BUTEAU, and the approximate date and place of his birth, I found an 1880 census record listing him and his younger sister and their parents, my paternal great-grandparents, whose given names had been anglicized from the ones I recalled hearing from my father. Over the next few weeks, I was able to find an1860 census record that listed my paternal great-great-grandparents, Henry and Mary BUTEAU and their ten children including the youngest, my great -grandfather.

Since U.S. census records are not specific about the actual locations in foreign countries of birth and also do not give the maiden names of wives, my research was at a temporary "brick wall." Very shortly thereafter, I learned of AFGS, located in Pawtucket, RI at that time, and became a member. It didn't take me long to take advantage of AFGS's research policy. I sent a request for the marriage of my paternal great-great-grandparents providing all the information that I had gleaned from the 1860 U.S. census record. I received a reply from AFGS with the marriage of my BUTEAU g-g-grandparents in St. Pierre de Sorel parish in 1843. So I began my quest for my French-Canadian roots.

In the summer of 1889, I started ordering microfilms of the parish registers from Salt Lake City through the LDS Family History library in Oakland CA starting with those of St. Pierre parish in Sorel, Richelieu County, QC. Starting with the marriage of my g-g-grandparents, I reviewed baptism, marriage, and burial records of my BUTEAU ancestors that eventually resulted in two trips to Salt Lake City and days of research in the LDS Family History library there. I began to also investigate my maternal GENEREUX roots during my first visit to Salt Lake City in December, 1990. Over the years, I had made frequent visits to see my family in Woonsocket during my monthly business trips to Washington, DC. After AFGS moved from Pawtucket to The Universalist church on Earle Street in Woonsocket, I extended my research to the reper-

toires and other records available in the AFGS library during many of those visits to see my parents. When not visiting Woonsocket, I often researched at the National Archives in Washington, DC during business trips. As I pieced together the puzzle of my ancestry, I decided to share information with other researchers. I began to write articles that I submitted for publication in the semi-annual publication of AFGS, "Je Me Souviens."

By 1996, I was accessing the internet and exchanging information by email with other Buteau genealogists. We organized a BUTEAU family reunion in Montmagny, QC in August, 2001 that drew more than 200 family members from the U.S. and Canada. Over the years there has been a tremendous increase in the amount of genealogy information available via the internet. After retiring in 2002 and no longer traveling to the east coast, I subscribed to Ancestry.com in order to access the online records of parish registers of the Drouin collection. I also frequently search the internet websites www.familysearch.com (LDS) and www.geneanet.com. I continue to research both my BUTEAU and GENEREUX lines almost daily, exchange information with other family genealogists, and write articles for publication in "Je Me Souviens." I have always subscribed to the belief that one's family tree is like a large jigsaw puzzle without edges, therefore, one's work in genealogical research is never finished.

Research Policy

Autumn 2012

The American-French Genealogical Society accepts requests for ancestral searches. This offer is open to the general public, members or not. The only requirement is that the ancestor you are seeking be French-Canadian, for that is the focus of our organization, and the area where we can be of the most help.

To utilize the AFGS Research Service, simply print the research request sheet by clicking on the research request form at the bottom of the page at our website, www.afgs.org, fill in the necessary information, and send via regular mail to the address listed on the form. No requests will be accepted via email at this time.

To utilize the AFGS Research Service, please fill out the research form with the following information and send it in regular mail:

What You Need To Send To Us

1) Your request with a choice of one of the following;

Type of Research

Single Marriage - One marriage to search.

Marriages of parents will also be counted as additional single marriages and billed as such.

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.

Five Generation Ancestral Chart - Standard five generation ancestral 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 five generation chart.

Your name, street, city, state, zip code, and member number if you are an AFGS member

Any pertinent information you may have should also be sent.

What We Will Do In Return

After receiving your request, we will start as soon as possible on your research. Currently, our staff is very busy with a record number of searches to perform, so please be patient. We will then notify you by mail of our findings and bill you in advance for the research performed using the applicable rates listed below.

Your Approval

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

All requests not found by the Research Committee will be placed in the question and answer section of our semi-annual journal, *Je Me Souviens*.

Rates

$5.00 per marriage (AFGS Members)

$10.00 per marriage (Non-members)

$35.00 per 5-generation chart - Direct Lineage (AFGS Members)

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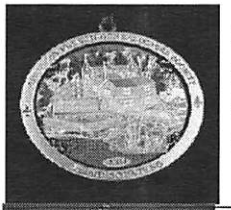
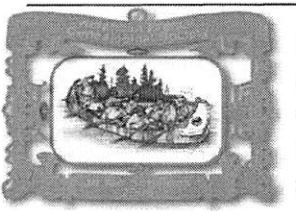


L'Habitation is a depiction of the first permanent French Canadian colony founded in Quebec by explorer Samuel de Champlain in 1608.

The Carignan-Salieres Regiment Soldier is a depiction of a regiment soldier that landed in Quebec on June 1665. The regiment was sent by King Louis XIV to pretect the settlers.

The King's Daughters (Les Filles du Roi) depictis the women who arrived in Quebec between 1663 and 1673. Nearly 1,000 women were recruited by King Louis XIV to go to New France to marry and populate the colony.



The Voyageurs is a depiction of the adventurous French Canadian men who traveled by canoe transporting barter goods, between Montreal and the western wilderness.

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Ernest Joseph Thibodeau and Marie Alda LeBlanc were married October 26, 1933 at Our Lady of The Holy Rosary Parish, Gardner, MA. The bride's brother, Osias LeBlanc was best man. His fiancée, Kay Kinneary was maid of honor.