



# *Je Me Souviens Magazine*

A Publication of the American-French Genealogical Society

Volume 42 Number 2

April - June 2019

Our 41<sup>st</sup> Year



Issue 2019-2

Book 85

**AMERICAN-FRENCH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
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ISSN: 0195-7384

**ABOUT OUR COVER**

The front of Notre Dame in Paris before the fire on April 15, 2019.  
In tribute to our ancestors and members who have walked these hallowed aisles.

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April 2019

Springtime has finally arrived in New England. It brings with it showers, graduations, proms, planning of summer vacations, and yard cleanup after the long winter.

Our exhibit hall booth at the New England Regional Genealogical Conference kept our volunteers busy answering questions, talking about our resources, and selling books, pins, and charts. It was also the backdrop for the bus tours reunion photo at the top of the page. I was fortunate to be on a six day tour of Acadian sites in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia in 2016. Our Vice-President, Annette Smith was on the 2018 tour of the Île d'Orléans and places in and around Quebec City. A shared experience of a tour of places our ancestors lived comes back to each of us when we reunite for photos and laugh about our time together.

An interesting summary of the member survey is included in this issue of *Je Me Souviens*. The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive. Individual issues were addressed while the results were being compiled by Tom Allaire and Annette Smith. Thank you to each of them for the extra effort in creating a useable tool for the Board of Directors. Some of our current marketing efforts are a direct result of the survey information we received.

The Le Foyer Endowment Fund Speaker Program this season has been very successful. Many new faces and members have visited the building to learn about the National Archives, recording family stories, organizing and preserving family photos, Woonsocket, RI history, and Italian, Irish, and French-Canadian research. We are currently planning the autumn speaker schedule. Branching out of our comfort zone serves us well.

Behind-the-scenes work continues for the Members Only site. The committee has been meeting to plan, add to, and improve the many offerings. If you have not visited recently, we encourage you to do so. In this issue of JMS, we are asking for data entry volunteers for a large project. When complete, it will be something to be very proud of and a great research asset for our members.

*Rob*



A Tip From Your  
“Bookie”  
by Janice Burkhardt  
Librarian



## YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

by Janice Burkhardt

Today I would like to talk to you about your public library. Public libraries and librarians are wonderful resources. Librarians usually are proud of their collections and by nature

they are very helpful people. If you are in the library and are having difficulty finding information, ask for help. The librarian will point you in the right direction.

One important resource your library might have is interlibrary loan. Your library probably belongs to a network. As part of that network, your library is allowed to share books with other libraries. If you need a book that is not available at your local library, you can ask the librarian if it is available through interlibrary loan. The librarian will check with other libraries in the local network. If the book is not available locally, a request will be sent throughout the state then throughout the country. Depending on your library, the request may even be sent internationally. As you can see, this service makes many resources available at even the smallest of libraries. One time I requested an obituary from Nashua, New Hampshire. I knew the name, date and place of death. That information was sent to Nashua. The librarian there found the obituary and copied it. She read the obituary and found that the person had died after having an automobile accident. So, she looked up the accident and sent copies of the articles about it that appeared in the paper. What a wonderful surprise for me. Another perk of this service is that sometimes books in college and university libraries are available for interlibrary loan as well. Ask your librarian if this service is available to you.

This issue of Je Me Souviens contains stories of people in New England who were captured by the Indians and carried away to Canada. Most of these abductions took place during what Americans refer to as The French and Indian Wars. Some of the captives were killed. Some of the captives were kept by the Indians and became part of the tribe. Others were adopted by French families. Still others were ransomed and returned to their homes. This is a fascinating part of history that we are simply touching upon. The AFGS library has a number of books on this subject that you might find interesting. Following is a list of some of these books that are worth investigating.

- 078 HIS N. E. Captives Carried to Canada 1677-1760 Vol. 1 by Emma Lewis Coleman
- 079 HIS N. E. Captives Carried to Canada 1677-1760 Vol. 2 by Emma Lewis Coleman
- 160 HIS The Redeemed Captive Returning to Zion by John Williams
- 619 HIS Indian Captives or Life in a Wigwam by Samuel Drake
- 620 HIS Captors and Captives - Deerfield by Evan Haefeli & Kevin Sweeney
- 721 HIS English Captives and Prisoners Remaining in New France by Roger Lawrence
- 580 BIO True Stories of Captives Carried to Canada During the Old French and Indian Wars by C. Alice Baker

**THE DEERFIELD MASSACRE**  
**Finding Some of Our English Ancestors**  
**By Bill Beaudoin**

It is often thought by many that the French-Canadian ethnic group has purity of origin. Most French-Canadians are capable of tracing their heritage to France and almost all of these ancestors have French sounding names. Since the beginning of the French regime in North America in the early 17th century a variety of other ethnic groups have intermingled with the French. These primarily included English, Irish, Scottish, Germans (Hessians) and, of course, Amerindians. If you were doing research at our library using the older version of the Programme de Recherche en Demographie Historique (PRDH) computer program and began searching by 'Origin' you would receive over 1200 hits after requesting information on the following ethnic groups: Hollande, Belgique, Danemark, Suede, Espagne, Ecossais, Allemagne, Angleterre, Dearfield, Irlande, Bretagne, Londres, Anglais and Sauvage. Rene Jette's repertoires report over 135 references to people of English origin who came to New France directly from England or their colonies in North America. They married and had over 420 children prior to 1730.

A part of this intermingling in New France was due to normal immigration from these various countries. Another major reason was the almost constant conflict (wars) between England and France for domination of North America and attempts to restrain further British expansion which lasted until the early part of the 19th century. These conflicts almost always resulted in the taking of prisoners, both young and old. Captivity was a fact of life in New England. Many of these prisoners returned home after negotiations but many also remained in New France and were assimilated into the local communities. This narrative will recall one of the many raids that occurred during this period - the 1704 raid on the English settlement at Deerfield, Massachusetts. At the time it was one of the most catastrophic raids in New England. It will look at the small English influence into the French-Canadian Ethnic group but is a good example of how the English were assimilated into the culture after being captured and the dramatic realities of pioneer life.

Life was neither easy nor peaceful for English settlers in New England during the 17th and mid-18th centuries. The numberless scattered small villages and settlements in the colonies had to contend with numerous attacks and raids regardless of their coastal or inland location. During this extended time period the French and Indian Wars (not to be confused with the French and Indian War, 1754-1763) resulted in hundreds of raids on these scattered settlements. During the period of 1703-1712 over 140 French and/or Indian attacks and raids were committed on these settlements. Many of these villages experienced more than one raid. During this ten year period Oyster River (now Durham), New Hampshire and Wells, Maine each were attacked twelve times while Exeter New Hampshire was attacked ten times and Deerfield, Massachusetts had eight assaults. Colonial life during this decade was uncertain and very dangerous. These 140 attacks alone resulted in over 360 killed and 380 captured.



A depiction of the 1704 Raid on Deerfield, Massachusetts.

Walter Henry Lippincott (1849-1920) - New York Public Library Digital Collection:  
<http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/id?833786> Public domain photo

At the beginning of the 18th century, Deerfield, Massachusetts was the north-westernmost English settlement in colonial New England located about eighty miles west of Boston and inhabited by about 295 people which included 20 soldiers. It was at that time, literally "the frontier." It was known in New France as "Guerrefille", literally, "wargirl." The Deerfield settlement was a group of twenty houses enclosed in a stockade that stood ten feet high. It was built in 1690. Another group of about twenty houses stood outside the barrier.

On the early morning of February 29, 1704, with three feet of snow on the ground, a group of almost 300 Indians and French Canadians, led by Jean-Baptiste Hertel, invaded the Deerfield stockade. The snow had drifted against the stockade allowing the raiders to climb over and then open the north gates. The consequences were devastating. Over 55 killed, 111 captured, 17 houses destroyed by fire

along with barns, including the livestock.

Only 89 of the 111 captives survived the 300 mile winter trek north to Canada. Two prisoners had escaped earlier, the male African-American slave, Frank, was killed and the remaining who perished were women and children. Surprisingly, most of the children between the ages of three and twelve survived the march. The journey over frozen rivers, the Green Mountains, Lake Champlain and onto the Richelieu River finally ended when they reached Chambly, just outside Montreal. This tortuous trip lasted 28 days. Six of the female captives who remained in Canada eventually married Mohawk Indians. Very little is known of these marriages. Twelve other captives, nine female and three males remained in Quebec and were married.

The family of John and Dorothy Stebbens was probably the most affected by the Deerfield Raid. All six of their children ranging in age from 4 to 19 were captured and taken to Canada. They all survived and John, Dorothy and two of the oldest children returned to Deerfield. Joseph, Ebenezer, Abigail and Thankful (baptized as Louise Thérèse) remained and had a total of 26 children and presented their parents John and Dorothy Stebbens with over 98 known grandchildren.

Samuel Carter's family was not as fortunate. He escaped the assault but his wife and six children were captives. She (29 years) and her daughters, Hannah (7 months) and Marah (3 years) were killed on the march to Canada. Ebenezer returned to New England while Samuel Jr remained in Canada but never married. John Carter did marry and became known as the prominent Jean Chartier. After marrying Marie Courtemanche in 1718, he had nine children, five who married delivering 50 grandchildren.

Elizabeth Corse was also one of those killed on the march but her daughter, 8 year old Elizabeth survived. Seven months after having an illegitimate child, 15 year old Elizabeth married 53 year old Jean Dumontet and had seven children. After his death she married Pierre Monet, nine years her junior, and had seven more children. She died with over 31 grandchildren.

Thomas French lost his wife on the march but his five children survived. He and two of his children returned to Deerfield and daughter Abigail remained in Kahnawake and married a Mohawk. Daughter, Freedom (baptized as Marie Françoise Freinch) married Jean Daveluy and had eleven children. Daughter Martha (baptized as Marthe Marguerite Franche) wed Jacques Roy in 1711 and they had eleven children. After Jacques' sudden death she married Jean Menard and had four more children. These two women, who had 26 children, left over 92 great grandchildren for Thomas French, an Englishman, who returned to New England.

Thomas Hurst and Elizabeth Price Stevens are two other captives who survived the long journey to Canada and also married French-Canadians. Hurst became known as Hust and married Marie Rouleau while Elizabeth wed Jean Fourneau. These two unions produced twenty children and at least 63 grandchildren.

The Deerfield Raid is certainly a small illustration of the intermingling of ethnic groups that took place during the first two centuries of European settlement in French Canada. There is sometimes confusion with the date of this raid/massacre. It is stated as February 29, 1704 and sometimes as March 11, 1704. There were not two separate raids. The eleven day difference is due to the change from the Julian Calendar to the Gregorian calendar which was adopted by France in 1582 but not by England until 1752. It seems that the author decides which date to use. Most articles I have read use February 29, 1704. All of the present attractions and the museum in Deerfield use that date. The AFGS has been discussing a trip to Deerfield. A group tour and discount requires a minimum of twenty people. They will customize the tour to our interests. If anyone is interested, please let us know by emailing to [JMSeditor@afgs.org](mailto:JMSeditor@afgs.org).

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

"*Captors and Captives*" by Haefeli and Sweeney

"*The Unredeemed Captive*" by John Demos

"*The Redeemed Captive*" by John Williams

"*True Stories of New England Captives Carried to Canada*" by C.Alice Baker

"*Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles de Québec*" by René Jetté

"*Programme de Recherche en Démographie Historique*" PRDH

### PHOTOS WANTED FOR *JE ME SOUVIENS*

We would like to give our journal, *Je Me Souviens* a new look. We think it would be interesting to put meaningful photos on the front cover of the magazine and we are asking for your help. If you have an original photo of something relating to French-Canadians, please consider sending a copy of it to us for possible publication. It could be a picture of some place in Québec or the Maritimes. Perhaps it could be a picture of an historic church, a monument or a celebration of some sort. The photo could be of a mill in the United States where your ancestors worked, a French-Canadian organization, or a French holiday celebration. You may send a scan of your picture or if you choose to mail it to us, please only send copies of your photos as they will not be returned to you.

Please include a short paragraph or two explaining what the picture is about and giving us an approximate date of when the picture was taken. Include your name and contact information in case we need to talk with you. You may email it to [JMSeditor@afgs.org](mailto:JMSeditor@afgs.org) or mail it to AFGS, Attn: Editor, PO Box 830, Woonsocket, RI 02895-0870

## THANKFUL STEBBENS AMONG THOSE CAPTURED IN THE RAID ON DEERFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

By Normand T. Deragon

Between 1702 and 1713 a series of French and Indian wars were fought in England's 13 colonies for control of the American continent. The so-called Queen Anne's War was fought between France and England, including England's colonial forces.

The English battled French and Indian forces based in Acadia. Québec City was also targeted.

In an effort to prevent further expansion into Canada by the British, the French and Indian confederacy executed raids against targets in New England and New York. The most notable of these raids occurred at Deerfield, Massachusetts on March 11, 1704.

About 250 Abenaki and Caughnawaga Indians and 50 French Canadians, led by Jean-Baptiste Hertel de Rouville, raided the city, killing 56 including 9 women and 25 children. They captured 109, marching them hundreds of miles north to the Caughnawaga mission near Montréal.



Jean-Baptiste Hertel de Rouville led the raid on Deerfield. Thankful Stebbens resided with the Hertel family in Chambly.

Hertel de Rouville was a dedicated soldier, widely reviled by the settlers of New England for his tactics of raiding poorly defended frontier settlements. During Queen Anne's War he also participated in military operations against the English in Newfoundland. He played a role in the early settlement of Île-Royale (present-day Cape Breton Island) after that war.

Hertel de Rouville was born into a military family in Trois-Rivières. Active in the French Marines in Canada from an early age, he served with his father during a 1687 French military operation against the Seneca tribe, which occupied much of present-day western New York.

The John Stebbens family was among those captured in the Deerfield Raid. Although other families suffered severely from the attack, the Stebbens family was not molested. This was likely because one of their daughters, Abigail, was married to Jacques DeNoyon, a voyageur and explorer who resided in Deerfield. Another daughter, 12-year old Thankful Stebbens, is an ancestor

on the maternal branch of my family tree.

Many of the children who survived the trek to Quebec were adopted by the Mohawk people. Several adults were later redeemed or released in negotiated prisoner exchanges. An active market in human trafficking of the captive colonists existed during these years, and communities raised funds to ransom their citizens from Indian captivity.

Thankful was brought to Chambly after her capture and was reportedly ransomed by Hertel in 1706 and resided at the Hertel manor at Chambly. According to records, Thankful was baptized at St. Joseph de Chambly on 23 April 1707. Her name was changed to Louise Thérèse Stebene. In various records her name is alternately listed as Louise Thérèse or Thérèse Louise. The godparents



were Zacharie-François Hertel, seigneur of Chambly, and Madame de Perigny, wife of the Commandant of Fort Chambly. Thérèse asked for and was granted Canadian citizenship in May 1710.

Thérèse Louise Stebene and Adrien Legrain dit Lavallée had a marriage contract drawn up on 1 February 1711 by the notary Tailhandier. They were married on 4 February 1711 at Ste. Famille de Boucherville. They had 13 children and lived in St. Joseph de Chambly parish. The couple's youngest daughter Véronique was born and baptized on 4 July 1729. Thérèse died from complications of that birth on 11 July 1729.

Thérèse was not buried in the parish cemetery of St. Joseph de Chambly, but from St. Louis at Fort Ponchatrain, now Fort Chambly. Surrounded by a high picket fence is the ancient burial ground of the Seigneurie. Affixed to the fence posts of the enclosure are three or four small tablets bearing the names of French soldiers. With these is one which is written: Thérèse Steben 1729. Fortunately for descendants of Thérèse, author Emma Baker snapped a photo of the sign in 1889.

#### **Bibliography:**

New England Captives Carried to Canada, Volumes I and II,  
Emma Lewis Coleman

Voici des renseignements sur la famille de Thankful  
Stebbens trouvés sur le site internet  
<http://www.levelllee.net/ancestry/stebbens.htm>.

ThoughtCo. <https://www.thoughtco.com/queen-annes-war-104573>

Wikipedia  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen\\_Anne%27s\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_Anne%27s_War)



The plaque with Thankful Stebbens's name  
on the fence surrounding the cemetery at  
Fort Chambly.

*Photo by Emma Charlotte Baker, 1889*

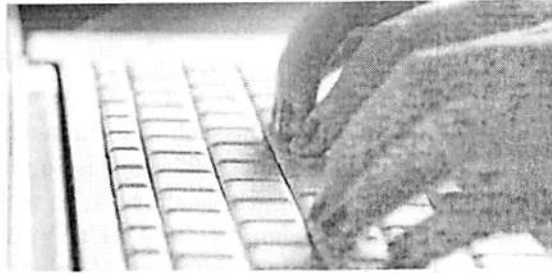


Follow us on Twitter at **@AmFrGenSoc**

Stay updated with photos and the very latest AFGS news as it is happening.

**ATTENTION MEMBERS:  
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!**

The Members Only website committee is embarking on a *very large project*. We are developing a searchable database of French-Canadian and Franco-American marriages for our Members Only website. This database will benefit all members across the country and those members outside the United States. We thank Sue Beaudet, David Coutu, Ernest Gagnon, Ed Gentley, Lucile Langlois, Roger Beaudry, Claire Small, Larry Rainville, and Sindi Terrien for answering our call for volunteers.



**BUT we still need your help, because this database could contain well over ONE MILLION marriages when it is completed.**

The more people who volunteer to enter data, the faster we would be able to create this database. *Would YOU be willing to volunteer for this project?*

We are looking for volunteers who could transcribe 10-12 pages of material for us. This is a volunteer opportunity that you would be able to complete at your home, no matter where you live, at your convenience. We would provide you with an electronic (pdf) file containing the data that needs to be transcribed, a template to enter the data into (which is currently Microsoft Excel) and instructions on how to enter the data. If you are a Mac user, we can provide a template for you also.

If you feel that you can help us with this valuable project, please write to us at [JMSeditor@afgs.org](mailto:JMSeditor@afgs.org)



**You can help!**

Join our team of volunteers.  
Your society is counting  
on you.

**DIGORY SARGENT, WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS PIONEER  
AND HIS SON, DANIEL**

Compiled by Janice Burkhart

Digory Sargent was christened on 22 June 1651 at Saint Germans, Cornwall, England. He was the son of John Sargent and Martha Axford. He came from England to Boston and seems to have settled in the Sudbury, Massachusetts area where he was a carpenter. He was also a soldier in King Philip's War in November 1675 and is found on the roles of Boston men under Captain Daniel Henchman at Mendon, Massachusetts, as well as under the command of Captain William Turner at the same place in March 1675 – 1676. You will also find him under the command of Lieutenant Nathaniel Reynolds at Chelmsford, Massachusetts, in June 1676.<sup>1</sup>

Digory married Constance James on 13 October 1693 in Boston, Massachusetts. The famous Reverend Cotton Mather officiated. Constance was born about 1673. At the time of the marriage, Digory claimed he was from Worcester. Constance claimed she was from Boston. Together they had a daughter named Martha. Constance was not mentioned in her husband's will of 17 March 1696, so it is believed that she had died before that date, probably in Worcester, Massachusetts. However, Digory did make provisions for his daughter Martha in his will. It states that in the event of Martha's death the estate was to go to George Parmenter of Sudbury.

Around 1696, Digory married a second time to a woman named Mary or Marie. Her surname is not known although she has traditionally been called Mary Parmenter. Some suspect that she was the sister of George Parmenter but that has not been proven. Her son Daniel, at his baptism in 1707, called her Mary or Marie Oben but there is little evidence to substantiate this. Mary died in the winter of 1703/1704 near Worcester, Massachusetts in an Indian attack described later in this article.

So, Digory, Mary and Martha were settled on his farm in Worcester. It was located on Sagatabscot Hill, southwestward of the town. Digory and Mary had five more children: John, Daniel, Mary, Thomas and an unnamed baby. The farm consisted of a sixty acre lot to which were added an additional 150 acres of land. He occupied and worked this land for more than 10 years, clearing the fields and planting his crops.

But the times were unsettled in the Worcester area. There were hostilities with the Indians and the settlers there were encouraged to leave their homes. Digory, who had lived on his farm for more than ten years, flatly refused to leave. Following is an account of the tragic events which would follow. They can be found in "History of Worcester" by Lincoln & Hersey. "Long after the other planters had fled from the perils of the conflict that raged around them, Sargent remained with his children [and wife], the solitary occupant of the town, resisting all importunity to seek safety by [fleeing], and resolving all fearless intrepidity to defend from the savages the fields his industry had redeemed from the waste. During the summer of 1702 his residence was unmolested. As winter approached the committee, alarmed by his situation on the frontier of danger, sent messengers to advise his removal to a place of security. As their admonitions were disregarded, they at length dispatched an armed force of twelve men, under Captain Howe, to compel compliance with the order. At the close of day, the party arrived at a garrison near the hills. Here they halted for the night, which grew dark with storm and snow, and kindling their fires laid down to rest, while one

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<sup>1</sup> Bodge's "King Philip's War," pp.55, 240 & 279



of the band watched the slumber of his comrades. In the morning they went onwards, and reached the house of Sargent, on Sagatabscot, at the distance of nearly two miles from the post where they had halted. They found the door broken down, the owner stretched in blood on the floor, and the dwelling desolate. [They buried him under an oak tree on his property.]<sup>2</sup> The prints of many moccasins leading westward, still visible through the snow, indicated that they had been anticipated by a short time only in the object of their mission. It was soon found that the children of Sargent were living in Canada.”<sup>3</sup>

“On the release of the eldest, Martha, she related the particulars of the fearful catastrophe [the children] had witnessed. When the Indians, headed by “Sagamor John,” as it is said, surrounded the house, Sargent seized his gun to defend his life, and was fired on. As he retreated to the stairway, a ball took effect and he fell. The savages rushed in, [and] with their tomahawks completed the work of death and tore off his scalp from his head as a token of victory. They seized the mother and her children, John, Daniel, Thomas, Martha and Mary, and having discovered the neighborhood of the white men, commenced a rapid retreat westward. [It is reported in other accounts that a baby about 1 week old was also killed at the cabin.] The wife of Sargent, fainting with grief and fear, and in feeble circumstances, faltered and impeded their progress. The apprehension of pursuit induced the Indians to forego [.....] torturing their victim. As they ascended the hills of Tataesset, a chief stepped out from the file and looking among the leafless forests as if for game, excited no alarm in the exhausted and sinking captive, and awoke no cry of horror to betray their course. When she had passed by, one merciful blow from the strong arm of the sachem removed the obstruction of their flight. The children they carried away reached the northern frontier in safety, and were a long time in Canada. Daniel and Mary, preferring the wild freedom of their captors to the restraints of civilized life, adopted the habits and manners of the Indians. They never again resided with their relatives, although they once made them a visit when Miss Williams, taken at Deerfield, was restored. In 1715, Thomas was in Boston. John had been liberated in 1721. Martha was probably redeemed earlier than her brothers. She married Daniel Shattuck, and returned to dwell on the spot so fatal to her family.”<sup>4</sup> Sister Mary was never heard from again and it is presumed that she remained with her Indian captors. More information on Digory’s children may be found in *The Annals of Brattleboro 1681-1895* by Mary Rogers Cabot. p.997.

For many years, researchers have felt that Daniel, one of the children carried to Canada, was given (or redeemed) by the Indians to Philippe de Rigault, the Governor General of New France. He was 4 years old at the time. Daniel was baptized in Montreal on 6 November 1707, and he was renamed Louis-Philippe Sargeant. This became corrupted to Serien, which is how it would have been pronounced. He also took the dit name Langlais (the English.) Daniel Sargeant was considered his Protestant name. He was naturalized in May of 1710 under his new name per PRDH. By this time he had been given by the governor, to Robert Poitier to raise and he grew up in Poitier’s household.

<sup>2</sup><https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.findagrave.com%2Fmemorial%2F154031197%2Fdigory-sargent&data=02%7C01%7C%7C92447146be8e497eacd608d696152ae3%7C84d9e7fc9f640afb435aaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C636861414986685352&data=2aj6gjitkNTv41DDtd%2FkNkD2VkLnQ3RWYGRN6IEV D51Q%3D&reserved=0>

<sup>3</sup> “History of Worcester” by Lincoln & Hersey (pp.38-40).

<sup>4</sup> *The Annals of Brattleboro 1681-1895* by Mary Rogers Cabot. p.997.

Daniel married Marguerite Lavoie on 22 January 1718 in Rivière-Ouelle, PQ, as Louis-Philippe Serien, Anglais de nation; marriage contract registered by Janneau on 14 June 1718, as Louis-Philippe Langlais, natif des Côtes de Boston. Marguerite was the daughter of Jean Lavoie and Madeleine Boucher. Marguerite died 4 February 1773 and was buried the next day, as "the Serien widow." They are the parents of the following: 1) Marguerite Langlais (1719-1808) who married Jean-Baptiste Gagnon 2) Jean-François Langlais (1720-) who married Marie-Josephe ... and 3) Madeleine Langlais (1723-1766) who married Joseph Hudon.

Many of us have Louis-Philippe Serien dit Langlais on our family tree. We have been proud to be descended from a colonial American pioneer, Digory Sargent. Now it seems that we may not be related to that pioneer family who lived in Worcester so long ago. Recent DNA testing seems to prove that Louis-Philippe is not the child of Digory Sargent, but rather the child of a different Sargent family that was living in Maine. Many genealogists of note are using DNA to try to determine who Louis-Philippe's parents really are. You can find many blogs on the internet which are devoted to this topic. It will be interesting to see who finally puts all the pieces of the puzzle together.

#### Sources:

Bodge, George Madison. King Philip's War. Connecticut: 1896. pp.55, 240, 279. Cabot, Mary Rogers. The Annals of Brattleboro 1681-1895. Brattleboro, Vermont: E. L. Hildreth, p.997.

<https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fgenealogytrails.com%2Fmass%2Fworcester%2Fdsargent.html&data=02%7C01%7C%7C92447146be8e497eacd608d696152ae3%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C636861414986685352&data=vZNqVbbWzy9boS9gtbicW0I7O%2F3qaPEwB2oVKIZSrk%3D&reserved=0>

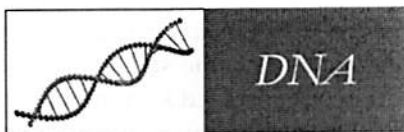
<https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.findagrave.com%2Fmemorial%2F166958952%2Flouis-philippe-langlois&data=02%7C01%7C%7C92447146be8e497eacd608d696152ae3%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C636861414986685352&data=dIFXgOjzcs%2B6CgOjwKsJY3W6wbbW7uYMn6I3Slif%2FIU%3D&reserved=0>

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 Lincoln, William. History of Worcester Massachusetts: From Its Earliest Settlement to September 1836 With Variations. Various Notices Relating to the History of Worcester County. Worcester Earliest Settlement to September 1836 With Variations. Various Notices Relating to the History of Worcester County. Worcester, Massachusetts: C. Hersey, 1862 (pp.38-40).

Woods, Henry Ernest, A.M. Some Descendants Of Digory Sargent. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1904.



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## I FOUND MY POLISH FAMILY AT AFGS

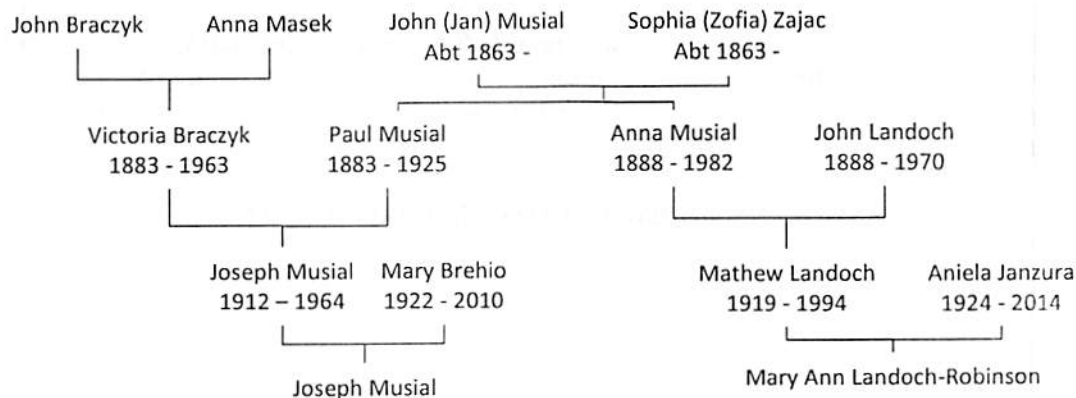
by Joe Musial

As a child I did not know my grandfather, Pawel (Paul) Musial on my father's side. He had passed away in 1925, before I was born. My grandfather identified himself as Polish and Austrian and my grandmother, Victoria Braczyk identified herself as Austrian and Czechoslovakian on various documents.

My father married my mother against his mother's wishes. She wanted him to marry one of his "own," meaning a Polish or Austrian girl. My mother was French-Canadian and so my grandmother never approved their marriage. My father's siblings, three brothers and a sister, did not challenge their mother in this matter. When my grandmother died in 1963, the ties with my father's family were strained at best. Upon my father's passing, the following year in 1964, all contact with his family ceased. A number of years ago, I was able to locate two of my uncles and sent letters to them, but got no response. So I let it go.

In 2003, with family information given to me by my mother, I joined AFGS to officially research my mother's family. I wanted to know more about my ancestors in North America. I did have some information on my father, but never imagined that someday AFGS would lead me to my dad's Polish, Austrian and Czechoslovakian family.

In October 2013, I had a basic autosomal DNA test done through FamilyTree DNA. I also participated in the AFGS DNA Project. Two years later, in 2015 a match showed up during a random look at my matches. To my surprise, there was someone looking for Musial family members and was shown as a first to third cousin. She had left an email address so I contacted her. Over time we exchanged information but it was not until the surname Zajac turned up that we were able to establish our connection. From my youth I remembered the name as a family member, but not as to how. As fate would have it, her grandmother, Anna Musial and my grandfather, Paul Musial were siblings, so we are second cousins. They were the children of John/Jan Musial and Sophia/Zofia Zajac. The chart will show the familial relationship.



The surname Zajac has appeared under variations such as Zajac Zayjac, Zayjacz, and Zayonc.

We have also worked with a researcher in Poland. His name is Lukasz Ossolinski. He has sent me some copies of documents located in Poland. One thing I have learned that people searching their Polish lines should be aware of – until the early 1900's there was no central record keeping of any sort on the province or federal level. All records were kept in local towns or at religious institutions. The common theory is that most Polish records were destroyed by the Nazis, but many records were saved by people hiding them in caves and other places. Even now some records still turn up. Some of the surnames we are currently researching are: Braczyk, Zayjac, Landoch, Janzura, Masek, Muzyka, Smyka, Pis, and Garbacik.

I have always felt that tracing my Polish ancestry back to Poland would be virtually impossible, but a simple DNA test led me to an unknown cousin and this story is the result so far.

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## THE STORY OF INDIAN CAPTIVE, MATTHEW FARNSWORTH III

by Paul Vilmur

### Introduction

A lot has been written about the Farnsworth family of New England and Canada.<sup>5, 6, 7</sup> This narrative uses information from references 2 and 3 and will concentrate on my 6th great-grandfather Mathew Farnsworth III (named Claude-Mathias Phaneuf in Canada).

### The Farnsworth family

Tradition has the Farnsworth family (originating in Normandy) coming to England with William the Conqueror in 1066. The Farnsworth name signifies "Place of Ferns".<sup>8</sup> The Farnsworth family has been traced back some 19 generations by other researchers to Leinzig with the title Chief of Farnworth born about 1150 in Lancashire County, England.<sup>9</sup> The Farnsworth family had a large manor house as part of a 1400 acre estate in the parish of Dean in Lancashire County. This manor was home to several generations of the family at least until the reign of Queen Elisabeth I in 1600.<sup>10</sup>

### Richard Farnsworth

The first Farnsworth of interest to us was Richard Farnsworth, born November 1584 in Eccles, Lancashire, England. He married Elizabeth Marshe January 12, 1608 at Eccles.<sup>11</sup> They had 6 children. The child of interest is Matthew, baptized on July 20, 1612 at Eccles. He would immigrate to Massachusetts.

### Matthew Farnsworth I

Matthew was born in 1612 and married Dorothy Robertson about 1645.<sup>12</sup> They had three children Elizabeth, Matthew II, and John in England. Matthew and his family immigrated to Massachusetts

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<sup>5</sup> Moses Franklin Farnsworth, *Farnsworth Memorial, Being a record of Mathias Farnsworth and His Descendants in America*. (Manti, Utah: L.A. Lauber, 1897)

<sup>6</sup> Thomas J. Laforest (Ed.) *Vol II Our French Canadian Ancestors*, Chapter 23, The Phaneuf Families of America by Marielle Phaneuf, (Palm Harbor Florida: The Lisi Press, 1990) pp. 217-222

<sup>7</sup> Kathryn Conway, *Mathias Farnsworth III, a.k.a. Claude Mathias Faneuf, an English Captive Carried to New France, and the Progenitor of all Phaneufs: Parts 1 and 2*, (Michigan's Habitant Heritage Vol 39 #4, Oct 2018 and Vol 40 #1, Jan 2019), Part 1 pp. 181-189, Part 2 pp. 14-22.

<sup>8</sup> Laforest, pg. 217-218

<sup>9</sup> The following ancestry.com family trees reflect research done by others into the far past Farnsworth ancestry  
<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/70958501/person/32229953106/facts>

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/158526275/person/272077596282/facts>

<sup>10</sup> Laforest, pg. 218

<sup>11</sup> Richard Farnsworth Birth

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/41583164>

Richard Farnsworth Marriage

[https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/2959/40365\\_293602-00094/4550075?backurl=https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/16621593/person/230019775474/facts/citation/760081249786/edit/record](https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/2959/40365_293602-00094/4550075?backurl=https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/16621593/person/230019775474/facts/citation/760081249786/edit/record)

<sup>12</sup> Mathias Farnsworth I Birth, Marriage, Death

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/41582800/matthias-farnsworth>

around 1653. His first wife died soon after arriving. Matthew remarried Mary Farr about 1655 in Lynn, Essex County, Massachusetts and had eight more children between 1657 and 1677. The child of interest is Matthew II born January 1649 in Eccles, Lancashire County, England.

### **Matthew Farnsworth II**

Matthew II born in 1649 married Sarah Nutting about 1681 in Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts.<sup>13</sup> The Farnsworths and Nuttings were among the first families to settle the town of Groton around 1655. Matthew II was granted a 900 acre right. In a 1676 Indian raid, Sarah's father, John Nutting, was killed and the rest of the residents of the town fled to Concord. On that day the Nipmuc Indians burned the local meeting house and about 40 other homes. It was not until 1678 that the former residents returned to rebuild the town.<sup>14</sup>

Matthew and Sarah had eight children born between 1682 and 1693. The person of interest is Matthew III born August 6, 1690 in Groton, Massachusetts.<sup>15</sup>

A slight digression is in order here. Between 1690 and 1710, the settlers of Canada were at war with the New Englanders. With their Indian allies they would surprise and pillage American villages taking prisoners when possible in what is now Maine and Massachusetts.<sup>16</sup>

On 4 August 1704, a raid by about 20 Indian allies of the French-Canadians fell on Groton. The 14 year old Matthew Farnsworth III was captured in this raid. Probably with other prisoners accumulated in other raids that took place at the same time, Matthew was marched northwest into Canada.<sup>17</sup> The route probably followed the various rivers leading to Lake Champlain, then by canoe up the Lake to the Richelieu River to Sorel on the St. Lawrence River and eventually finding their way to the mission at Sault-au-Récollet on Montréal Island.

### **Claude-Mathias Farnsworth-Farneth (Matthew III)**

After a little more than a year as a slave in the Sault-au-Recollet Mission, Matthew was ransomed in 1705 by François Vachon de Belmont, a Sulpician priest and superior of the order.<sup>18</sup> He was now considered a contracted hired hand and expected to work off his ransom cost. He worked for the Sulpicians for 5 years possibly as a translator but more likely as a farm laborer. He was schooled in

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<https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=70582&h=1939639&ssrc=pt&tid=65700584&pid=38185997147&usePUB=true>

<sup>13</sup> Mathias Farnsworth Jr Birth and Death

<https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=60525&h=105182703&ssrc=pt&tid=16621593&pid=230016205553&usePUB=true>

Mathias Farnsworth Jr Marriage

<https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=3824&h=48699&ssrc=pt&tid=65700584&pid=38185996375&usePUB=true>

<sup>14</sup>Conway, Part 1, pg. 182

<sup>15</sup> Mathias Farnsworth III Birth

<https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=2495&h=80189772&ssrc=pt&tid=65700584&pid=38207261647&usePUB=true>

<sup>16</sup> Emma Lewis Coleman, *New England Captives Carried to Canada*, Vol 1, (Portland Maine: Southworth Press 1925) pg. 3-4.

<sup>17</sup> Coleman pp. 290-292

<sup>18</sup> Conway, Part 2, pg. 18.

French and taught to read and write as well as mechanical arts and good manners. He was also converted to Catholicism. Matthew was baptized at Notre-Dame church in Montréal on January 10, 1706 as Claude-Mathias Farneth.<sup>19</sup> He was named after his godfather, Claude de Ramsey, governor of Montréal and his father (Mathias is French for Matthew). Farnsworth became Farneth since Farnsworth was hard to pronounce in French. By 1713 he was calling himself Fanef which finally became Phaneuf. Claude along with 53 other applicants became a naturalized Canadian citizen in March 1710.<sup>20</sup> After his 5 year service was completed, the Sulpicians must have looked kindly on their servant for Claude was granted a concession of a 50 acre property fronting on the Rivière-des-Prairies on Montréal Island on July 19, 1711 on land owned by the Sulpician Order.<sup>21</sup> As part of this concession Mathias was contracted to pay the Sulpicians 30 sous (about \$9) and provide 6 bushels of wheat annually. He was also obligated to use the Sulpician mill to process his grain. This holding was doubled on September 12, 1713 possibly as a wedding present. On September 25, 1713 Claude contracted to marry Catherine Charpentier. As part of the marriage contract, the Sulpicians agreed to build a house and barn on the new property.<sup>22</sup> The marriage took place on October 2, 1713 at Rivière-des-Prairies.<sup>23</sup> Claude and Catherine had 12 children between 1714 and 1734, 10 of which survived to adulthood.<sup>24</sup> Two of these children are direct descendants. They are Catherine born July 17, 1714 and Joseph Marie born January 14, 1723. Claude and Catherine lived and farmed most of their lives on their land at Rivière-des-Prairies. In old age, they moved to the town of St. Antoine on the Richelieu River.<sup>25</sup> Claude died there at age 83 on August 7, 1773.<sup>26</sup> His wife followed in 1777. He was buried in the church at Saint-Antoine-sur-Richelieu which was an unusual privilege for a farmer.

#### Phaneuf Ancestry

The following marriage records were obtained from the following sources:

##### 1. French Canadian Marriages

Québec Drouin Collection of Vital and Church Records (Available from many sources and at AFGS)  
Drouin Répertoire Alphabetique des Mariages 1608-1935 (Available from AFGS)

##### 2. Michigan Marriages 1822-1995 (Available from Familysearch.org and Ancestry.com)

##### 3. Marriage date in 2A is estimated from the birth of first child.

<sup>19</sup> Mathias Farnsworth (Fenef) Church Register Baptism Record: Image 364  
<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9MY-Y92F?i=363&wc=HZT4-6TL%3A16470801%2C23492102%2C28869001&cc=1321742>

<sup>20</sup> Conway, Part 2, pg. 19

<sup>21</sup> Pierre Raimbault Notary: Land Grant 1713 Images 598-601

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008327233?i=597&cat=529332>

<sup>22</sup> Nicolas Senet: Notary: Marriage Contract Image 1235-1238

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS5V-4SPP-V?i=1234&cat=675517>

<sup>23</sup> Marriage Record St-Joseph Rivière-des-Prairies Image 65

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-899M-1ZX2?i=64&wc=HZ2S-JWL%3A16470801%2C41354701%2C41354702&cc=1321742>

<sup>24</sup> Family Grouping of Claude-Mathias children

<http://www.francogene.com/genealogie-quebec-genealogy/014/014887.php>

<sup>25</sup> Laforest, pg. 219

<sup>26</sup> Burial Record from St-Antoine-sur-Richelieu was unreadable. The reference is the PRDH transcribed record.

<https://www.prdh-igd.com/Membership/en/PRDH/acte/379272>

**Mose Desjardins side**

1A Joseph-Marie Phaneuf (b. 1723) m. Marie-Anne Payet (b. 1726) March 15, 1746 at Ste-Rose, Ile Jésus, Laval, PQ.

2A Pierre Phaneuf (b. 1756) m. Rosalie Chapleau (b. 1760) Abt 1793 at Ste-Rose, Ile Jésus, Laval, PQ.

3A Rosalie Phaneuf (b. 1796) m. Joseph Aubin (b. 1795) Oct. 31, 1814 at Ste-Rose, Ile Jésus, Laval, PQ.

4A Marie Aubin m. François-Xavier Desjardins (b. 1814) at Ste-Thérèse, Terrebonne Co., PQ

5A Mose Desjardins (b. 1844) m. Elodie Gratton (b. 1850) June 14, 1869 at St-Augustin, Deux Montagnes Co., PQ

6AB Léonard Desjardins (Gardner) (b. 1881) m. Delia Gamelin (b. 1885) May 4 1903 at Escanaba, MI.

7AB Priscilla Gardner (b. 1916) m. Louis Vilmur (b. 1907) July 28, 1937 at Flat Rock, MI

8AB Paul Vilmur

**Elodie Gratton's side**

1B Catherine Phaneuf (b. 1714) m. François Cadieux Jan. 1, 1740 at Rivière-des-Prairies, Ile de Montréal, PQ

2B Catherine Cadieux (b. 1752) m. Jean-Baptiste Yon-Guyon (b. 1752) Oct. 3, 1774 at St-Martin, Ile Jésus, Laval, PQ

3B Appoline Yon (b. 1780) m. Jean-Baptiste Ethier (b. 1770) Sept. 10, 1804 at Ste-Thérèse, Terrebonne Co., PQ

4B Catherine Ethier m. Augustin Gratton Jan. 27, 1845 at St-Augustin, Deux Montagnes Co., PQ

5B Elodie Gratton (b. 1850) m. Mose Desjardins (b. 1844) June 14, 1869 at St-Augustin, Deux Montagnes Co., PQ

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**DIEU ET PATRIE**

by Dennis H. Auger

My periodic sojourns to Suncook, New Hampshire, the town of my formative years, is often accompanied by a visit to the new St. John the Baptist Cemetery where family members are buried. In the fall of 2017, a special experience occurred. While reading the military plaques of my father and two uncles, a sense of sadness filled me as I reflected about individuals choosing not to stand during the national anthem. As part of my reflective meditation, a walk was taken throughout this final resting place. To my amazement, numerous adults from my childhood had served in the military, especially during World War II. Additionally, I had not realized that so many Franco-Americans had served in the Armed Services. However, many of these granite or bronze military plaques, which are set into the ground, were covered by grass and dirt and some were barely visible.



Hommage aux serviteurs de la patrie

I decided to volunteer my services to “clean up” these plaques in the spring of 2018 and this endeavor was approved by the pastor. Why take on such a project? In a few words, it was to demonstrate respect and a heartfelt gratitude to Suncook soldiers who sacrificed so much, whether they served in peace or war time. All of them experienced separation from their families. For many, it meant delaying or never realizing goals which had been planned. Some were killed, some were wounded, some were prisoners of war and some suffered emotional distress for the remainder of their lives. By their service, they ensured free speech and that is what the flag symbolizes for many. On occasion, this project allowed me to interact with the loved ones of these servicemen. One comes to mind with fond memories. I helped an elderly woman in her mid-80’s with trimming grass, flower arrangement and flag setting for her deceased husband who had served in the Air Force during the Korean War. This Franco-American lady did not need to express in words the feelings of love and pride for her husband and country which she felt in her heart.

Having spent over 25 hours clearing these plaques, the project, as the saying goes, “took on a life of its own.” I felt a renewed bond with all these soldiers and with the Franco-American community that influenced my life. That is the direction of this article.

What and where is Suncook? When perusing a New Hampshire map, one will notice the proximity of three neighboring entities: Allenstown, Pembroke and Suncook. Pembroke was incorporated as a town in 1759 while Allenstown achieved that status in 1831. Suncook has never been incorporated as a town. So why is it located on a map? First of all, the Pennacook Abenaki named the river flowing through the area “Suncook” and the locality took on the name. It is also known as Suncook Village. 1/3 located in Allenstown and 2/3 in Pembroke. The combined area of Allenstown and Pembroke is 43.4 square miles, of which 3.87 square miles covers Suncook.<sup>1</sup> Interestingly, the Post Office, a federal facility, is located in Suncook!

The two incorporated towns were agrarian communities mainly populated by Yankee Protestants through the mid-nineteenth century. By 1870, three major manufacturing mills were located along the Suncook River and the workforce was being filled by French Canadian immigrants arriving between 1870-1930. The vast majority of these immigrants established roots in Suncook and their descendants continued the family tradition of working in the mills. In *Frog Town*, Laurence French offers an excellent analysis of how French Canadian immigrants impacted the area. “The population soon swelled with the infusion of French Canadian workers...changing the ethnic and cultural flavor of the town. Suncook soon became a unique Catholic, Franco-American ethnic community separate from, but dependent upon, its Protestant Yankee-dominated surroundings. It was also unique in that the French were the predominant ethnic migrants in the Suncook Valley unlike other mill towns and cities in New England where the French were just one of many ethnic groups. The predominantly French community became known as Suncook, distinguishing it from either Pembroke or Allenstown.”<sup>2</sup>

French Canadian immigrants brought their culture, language, ethics, work values and most of all their Roman Catholic religion. To fulfill the needs of this ethnic group, the Catholic diocese established Saint Jean-Baptiste Parish for this French speaking population in 1873.<sup>3</sup> By the late 1960's, assimilation was taking place among the Baby Boomers. However, the French Canadian culture remained strong throughout the early 1960's. My parents and grandparents spoke French as their primary language. When I attended the parish grammar school (grades 1-8) from 1957-1965, students were still reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and singing “O Canada, terre de nos aïeux” to begin the school day—after prayer, of course. Morning classes were in French and English in the afternoon. The 1958 parish publication (100 pages) was only in French. Highlighted pictures included “les Enfants du Sanctuaire, Groupe de la Confraternité, Première Communion, Messe des gradués, Compagnons de Marquette, et les petits chantent la bonté de leurs mamans”.<sup>4</sup>

According to a 1974 study, by 1880 French Canadians comprised 40% (1,119) of Pembroke's population (2,797), 80% (1,366) of Allenstown's (1,707) and Suncook's came in at 95%.<sup>5</sup> Based on the combined Allenstown and Pembroke numbers, 55% (2,485) of residents were French Canadian. I did not come across any similar percentage studies for 1940 but it is valid to argue that those of French Canadian heritage remained high and paralleled the 1880 numbers.<sup>6</sup> The combined total for the two towns in 1940 was 4,442; 55% of that number is 2,446 French Canadian. What is that projection based upon? First, this takes into consideration the descendants of the first and second generations of the original immigrants. Second, I refer to my previously described personal experiences in the 1950's. Third, the combined population of Allenstown and Pembroke, which includes Suncook, in the 1880, 1930 and 1940 census remained stable.<sup>7</sup> Fourth, parish information is very helpful here. In 1915, 480 families were registered at Saint Jean-Baptiste in Suncook Village and the number increased to 741 families and 526 students in the parish school by 1935.<sup>8</sup> These statistics provide additional evidence to the conclusion above. Lastly, the 1960 Allenstown Annual Report demonstrates the ongoing Franco-American presence in the community. Of the 31 town officers listed, 27 had a French surname (87%)!<sup>9</sup> It will become evident why there is a focus on the 1940 population estimates.

With the above background provided for perspective, it is time to return full circle: the military plaques. An Allenstown parcel of land was purchased by the parish in 1873 to establish a cemetery. The entrance sign reads, “Cimetière St. Jean- Baptiste”. Due to an expanding need for space, another tract of Allenstown land was purchased in 1935 for a new cemetery. In the 1950's extensive

improvements were made to this addition. “An altar was erected, an imposing entrance constructed, the drives paved, the vault enlarged and grass cultivated.”<sup>10</sup> “St Jean- Baptiste” appears on the arch entrance and the November 3, 1957 commemorative plaque reads, “ Vous qui passez, faites-nous l’offrande d’une prière”<sup>11</sup> and “Blessed are they who rest in the Lord.” My project of respect and gratitude took place on this holy ground.

After completing “the cleanup” of the military plaques in time for Memorial Day 2018,<sup>12</sup> there was a desire—or need—to examine it further. It must be remembered that the new cemetery does not compare to urban ones in size and population numbers. Nevertheless, the number of military personnel with roots in the local community buried there was astounding to me: 468 as of July 17, 2018.<sup>13</sup> covering those who served from World War I to the present. Of the 468, 84% were of French Canadian heritage (392). The Christian cross appeared on all the plaques with one exception where no religion was designated.

There are other clarifying facts. The majority of military plaques indicated service in the Second World War; of the 468, 61% served in World War II (286) and 86% of these were Franco-American (246). This latter number represents 10% of the Franco-American community in Suncook based on my statistical analysis of the 1940 census.

Even though the above statistics concerning Franco-Americans are apparently high, the estimates are on the conservative side. The numbers and percentages of military personnel do not include the following: those buried in the older cemetery; soldiers buried in other cemeteries, e.g., two Auger uncles are interred in other states; those whose mothers were French Canadian but carried their father’s non-French surname (Suncook had its share of “mixed marriages”, i.e., Yankee-French, Irish-French, etc); those whose remains have been cremated and a few veterans who remain alive today.

In December 1942, the War Department conferred the Army-Navy Production Award upon Suncook Mills for providing war equipment and cloth vital to the military.<sup>14</sup> Franco-American laborers, men and women, were the worker bees in the mills. Both my parents worked there. In the program printed for this event, it listed 74 former employees in the Armed Services at that time and 68 had French Canadian surnames. In that list, 23 Franco-Americans are not buried in the new Saint Jean-Baptiste Cemetery. George Malo was one of them who had been killed in action. It is possible that a few of these workers were from areas outside of Suncook but it is not likely due to the transportation issues of the day. The point is that the above individuals would increase the number of Suncook Franco-Americans who served during World War II.

The most important conclusion of this research is that Franco-Americans in Suncook contributed so much to their country. The statistics are merely a means to an end. In this article, one is reminded how Franco-Americans from one small village demonstrated their patriotism and contributed to America’s war efforts by being members of the military, especially during World War II. One can debate the pros and cons of these involvements but one fact is indisputable: these soldiers made sacrifices to defend freedom and some at a costly price. This is what the flag symbolizes for many and this cannot be lost in the discussion. Furthermore, the Suncook situation presents a glimpse into a greater reality. One can only marvel at the Franco-American presence in much larger enclaves, e.g., Manchester, Woonsocket, Lowell, etc., who responded to their nation’s military call.

On May 30, 1958, the unveiling and blessing of a Soldiers' Monument took place on the church grounds. A bilingual bronze plaque entitled "God And Country/ Dieu Et Patrie" has the following citation: "To honor the memory of the sons of this parish who gave their lives and of those who served under the American flag to preserve our common heritage and the liberties that make us a free and God-fearing people."<sup>15</sup> During the early 1960's, I remember participating yearly in the combined Allenstown/Pembroke Memorial Day Parade as a Cub Scout and Boy Scout. To honor our servicemen of all ethnic and religious groups, living and deceased, the parade would come to a halt at this monument and the traditional gun salute would take place. Even though it is more than 50 years ago, it remains a powerful and emotional memory.



Dévoilement du Monument des Soldats, 30 mai

Memorial Services are much more meaningful when all pertinent names are read instead of merely stating the number of individuals identified. With this in mind, all 468 servicemen buried in the new St. John the Baptist Cemetery<sup>16</sup> will be listed here along with pertinent information found on their military plaques.<sup>17</sup> Since AFGS has members throughout the United States, one might be able to locate a relative buried in Suncook. It might even inspire other individuals to do a similar project in their community.

Lastly, this has been an unexpected spiritual and religious experience for me. Religious faith, love of God and country and pride in the French Canadian heritage permeates St. John the Baptist Cemetery.<sup>18</sup> Each soldier listed here deserves to have his name printed as a sign of honor, respect and gratitude.<sup>19</sup> This is my personal tribute:

### Section 1

Oscar Bosse : Army, World War II  
Maurice Bergevin: Navy, World War II  
Lawrence Allaire: Hospital Ship, World War II  
Donald Beudet: Navy, Vietnam War  
Doria Desrosiers: Army, World War II  
Paul Gamache: Army, No War Listed  
Robert Cournoyer: Army, World War II  
Sylvio Roy: Navy, World War II  
Maurice Allaire: Navy, Korean War  
Paul Beudet: Army, World War II, Prisoner of War, Purple Heart  
Bernard Plourde: Army, World War II  
Doria Lefebvre: Army, World War II  
Edward Saucier: Battery, World War II  
Hector Stokes: Army, World War I  
Herve Desrosiers: Army, World War II  
William Allaire: Depot Brigade, World War I  
Chester St. Jean: Army, World War II

Lester St. Jean: Navy, World War II  
Maurice Desrosiers: Navy, World War II  
Edward St. Jean: Infantry, World War II  
William St. Jean: Navy, World War II  
Henry Maynard: Depot Brigade, World War I  
Fred Maynard: Quartermaster, World War I  
William Gamache: Bugler Company, World War I  
Leslie Lajoie: Airborne, World War II  
George Leveille: Army, World War II  
Louis Perreault, Jr.: Army, World War II  
Alfred Perreault: Coast Artillery, World War II  
Albert Bouchard: Operator, World War II  
Joseph Neveux: Army, World War II  
Hector Raymond: Infantry, World War II  
Donald Rousseau: Army, Korean War  
Wilfred Duguay: Navy, World War II  
Royal Blais: Navy, No War Listed  
Reginald Courtemanche: Navy, World War II  
Robert Nepveu: Infantry, World War II

Herve Noel: Navy, World War II  
Rudolph Cantara: Infantry, World War II  
Philip Richard: Marines, World War II  
Joseph Houle: Army, World War I  
Arthur Gendron: Marines, World War II  
Armand Gagne: Army, World War II  
Alfred Auger: Infantry, World War I  
Eli Laflamme: Army, World War II  
William Levesque: Artillery, World War I  
Wilfred Talbot, Jr.: Army, Korean War  
Arthur Dionne: Appropriation Type, World War I  
Arthur Vezina: Engineer, World War II  
Fernando Drolet: Depot Brigade, World War I  
Nelson Guertin: Infantry, World War I  
George Guertin: Army, Korean War  
Roland Noel: Army, World War II, Purple Heart  
Raymond Chaput: Army, Korean War  
Edmond Perreault: Infantry, World War I  
Lionel Despres: Army, World War II  
Louis Gagne: Army, World War I, Purple Heart  
Newton Fleury: Army, World War I  
Normand Malo, Sr.: Army, World War II  
Edmond Gallien: Army, World War II  
Raymond Beauchesne: Infantry, World War II  
Alfred Desrosiers: Engineer, World War I  
Lester Leblanc: Army Air Forces, World War II  
Oscar Martel: Army, World War II  
Edouard Desmarais: Infantry, World War I  
Wilfred Letendre: Ordnance, World War II  
Harold Shepard: Army, Korean War  
Arthur Letendre: Navy, World War II  
James Mahair: Army, Vietnam War  
Lucien Bonenfant: Navy, World War II  
Robert Letendre: Navy, Army, World War II, Korean War  
Henry Hamel: Army, No War Listed  
Arthur Harnois: Army, World War II  
Thomas Levesque: Navy, World War II  
Alcida Emile: Quartermaster, World War II  
Joseph Viens: Depot, World War I  
Leo Payeur: Navy, World War II  
Gaston Raymond: Army, World War II  
Gamille Biotteau: Depot Brigade, World War I  
Edgar Bellerose: Navy, World War II  
Aldeige Demers: Battalion, World War II  
Frank Fleury: Army, World War I  
Albert Coll: Navy, World War II  
Arthur Daneault: Depot Brigade, World War I  
Sylvio Dube, Jr.: Navy, Korean War  
Raoul Gaumont: Artillery, World War II

Richard Gagnon: Army, No War Listed  
Raoul Perreault: Depot Brigade, World War I  
Ona Martel: Navy, World War II  
Edward Leblanc: Army, No War Listed  
Ovila Martel: Army, World War I  
Edgar Laferte: Infantry, World War II  
Henry Laferte: Army, World War II  
Lucien Demers: Artillery, World War II  
Roger Demers: Army, World War II  
Richard Moran: Marines, World War II  
Fernand Raymond: Artillery, World War II  
Robert Faucher: Army, Korean War  
Roland Boisvert: Engineer, World War II  
William Gilbert: Depot Brigade, World War I  
Laurence Veroneau: Army, World War II  
Louis Robert: Army Air Corps, World War II  
Norbert Raymond: Army, World War II  
Lester Martel: Army, World War II  
William Welch: Navy, World War II  
Joseph Forcier: Infantry, World War II  
Lucien Lascelle: Army, World War II  
Robert Blazon: Army, World War II  
Ernest Petit: Army, World War II  
Albert Monty: Navy, World War II  
Roland Fontaine: Army, World War II  
Armand Gibeau: Infantry, World War II  
Herve Malo: HQ Battery, World War II  
Henry Pepin: Infantry, World War I  
Roland Grandmaison: Infantry, World War II  
Henry Bousquet: Army, World War II  
Peter Bousquet: Army, World War I, World War II  
Aime Ricard: Army, Korean War, Purple Heart  
John Houle: Army, World War II  
William Sutphen: Navy, Vietnam War  
William Vann: Air Force, World War II, Korean War  
John Frodyma: Army, World War II  
Roland Mailhot: Army, Korean War  
Rene Daneault: Army, Korean War  
William Boisvert: Army, World War II  
Henry Baron: Depot Brigade, World War I  
Albert Ritchotte: Ordnance, World War I  
Paul Ritcotte: Air Force, Korean War  
Maurice Lafond: Army, World War II, Purple Heart  
Frank Petit: Army Air Forces, World War II  
Adrien Martel: Army, World War II

**Section 2**

Clifford Richard: Army, World War II  
Philip Rondeau: Army, World War I  
Archille Dube: Coast Artillery, World War I  
Frederic Duguay: Infantry, World War I  
Leo R. Martel: Parachute Infantry, World War II  
Lucian Brasley: Navy, Vietnam War, Roman Catholic Priest  
Herve Taillefer: Army, World War I  
Rogacien Coulombe: Infantry, World War I  
Roger Fanny: Marines, World War II  
John Neveux: Army Air Forces, World War II  
Armand Moisan: Army, World War II  
Richard Gelinas: Army, No War Listed  
Samuel Gelinas: Navy, World War II  
Rico Risatti: Army, World War II  
Hermann Baulne: Navy, World War II  
Henry J. Auger: Marines, World War II  
Albert Fanny: Army, World War II  
Alfred Vezina: Army, World War II  
Patrick Baron: Artillery, World War I  
Martin Nevins: Depot Brigade, World War I  
Antonio Dupont: Infantry, World War I  
Normand Raymond: Infantry, World War II  
Roland Allaire: Army, World War II  
Chester Richard: Battery, World War II  
Albert Boutotte: Infantry, World War I  
Amedee Courtemanche: USA Security Agency, World War II  
Alcide Cansler: Army, World War II  
Guilfred Boisvert: Army, World War II  
Eli Mason: Army, World War I  
Frank Goodwin, Jr.: Coast Guard, No War Listed  
Rene Boisvert: Army, World War II  
Ronald Boisvert: Navy, Vietnam War  
Albert Gaumont: Army, World War II  
John Scanlon: Engineer, World War I  
Roger Boucher: Army, World War II  
Leo J. Martel: Army, World War II  
Hector Campbell: Army, World War II  
Jean Mulligan: Navy, World War II  
John Gallon: Navy, World War II  
Herve Boisvert: Army, No War Listed  
George James: Army, World War II  
Roger Martin: Marines, Korean War  
Eugene Cantara: Navy, World War II  
Rodolphe Duford: Engineer, World War II  
Wilfred Lavertu: Navy, World War II  
Henry Boudreau: Army, Korean War

Roger Crevier: Army, World War II  
Raymond Mailhot: Navy, World War II  
Donald Baillargeon: Navy, No War Listed  
Norman Baillargeon: Army, World War II  
Roland Baillargeon: Navy, World War II  
Redmond Carroll: Navy, No War Listed  
Roger Berube: Navy, No War Listed  
Normand Perron: Navy, World War II  
Robert Reeves, Jr.: Army, Vietnam War  
Herve Roy: Army Air Forces, World War II  
Alvah Girard: Ammo, World War I  
Ernest Labbe: Ammo, World War I  
Donald Bergevin: Navy, Korean War  
Clovis Adelard Boulet: Army, World War I  
Paul Hebert: Army, Vietnam War  
Steve Levesque: Artillery, World War I  
Oscar Fontaine: Army, World War II  
Raymond McHugh: Cavalry, Korean War  
Anthime Demers: Army, World War II  
Ovila Connor: Army, World War I  
John Letendre: Army, World War II  
John Bourdon: Navy, World War II  
Oscar Malo: Army, World War II  
George Thibeault: Navy, World War II  
Aime Cansler: Army, World War II  
Maurice Duhaime: Army, World War II  
Ernest Gamelin: Infantry, World War II  
Ernest Gamelin: Infantry, Vietnam War  
Joseph Adinolfo: Army Air Forces, World War II  
Lorenzo Pelletier: Navy, World War II  
Lawrence Raymond: Marines, Vietnam War  
Joseph Raymond: Army, World War II, Victory & Asiatic-Pacific Svc Medals  
Henry Gingras: Infantry, World War II  
Antoine Gosselin: Army, World War I  
Edgar Hartford: Army, World War II  
Carl Wessen: Army, World War I  
Laurier Baron: Navy, World War II  
Charles Stokes: Army, World War II  
Arthur Boisvert: Battalion, World War II  
Gerald Costigan: Army, World War II  
Alfred Metivier: Marines, World War II  
Peter Leclair: Army, World War I  
Leo Cormier: Army, World War II  
Normand Vezina: Army, Korean War, Purple Heart  
Paul Blazon: Navy, World War II  
Jean Marie Turgeon: Army, Korean War  
Kay Fuller: Army, World War II  
Edward Ritchotte: Army, World War II

Donald Daneault: Navy, No War Listed  
Ernest Levasseur: Infantry, World War I  
Emette Lavoie: Coast Artillery, World War II  
Clovis Boulet: Marines, World War II  
Leo Martin: Army, No War Listed  
Richard Gauthier: Army, Korean War  
Normand Gauthier: Marines, No War Listed  
Leon Gauthier: Army, World War II  
Laurent Turgeon: Army, World War II

### **Section 2A**

Henry Grenier: Army, World War II

### **Section 3**

Donald Demers: Army, Korean War  
Robert Dodge: Air Force, No War Listed  
Edmund Milligan: Army, No War Listed  
Albert Letourneau: Army, Korean War  
Ernest Coulombe: Navy, World War II  
Norman Boisvert: Navy, Korean War  
Philip Durand: Navy, Korean War  
Romeo Bellerose: Army, World War II  
Roger Bergevin: Army, Korean War  
Raymond Guilbeault: Marines, World War II  
William Jacob: Air Force, Korean War  
Gerald Biron: Air Force, Navy, World War II  
George Welch: Army, World War II  
Robert Lavalée: Marines, No War Listed  
Lionel Chouinard: Army, World War II  
Alcide Fanny: Army, World War II  
Paul Duford: Army, Vietnam War  
Robert Towle: Army, No War Listed  
Gerard Brasley: Army, No War Listed  
Ernest Ouellette: Army, World War II  
Paul Plourde: Army, Korean War  
Cornelius Connor: Army, World War II  
Norman Richard: Navy, World War II  
Edward Boudreau: Army, World War II  
Maurice Lizotte: Army, World War II  
Walter Martell: Army, World War II  
William Brasley: Army, Korean War  
Ludger Brisebois: Navy, World War II  
Norman Boudreau: Marines, World War II  
Roland Gagne: Navy, World War II  
Norman Blais: Navy, World War II  
Wilson Daneault: Army, World War II  
Donald Murray: Navy, Korean War  
Sean Noel: Marines, Persian Gulf War  
Raymond Pelkey, Jr.: Army, Korean War  
Gerald Lafond: Marines, World War II

Maurice Healy: Army, World War II  
Raymond Audet: Air Force, No War Listed  
Bernard Labbe: Navy, No War Listed  
Paul Raymond: Army, Korean War  
Albert Beaudoin: Marines, Vietnam War  
Clarence Labbe: Navy, Korean War  
James Mitchell: Army, World War II  
Frank Noel: Army, World War II  
Carl Gerhardt: Marines, World War II  
Adelard Hebert, Jr.: Navy, No War Listed  
Roger Lascelle: Marines, World War II  
Dorothy Kennedy: Navy, World War II  
Philip Kennedy: Marines, World War II  
Charles Kennedy: Air Force, Army, Vietnam War

Gabriel Daneault: Navy, World War II  
Clifford Benson, Sr.: Navy, World War II  
Gerard Gendreau: Army, Korean War  
Ronald Demers: Navy, No War Listed  
Gerald Gagne: Navy, World War II  
Arthur Proulx: Army, World War II  
Roger Neveu: Army Air Corps, World War II  
Ernest LaPete: Army, World War II  
Richard Auger: Marines, Korean War  
Robert Baillargeon: Army, Vietnam War  
Philip Carrier: Army, World War II  
Richard Labelle, Sr.: Marines, Vietnam War  
Gerard Hamel: Navy, No War Listed  
Raymond Hamel: Air Force, No War Listed  
Richard Bean: Army, No War Listed  
Roland Bellerose: Army, No War Listed  
Walter Page: Navy, Korean War  
Louis Nadeau: Army, Korean War  
Michael Chroniak: Army, World War II  
Peter Brezsky: Marines, World War II

### **Section 4**

Leon Deblois: Navy, World War II  
Rene Bonenfant: Navy, World War II  
Maurice Roy: Navy, World War II  
Oscar Pelletier: Army, World War II  
Orade Allaire: Marines, World War II  
Edward Cyr: Navy, World War II  
George Parichand: Marines, World War II  
John Farrell: Army, World War II  
Adrien Houle: Navy, World War II  
Jerome Chapdelaine: Army, World War II  
Joseph St. Germain: Air Force, Korean War  
Albert Paris: Navy, No War Listed  
Harvey Chaput: Marines, World War II



Jesse Welch: Army, World War II  
Frank Hamel: Navy, World War II  
Leroy Belanger: Army, No War Listed  
Edward Martel: Army, World War II  
Eugene Martel: Army, World War II  
Roger Saucier: Army Air Corps, World War II  
Albert Bellerose: Army Air Corps, World War II  
George Fleury: Army, World War II  
Francis Gauthier: Marines, Korean War  
Armand Descoteaux: Navy, Korean War  
Harold Auger: Army, World War II  
Donald Cochrane: Marines, World War II  
Henry Gauthier: Army, World War II  
Leo Descoteaux: Marines, World War II  
Gerard Letendre: Air Force, Korean War  
Rene Boudreau: Marines, World War II, Purple Heart  
Gabriel Scannell: Navy, World War II  
Timothy Scannell: Army, World War II  
William Durant: Army, World War II  
Normand Baron: Navy, Korean War  
Richard Carr: Marines, Vietnam War  
Lawrence Hurd: Army Air Corps, World War II  
Raoul Gagne: Army, World War II  
Bernard Rainville: Army, World War II  
Arthur Bellis: Navy, World War II  
Edgar Lavoie: Navy, World War II, Korean War  
Willie Labrie: Army, World War II  
Marcel George Roy: Army, Vietnam War  
Jean William Lavoie: Navy, World War II  
Olivia Cantara: Navy, World War II  
Paul Philbrick: Navy, World War II  
John Sartorelli: Navy, Korean War  
Wilfred Ayotte: Army, World War I  
Romeo Hebert: Army, World War II  
Roger Letendre: Army, No War Listed  
Roland Verville: Army, No War Listed  
George Lavertu: Army, World War II  
Roger Martel: Army, World War II  
Robert Metzger: National Guard, Army, No War Listed  
George Letourneau: Army, Korea  
Benoit Laverdiere: Army, World War II  
Joseph Desrosiers: Army, World War II  
Joseph Morin: Army, World War II  
George Gagne: Army, No War Listed  
Edward Dauteuil: Merchant Marines, World War II  
Edward Duguay: Army, World War II  
Harry Campbell: Army, World War II  
Earl Nerbonne: Army, World War II

Roger Nerbonne: Army, Vietnam War  
Raymond Gagne: Army, Korean War, Purple Heart  
Lawrence Martel: Navy, World War II, Purple Heart  
Richard Doane: Navy, Vietnam War  
Romeo Descoteaux: Army, Korean War  
Edward Dlubac: Air Force, No War Listed  
Ernest Martel: Army Air Corps, World War II  
Lucien Gilbert: Navy, World War II  
Paul Muller III: Army Air Forces, World War II  
Neil Laflamme: Army, World War II  
Leo Nepveu: Navy, Korean War  
Laurent Parenteau: Army, World War II  
Ronald Parenteau: Army, Vietnam War  
Arthur Gagnon: Army, No War Listed  
Robert Plante: Army, World War II  
S. Bradley Krochmal: Navy, World War II  
Louis Parlangeli: Army, World War II  
Oscar Proulx: Navy, World War II  
Roland Duford: Army, World War II  
Herve Bouffard: Army, World War II  
Roger Lavoie: Army Air Forces, World War II  
Benjamin Talford: Navy, Korean War  
George Levasseur, Sr.: Navy, World War II  
Napoleon Richard: Army, World War II  
Armand Laliberte: Army, World War II  
Herve Courchesne: Navy, World War II  
Aime Brisbois: Army, World War II  
Rene Allaire: Army, World War II  
Henri Brisbois: Army, World War II  
Leo Gagne: Navy, Korean War  
Edward Cantara: Air Force, No War Listed  
Armand Pelletier: Army, World War II  
Arthur Dancault: Navy, World War II, Purple Heart  
Normand Rondeau: Army, World War II  
Walter Fleury: Army, World War II  
George Gamelin: Army, World War II  
Armand Richard: Navy, World War II  
Roland Richard: Army, Korean War  
Isidore Peloquin: Army, World War II  
Ray Bond: Army, Korean War  
Alfred Levesque: Navy, Korean War  
Gerard Bourcier: Army, Korean War  
Gilbert Delorie: Army, Korean War  
Bernard Richard: Army Air Forces, World War II  
William Martell: Marines, World War II  
Edward Berube: Marines, Korean War



Roger Cantara: Army, Korean War, Vietnam War  
Renie Dionne: Army, World War II  
Roland Provencher: Army, Navy, World War II, Bronze Star  
Felix Lebrun, Sr.: Air Force, World War II  
Edward McQueeney: Army, No War Listed  
Donald Heroux: Army, Vietnam War  
Armand Martel: Navy, World War II  
John McAteer, Sr.: Marines, World War II  
Ovila Lemay: Army, World War II  
Leo St. Germain: Air Force, Korean War  
Larry Demers: Army, World War II  
Armand Lemay: Navy, World War II  
Felix Orsini: Army, Korean War  
Lucien Levesque: Army, World War II  
Sylva Duclos: Army, World War II  
Thomas Mahoney: Navy, World War II  
Wilfred Biron: Army, Korean War  
Rene Mulaire: Marines, World War II  
Thomas Kerrigan: Navy, No War Listed  
George Houle: Army Air Forces, World War II  
Ernest Martel: Navy, No War Listed  
Roy Nebeau: Army, World War II

#### Section 5

William Miner, Jr.: Navy, Vietnam War  
Leonard Guest, Sr.: Marines, Vietnam War  
Armand Leblanc: Navy, Korean War  
Edmund Perron: Army, World War II  
Richard Fortier: Army, No War Listed

Jean Auger: Army, Vietnam War  
Richard Fortier: Army, No War Listed  
James Quinn, Sr.: Army, Vietnam War  
Robert Savoie: Army, Korean War  
Arthur Chaput: Marines, World War II, Purple Heart  
Ernest Dussault: Navy, Korean War  
Samuel Duford: Infantry, World War I  
Maurice Gagnon: Air Force, Korean War  
Elmer Letendre: Navy, World War II  
Ernest Letendre: Army, World War II  
Albert Petit: Army, World War II  
Robert Beauchesne: Army, World War II  
Edward Beauchesne: Infantry, No War Listed  
Eugene Varin: Army, World War I  
Joseph Labrie: Army, World War II  
Hector Hevey: Army Air Forces, World War II  
Leo Daneault: Army, World War II  
Leo Paquette: Navy, World War II  
Arthur Herbert: Army, World War II, Purple Heart  
Lionel St. Laurent: Marines, World War II  
Arthur Senneville: Army, World War II  
Roger Petrin: Navy, World War II  
Donat Daneault: Escort Company, World War I  
Napoleon Thibeault: Artillery, World War I  
Emile Cormier: Army, World War I  
Robert Plourde: Navy, Korean War  
Edward Beauchesne: Army, World War II  
Alphonse Plourde: Army, World War II  
Ernest Plourde: Navy, World War II  
Rudolphe Plourde: Army, Korean War

#### Footnotes:

1. "Suncook, New Hampshire," July 25, 2018. *Wikipedia*. I grew up in the Allenstown section of Suncook Village.
2. French, Laurence. *Frog Town*. Lanham, MD: University Press, 2014, 112-113.
3. St. Jean-Baptiste Church, Suncook and Suncook Village were interchangeable designations from the 1870's through the 1960's.
4. *Paroisse Saint Jean-Baptiste, Suncook, New Hampshire 1958*. Allenstown, NH: Church publication, 1959, unpagged. The above terms are translated as Altar Boys, Confraternity Group (religious education), First Communion, Graduation Mass, Companions of Marquette and "the little ones sing about the goodness of their mothers." I was one of the children, age 6.
5. The percentages are found in *Frog Town* by Laurence French on page 117. He cites the percentages as found in Gerald Blazon's "A Social History of the French Canadian Community of Suncook, New Hampshire (1870-1920)." Durham, NH: Masters of Arts Thesis, History Department, University of New Hampshire, 1974. The specific population totals for Pembroke and Allenstown (2,797 and 1707,

respectively) are taken from *Wikipedia*, “Pembroke, New Hampshire” and “Allenstown, New Hampshire,” July 25, 2018. I extrapolated the 1,119 and 1,366 numbers from the census statistics.

6. “The peak influx of the French Canadians into New England was from 1880-1910.” See Lawrence French, *Frog Town*, 80.

7. “Pembroke, New Hampshire” and “Allenstown, New Hampshire,” July 25, 2018. *Wikipedia*.

8. *St. John the Baptist Parish, Suncook, New Hampshire 1873-1973*. Allenstown, NH: Church publication, 1973, unpagued.

9. *Allenstown Annual Reports 1960*. Allenstown, NH: Town publication, 3.

10. *St. John the Baptist Parish, Suncook, New Hampshire 1873-1973*. Allenstown, NH: Church publication, 1973, unpagued.

11. *St. John the Baptist Parish, Suncook, New Hampshire 1873-1973*. Allenstown, NH: Church publication, 1973, unpagued. This can be translated “For those who pass by, offer a prayer for us.”

12. The “cleanup” involved removing overgrowth, dirt and sand from the plaques. No chemicals were used so technically this is not a restoration.

13. The statistics, including percentages, in this paragraph and the following one are the result of my research and analysis.

14. *Army-Navy Production Award: Suncook Mills, Suncook, New Hampshire*. Suncook, NH: Mill publication, December 16, 1942, unpagued.

15. *Paroisse Saint Jean-Baptiste, Suncook, New Hampshire 1958*. Allenstown, NH: Church publication, 1959, unpagued. The French citation reads: “Pour honorer la mémoire des fils de cette paroisse qui ont donné leur vie et de ceux qui ont servi sous le drapeau étoilé pour préserver notre héritage commun et les libertés qui font de nous un peuple libre et croyant.”

16. By the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the parish and cemeteries were referred to as St. John the Baptist. This replaced the French designation, St. Jean-Baptiste.

17. The Purple Heart is awarded if one is wounded or killed in action. The Bronze Star represents heroic or meritorious service or service in a combat zone. The Victory Medal refers to one who served in the Armed Forces between 12/7/1941 and 12/31/1946. The Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal is awarded to a member of the military who served in that theater between 1941-1945.

18. I have divided the cemetery into 6 sections so as to enable easier location of a family member. Arriving at the main entrance, the rectangular section directly ahead is numbered 1. Section 2 to one's immediate right is a reversed L. Section 2a is a small area next to 2. Section 5 is to one's immediate left at the entrance and it is L shaped. Sections 3 and 4 are at the top of the cemetery separated by the altar. Looking from the entrance, section 3 is at the top right, next to section 2. Section 4 is at the top left, next to section 5.

19. The spellings provided here are as they appear on the plaques. Members and relatives of the same family have, at times, different spellings for their surname, e.g., Ritchotte and Ritcotte, Brisebois and Brisbois. If there are any corrections, please contact [JMSeditor@afgs.org](mailto:JMSeditor@afgs.org).

## **FRANÇOIS HERTEL AND ABIGAIL KEY**

by Paul Vilmur

### **Introduction**

This is an interesting story which involves an escaped Indian captive François Hertel, a 7<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather in the Gamelin line, who was instrumental in capturing on an Indian raid, Abigail Key, mother-in-law of a 1<sup>st</sup> cousin 6 times removed also in the Gamelin line.

### **François Hertel**

François Hertel, the only son of Jacques Hertel and Marie Marguerite was born the summer of 1642 and baptized July 3, 1642 at Trois-Rivières.<sup>1</sup> Besides being baptized by Jean de Brébeuf (canonized a Saint in 1930), the famous explorer Jean Nicolet and his wife were in attendance at the baptism. François was nine years old when his father died and was brought up in a very tense environment with the danger of Iroquois raids always present. In 1661, the nineteen year old was captured by a band of roving Mohawk Iroquois. François Hertel was brought back to Iroquois country (now named the Finger Lakes district of New York) there to be mistreated for the entertainment of the warriors until an elderly Iroquois woman claimed the young man as her own. For two years he was to live among the Iroquois and learned their ways and their language. He eventually escaped and returned to his mother and her family in Trois-Rivières, who were probably amazed to find him alive and well.<sup>2</sup> His mother had remarried Quentin Moral in 1652 and he had 4 half-sisters by 1661.<sup>3</sup> He settled back into farming his lands at Trois-Rivières. Within a year, he married Marguerite-Joséphine de Thavenet on September 2, 1664 at Montréal but returned to his farm in Trois-Rivières. François and Marguerite would have twelve children between 1665 and 1692, ten of whom were boys.<sup>4</sup> In addition to farming, he also would become an interpreter like his father. In 1673, François accompanied Governor Frontenac inland, to Lake Ontario, there to take part in the building of Fort Frontenac. By 1690, François was commandant of the militia at Trois-Rivières which leads us to his next adventures.<sup>5</sup>

### **French and Indian Raids**

Encouraged by the English and the Dutch, Iroquois had been harassing the French settlements off and on since the 1640s. In August 1689, a large Iroquois raiding party killed 24 settlers and captured 70 at Lachine.<sup>6</sup> This was the last straw, so the French government in Paris ordered Governor Frontenac to retaliate any way he could. He didn't have the forces for a direct confrontation with the Iroquois or the English militia so he formed raiding parties against the English settlements. These parties consisted of both French militia and their Indian allies. François Hertel and his sons were to be the principle leaders in these raids for the next three years. The raid of interest occurred in 1690 and became known as the Salmon Falls raid.<sup>7</sup>

### **Salmon Falls Raid and Falmouth Raid**

Three raiding parties were formed in late 1689 and early 1690, launched from Montréal, Trois-Rivières and Québec City. The first to leave was from Montréal to raid Corlaer (Schenectady) New York arriving there in February 1690. The second to leave was from Trois-Rivières led by François Hertel with about 25 Frenchmen and as many Indians to raid Salmon Falls, Maine. The third to leave was from Québec City led by René Robineau (Sieur de Portneuf) with about 50 Frenchmen and as many Indians to raid Falmouth, Maine.<sup>8</sup>

François Hertel and his raiding party left Trois-Rivières on January 28, 1690 for the long trek to Maine. With him were his 3 eldest sons, Zacharie-François, Jacques and Jean-Baptiste as well as

the mix of French militia and Indians mentioned above. They reached the village of Salmon Falls (now called Berwick) on the Piscataqua River on the night of March 27. At dawn the next day, they descended on the village and burned all the houses. Some of the inhabitants were killed and 79 captives were taken. Two Frenchmen and two Indians were killed in the raid and one Frenchman was taken captive. The English militia from Piscataqua chased the retreating raiding party and caught up with them at the Wooster River. In the skirmish that followed François' son Zacharie-François was wounded and his nephew Louis Crevier was killed. François sent a part of his force to take the captives back to Trois-Rivières and left his wounded son at a friendly Indian village. He learned at the village that Robineau had not yet reached his objective so François and the rest of his men marched two days to join with Robineau's forces at Falmouth. By this time, Robineau's total force was over 400 with the addition of other Indians recruited along the way and Hertel's forces. On May 16, 1690 they attacked Fort Loyal at the village of Falmouth and forced the surrender of the garrison.<sup>9</sup>

### **The Following Years**

François Hertel and his sons continued leading raids on Iroquois villages and English Settlements for the next three years. During this time, François applied for "Letters of Nobility" for service to the King of France. He was turned down in 1698 because he did not have the wealth to support the position. By strange circumstances, he became the Seigneur of Chambly in 1708. This allowed him to reapply for Letters of Nobility. It turned out that his wife's sister, Françoise, had been engaged to Jacques de Chambly but Jacques' superior officers would not give him permission to marry. He gave the Seigneurie of Chambly on May 11, 1679 to his fiancée, Françoise de Thavenet anyway. When Françoise died in 1694, the Seigneurie of Chambly fell to her only living sibling who was François Hertel's wife Marguerite-Josephe de Thavenet. François and family moved to Chambly (15 miles East of Montréal on the South side of the St. Lawrence River) in the early 1700s. When Marguerite died September 16, 1708 at Chambly, François Hertel became the Seigneur of Chambly. François received the registered letters of nobility on November 23, 1716.<sup>10</sup> François continued to live in the Chambly area until his death on May 29, 1722.<sup>11</sup> He was buried two days later at Boucherville. The fourth son of François was Joseph an ancestor. He was born about 1671 at Trois-Rivières.<sup>12</sup> Joseph married Catherine Philippe on July 4, 1698 at St. François-du-Lac where he settled.<sup>13</sup> Daughter Angélique was born April 20, 1717 at St. François-du-Lac. She married an ancestor Antoine Gamelin-Chateauvieux on July 20, 1733.<sup>14</sup>

### **John Key & Abigail Key**

And now for the Salmon Falls (Berwick) captives connection to the Gamelins. John Key (spelled Keay in Scotland) was born in Scotland about 1633. He probably was a prisoner of war from the Scots insurrections of 1650 put down by Oliver Cromwell and transported to Boston in 1651 either on the ship "Unity" or the ship "John & Sara." Along with a number of other prisoners John Key either was sold to John Gifford, manager of the Lynn Iron Works at Lynn, Massachusetts or sold to Richard Leader to work in his Sawmill in Berwick, Maine.<sup>15</sup> In any case, after John's release from indemnity, he settled with some of his fellow former POWs in Berwick, attracted by the sawmills on the Asbenick River.<sup>16</sup> In 1662, John was awarded a land grant in the Berwick area.<sup>17</sup> John married his first wife, Sarah Church, in Berwick before 1668. They would have at least 3 children before Sarah died before 1678. John then married a widow Sarah (Jenkins) Nason and they would have 4 more children.<sup>18</sup> In the 1690 raid, Sarah was killed and John Key along with children John Jr, Abigail and James were taken captive and brought to Canada along with some 70 other captives.<sup>19</sup> Son James only 5 years old at the time did not survive the trek back to Québec.

Apparently thirteen year old Abigail was placed in a convent in Trois-Rivières and educated in the Roman Catholic faith. She was baptized as Marguerite-Renée Quay (the French spelling of Key) on August 25<sup>th</sup> 1693 at Trois-Rivières.<sup>20</sup>

In 1695, the governors of Canada and New England agreed to exchange captives. Matthew Carey was sent the Québec to arrange the repatriation. He was only partially successful and returned with 22 captives including John Key and John Jr. Abigail now known as Marguerite-Renée who chose to stay in Canada.<sup>21</sup> Marguerite married Charles-Michel L'Hullier-Chevalier on October 20, 1705 at Montréal. Charles was a Sergeant stationed with the Sabrevois Company in Montréal. Charles and Marguerite had 4 children between 1709 and 1716.<sup>22</sup> Their last child, François L'Huillier would marry Marguerite Gamelin at Montréal on May 1, 1752.<sup>23</sup> Marguerite was the daughter of Joseph-Jacques Gamelin and Jeanne-Angélique Chiasson and the niece of an ancestor Antoine Gamelin-Chateauvieux. So, we have completed the circle where a direct ancestor, François Hertel, was responsible for capturing a child whose descendants became part of another Gamelin line.

### Descendants from Hertel, Gamelin and Key Lines

Vital statistics from Jette, Drouin Microfilms, New Hampshire Marriages, Michigan Marriages

Jacques Hertel (1603-1651) & Marie Marguerie (1620-1700)		John Key (1626-1718) & Sara Church (? - ?)
François Hertel (1642-1722) & Marguerite Thavenet (1645-1708)	<b>Common Great-Grand Parents</b>	Charles L'Hullier (1653-1740) & Abigail Key (1677-1751)
Joseph Hertel (1671-1723) & Catherine Philippe (1660-1767)	Michel Gamelin (1633-1675) & Marguerite Crevier (1643-1707)	François L'Hullier (1716-1772) & Marguerite Gamelin (1724-1772)
Antoine Gamelin (1702-1770) & Angelique Hertel (1717-1782)	Pierre Gamelin (1667-1733) & Jeanne Maugras (1670-1755)	Jacques-Joseph Gamelin (1691-1762) & Jeanne Chiasson (1699 – 1775)
Pierre-Antoine Gamelin (1735-1818) & Isabelle Bourgouin (1760-1825)		
Joseph-Felix Gamelin (1791-1867) & Therese Cote (1791-1855)		
David Gamelin (1831-1908) & Adelaide Cartier (1833-1902)		
Frederick Gamelin (1853-1925) & Leocadie Bedard (1853-1933)		
Delia Gamelin (1885-1960) & Leonard Gardner (1881-1977)		
Priscilla Gardner (1916-2017) & Louis Vilmur (1907-1970)		
Paul Vilmur		

#### End Notes

<sup>1</sup>François Hertel Baptism

<https://www.prdh-igd.com/Membership/en/PRDH/acte/8694>

<sup>2</sup>François Hertel Capture & Escape

Raymond Douville, *HERTEL DE LA FRESNIÈRE. JOSEPH-FRANÇOIS*, in Dictionary of Canadian

Biography, vol. 2, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003–, accessed March 7, 2019, [http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/hertel\\_de\\_la\\_fresnier\\_e\\_joseph\\_francois\\_2E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/hertel_de_la_fresnier_e_joseph_francois_2E.html)

A more detailed narrative is in the reference below  
C. Alice Baker, *True Stories of New England Captives*, (Cambridge 1887), pp. 309-311

<sup>3</sup> René Jetté, *Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles du Québec*, (University of Montreal Press, 1983), pg. 827

<sup>4</sup> Jetté, p. 566

<sup>5</sup> Douville

<sup>6</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lachine\\_massacre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lachine_massacre)

<sup>7</sup> Emma Lewis Coleman, *New England Captives Carried to Canada*, Vol 1, (Portland Maine: Southworth Press 1925) pg. 181

<sup>8</sup> Coleman pg. 182

<sup>9</sup> Coleman, pp. 183-184

<sup>10</sup> Douville and Jetté, pg. 566-567

<sup>11</sup> François Hertel Death Record Transcribed from Parish Register  
[https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?\\_phsrc=Cog1153&\\_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&indiv=1&dh=drouinvitals&gsfn=francois&gsln=hertel&83004003-n\\_xcl=f&msddy=1722&new=1&rank=1&redir=false&uidh=nab&gss=angs-d&pcat=34&fh=0&h=14841496&recoff=&ml\\_rpos=1](https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=Cog1153&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&indiv=1&dh=drouinvitals&gsfn=francois&gsln=hertel&83004003-n_xcl=f&msddy=1722&new=1&rank=1&redir=false&uidh=nab&gss=angs-d&pcat=34&fh=0&h=14841496&recoff=&ml_rpos=1)

<sup>12</sup> Joseph Hertel Birth  
Jetté, pg. 566

<sup>13</sup> Joseph Hertel Marriage  
Jetté, pp. 566 - 567

<sup>14</sup> Angélique Hertel Marriage

<https://www.prdh-igd.com/Membership/en/PRDH/Union/18579>

<sup>15</sup> Scots Rebellion and Disposition of Prisoners  
<https://www.geni.com/projects/Scots-Prisoners-and-their-Relocation-to-the-Colonies-1650-1654/3465>

<sup>16</sup> Berwick Relocation of former Prisoners

<https://www.electricscotland.com/History/articles/prisoners.htm>

<sup>17</sup> John Key Land Grant  
<https://scottishprisonersofwar.com/john-key/>

<sup>18</sup> John Key 2<sup>nd</sup> Marriage & Children  
<https://scottishprisonersofwar.com/john-key/>

<sup>19</sup> Coleman, pg. 189

<sup>20</sup> Church Record of Abigail Key Baptism, Image 342  
<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-899S-NC53?i=341&cc=1321742>

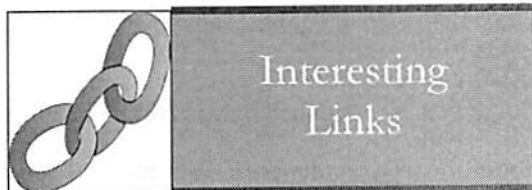
Because of damage to church record the transcription in Coleman is given  
Coleman, pp. 189 – 190

<sup>21</sup> Coleman, pp. 72 – 75 and pg. 189

<sup>22</sup> Abigail Marriage  
Jetté, pg. 735  
Transcribed Marriage Record  
Coleman, pg. 190

<sup>23</sup> Marguerite Gamelin Marriage & Children  
<https://www.prdh-igd.com/Membership/en/PRDH/Famille/29713>

*The American-French Genealogical Society, founded in 1978, is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Our mission is to collect, preserve, publish and disseminate cultural and historical matter relating to Americans of French and French-Canadian descent. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. Consult your tax adviser or the IRS about how to claim charitable tax deductions.*



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Find ancestors in Naturalization Records online at the Olive Tree Genealogy website: <http://olivetreegenealogy.blogspot.com/2019/01/find-ancestors-in-naturalization.html>

Are you researching ancestors who may have lived or worked in Providence, Rhode Island? Maureen Taylor has launched an online site called Old Providence with maps, great photos, a timeline feature, and history of many of the buildings in Providence. Registration and participation is free at <https://oldpvd.com/>

You can find a new database of marriages of early Québec settlers at <http://genealogyalacarte.ca/?p=27562>

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## **100 YEARS LATER, SIGNS HONORING WWI VETS RESTORED**

by Lauren Clem, Valley Breeze Staff Writer

*Reprinted with permission from the Valley Breeze Newspaper,  
North Smithfield, Blackstone, Woonsocket Edition, November 8-14, 2018*

**WOONSOCKET** – A four-year effort to achieve recognition for residents of Woonsocket who died in World War I is drawing to a close, with an unveiling of new signs rededicating 10 city squares planned for Veterans Day this Sunday, Nov. 11.

The squares were first dedicated on July 4, 1921, when a ceremony involving much pomp and circumstance paraded through the city renaming them in honor of 10 city residents who had died of disease or in combat during World War I. An 11<sup>th</sup> space, Dunn Park, was renamed in 1936 in honor of Edna Dunn, a Navy yeo-woman and Fairmount resident who died of influenza at the Newport Naval Base shortly after the end of the war.

Now, 100 years later, few residents are aware of the city's contribution to the First World War, and most of the officially dedicated names of public spaces, with the exception of Dunn Park, have been forgotten over time.

Four years ago, Roger Beaudry, treasurer of the American French Genealogical Society, set out to change that, beginning a lengthy research process on the 78 men and women from Woonsocket who died during World War I. His research took him to Woonsocket Harris Public Library, where microfilm copies of *The Call* recorded the names of the local residents who fought overseas, some of whose bodies were shipped back to their families for burial in local cemeteries after the war.

Those names include Lt. Harold Flynn, who died on Nov. 9, 1918 – two days before the end of the war – Lt. Flynn was buried in France after he was fired upon by an enemy airplane

They also include two brothers, Elie and Come Duhamel, who joined up to fight together and are buried side-by-side in Arlington National Cemetery.

In addition to Dunn, the ranks of female service members include Constance Martin, a nurse who died on Sept. 17, 1918, of influenza at the Chelsea Naval Hospital.

Beaudry keeps information on all 78 deceased service members at the AFGS library, a project he said was inspired by his own family members who fought in World War I. Three of his great-uncles and his wife's grandfather all fought overseas, sparking an interest in their biographies and genealogy.

"It dawned on me that there's nobody alive who remembers World War I," he said. "I figured they should get some kind of recognition."

Beaudry estimates between 2,500 and 2,800 Woonsocket residents fought in World War I, many of them for foreign armies, including France, Belgium, England and Canada. While the bodies of many of those who fought in foreign armies were never returned to their families, Beaudry said records of their service are sometimes easier to find than American service records due to a 1973 fire that wiped out many of the military records stored at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri.



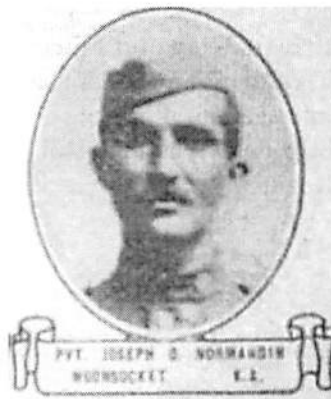
They were all city residents, some were killed in action some died of disease,” he said of the 78 individuals.

On Sunday, the city will unveil 11 new signs at the city squares and Dunn Park bearing the names and dates of death of their namesakes. The signs were presented by the AFGS to the city during a ceremony commemorating the centennial of World War I last year. Last month, the United Veterans Council also contributed to the project, presenting Beaudry with a \$1,163 check to fund posts and mounting brackets for the signs.

The full list of squares to be rededicated and their official names are as follows:



**Private Andrew F. Young**  
**Memorial Square** at the intersection of Main, Arnold, Bernon and South Main streets, formerly known as Market Square.



**Private Joseph O. Normandin**  
**Memorial Square** at the intersection of Front and Court streets, formerly known as Court Square.



**Private Arthur Curtis**  
**Memorial Square** at the intersection of Blackstone Street and Harris Avenue, formerly known as Randall Square.

(No photo available)

**Private Joseph R. Coutu**  
**Memorial Square** at the intersection of Greene and Bernon streets.



**1st Lt. Harold F. Flynn**  
**Memorial Square** at the  
intersection of Court,  
High, Main and Clinton  
streets, formerly known as  
Depot Square.



**Private Giovanni Filice**  
**Memorial Square** at the  
intersection of Social  
Street and Diamond Hill  
Road.

(No photo available)

**Corporal Lionel O.**  
**Roberge Memorial**  
**Square** at the intersection  
of Knight, Cottage and  
Logee streets.



**Private Alberic C.**  
**Riendeau Memorial**  
**Square** at the intersection  
of Providence Street and  
Smithfield Road, formerly  
known as Union Square



**Private William Jolicœur**  
**Memorial Square** at the  
intersection of Hamlet  
Avenue, Cumberland  
Street and Cumberland  
Hill Road.



**Private Donatien**  
**Belhumeur Memorial**  
**Square** at the intersection  
of Social and Rathbun  
streets, formerly Social  
Corner.

## **AFGS ELEVATOR PROJECT COMPLETED**



It took more than two years of grant application writing, fundraising, and construction planning. But we are very pleased to report that our elevator construction project is finished. Members and visitors with mobility issues are now able to access all levels of our Franco-American Heritage Center.

The goal of having full access to our nearly 100 year-old building has been on the front burner since we acquired the former First Universalist Church in Woonsocket in November of 2007. However, there were other priorities that put that project on hold. We needed new roofs on two sections of the building. Old, worn out carpeting needed to be replaced, and the inefficient heating system was giving us problems.

In the spring of 2016, Woonsocket Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt informed us of the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission's Historic Preservation Matching Grant Program. She believed we might qualify for a \$150,000 matching grant for an elevator.

Commission officials visited the Society and determined that the former church building, constructed in 1924, is "historically significant." The determination made the Society eligible to apply for the grant. Construction finally began in the spring of 2018 and culminated in the awarding of a permit by the state elevator inspector in January of this year.

The final project cost of \$307,673 was just a bit more than our \$300,000 fundraising goal. Thanks to the extreme generosity of our members and friends together with the hard work of the AFGS Building and Grounds Committee we have realized the dream of owning a building that is accessible to all who visit our Franco-American Heritage Center.



### **SEND US YOUR STORIES**

We would love to receive and publish your stories. Tell us about your ancestors, memories of traditional family celebrations, customs that you remember your grandparents celebrating, brick walls you have "smashed," even trips you have taken to explore where your family came from. We would love to hear from you. Please send your stories to us at [JMSeditor@afgs.org](mailto:JMSeditor@afgs.org).

## HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE MEMBERS ONLY ONLINE LIBRARY

Welcome to the American-French Genealogical Society! We are pleased that you have chosen to become a member. One of the benefits of belonging to AFGS is your ability to access our *Members Only Online Library* of resources. Please note that your membership to AFGS does **not** automatically let you log in to the *Members Only Online Library*. Members **must** do a free **first-time registration** before they will be granted access to the site.



To register, look for the buttons on our AFGS home page. Since you are a new member, click on the button that says “1st Time Register” and you will be directed to a screen where you will enter the following:

Full name:	<input type="text"/>
AFGS membership number:	<input type="text"/>
Email:	<input type="text"/>
Choose a Username for your AFGS account:	<input type="text"/>
Choose a password:	<input type="text"/>
Verify password:	<input type="text"/>

Please note that you can choose a user name and password that you will remember. Your user name does not have to include your membership number. When you have completed this registration process and clicked “submit” your registration form will be sent to be processed. **In three or four days you will receive confirmation that you have access to the Members Only Online Library from our AFGS volunteer who manages the log in process.** Your

access to the *Members Only Online Library* will continue to be active as long as your membership is current.

Our *Members Only Online Library* will be continuously updated as we process more information. Currently you will find:

- A searchable database of obituaries with 600,000+ obituaries from across the United States and Canada covering 1978 through the present
- All past issues of our journal, *Je Me Souviens* beginning in 1978 to the latest issue, with a searchable database by article, name index, and key words
- Biographies from *Our French-Canadian Ancestors* by Thomas Laforest
- A searchable database of selected vital records (marriages) from Massachusetts
- Funeral home cards submitted from our members
- Some family histories

Some future projects include a collection of headstone pictures, a large searchable database of Canadian marriages and a collection of Acadian journals.

### THANK YOU

If you are receiving an email notice that this issue of *Je Me Souviens* is available for downloading from our website, we would like to thank you. Our publication has expanded with more content than ever and is now issued quarterly instead of twice a year. This has allowed us to give our members more genealogical information and as they say “*More bang for your membership buck!*”

We could not cover the cost to print and mail these issues to all of our members without raising our dues. Your willingness to support this new method of electronic distribution is a tremendous cost savings to us and allows us to keep our membership dues at a reasonable and affordable rate for everyone while increasing the content and frequency of our journal. If you save our journals on your computer and read them online that is fabulous!

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## WANTED:

Your help with a very large  
data entry project.

See page 9 for details.



## IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR ANCESTORS IN WOONSOCKET

by Lise Giguère

*Reprinted with permission from Le Journal de Montréal, published Saturday, February 16, 2019*

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Woonsocket's Historic Market Square  
Photo courtesy Lise Giguère

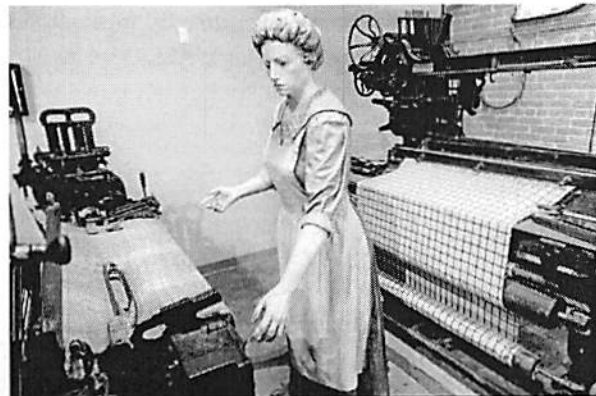
**Woonsocket, Rhode Island.** All Quebecers whose ancestors have emigrated to the United States to work in textile factories should absolutely experience this small town and its extraordinary Museum of Work and Culture.

Located on the Historic Market Square, in a red brick building, this museum revisits the history of men, women and children from rural Québec who, from the 19th century, left their farms and escaped misery to find work in the factories that flourished along the Blackstone River.

### A moving visit

Quebecers who settled in Woonsocket came mainly from the regions of Trois-Rivières, Saint-Hyacinthe and small villages in the surrounding area. The stirring visit is enhanced through a display of paintings recalling the hard work on a farm, the new life in a new country, the style of housing, the labors of the whole family (even children), education, religion and leisure activities.

Managed by the Rhode Island Historical Society ([rihs.org](http://rihs.org)), the museum also features films, interactive audio presentations, photographs, and activities that give credence as to how they could have possibly put up with such a difficult life. We exit the display emotionally moved.



Women also left the fields and found themselves in factories. Photo courtesy Lise Giguère

### A jewel preserved

Another exciting stop is a visit to the St. Anne Arts and Cultural Center. This is a beautiful church abandoned by the clergy. Fortunately, Mr. Doiron (the former sextant) and his son Dominique, an opera singer, formed (with several former parishioners) a non-profit organization to save this wonder that was once nicknamed the "Sistine Chapel" of North America. It is to the incredible frescoes of the painter Guido Ninchiri that we owe this comparison with the famous Roman

monument. This artist, who undoubtedly produced the greatest number of religious works in Canada during the 20th century, lived in Montréal. He was even nicknamed the *Michelangelo of Montréal*!

Today, the former St. Anne's Church is open to the public for concerts, special events, receptions and guided tours. Do not deny yourself of any of these guided tours, you would miss a lot of delightful anecdotes.

The extraordinary interior of St. Anne's Church, formerly known as the Sistine Chapel of North America, because of the similarity of the incredible frescoes by the painter Guido Ninchiri with those of the famous Roman monument.

Photo courtesy Lise Giguère

*Editors Note: St. Anne's Church in Woonsocket, RI was established on Oct. 29, 1890. The Renaissance style church was built in 1913 by Walter F. Fontaine to serve Woonsocket's French-Canadian community. The complex originally encompassed a church, school, convent, parish house and a gymnasium that doubled as a theater. The church closed in October 2000 and later reopened as the St. Anne Arts and Cultural Center. The St. Anne's complex was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.*

Source:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St.\\_Ann%27s\\_Church\\_Complex\\_\(Woonsocket,\\_Rhode\\_Island\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Ann%27s_Church_Complex_(Woonsocket,_Rhode_Island))



### In search of ones roots

Finally, the last step on the road to our roots, the **American-French Genealogical Society** [www.afgs.org](http://www.afgs.org), where enthusiasts help Americans of French-Canadian descent (more than 10 million) to trace their Francophone origins. But Québec visitors wishing to find their ancestors are also welcome in this library which contains one of the most important collections of French-Canadian genealogical and historical research.

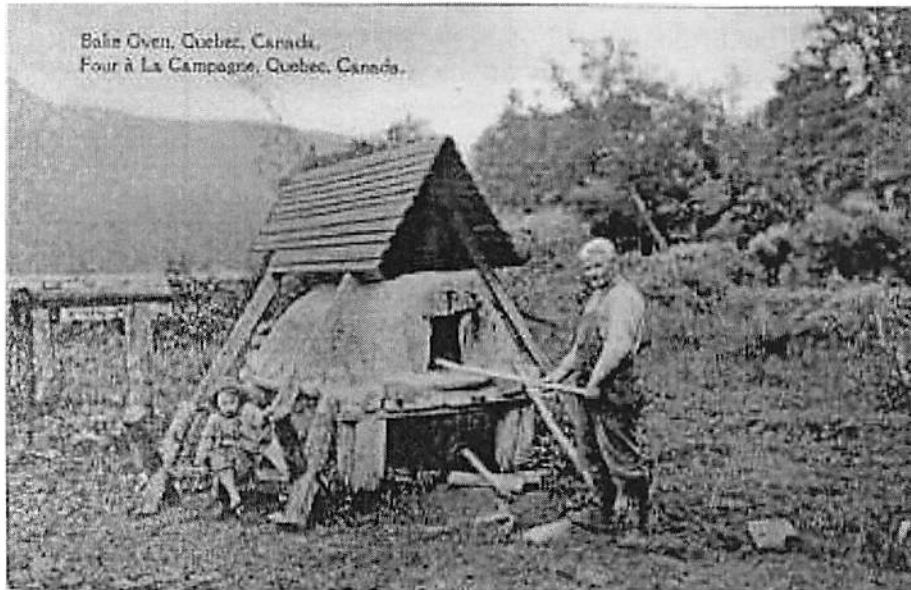
Even today, the French heritage is alive and well in this charming little town and French is even the second spoken language!

Woonsocket is part of the Blackstone River Valley National Historic Corridor, a major natural heritage site in the United States. Different activities (water rides and bike paths) crisscross this great historic site protected for over 30 years.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SEEING OLD PHOTOS  
ON OUR MEMBERS ONLY WEBSITE?**

**GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING PHOTOS FOR THE AFGS WEBSITE**

AFGS publishes select photographs of interest to people of French Canadian and Acadian descent in our magazine, *Je me Souviens*. We also may post submitted photos on our website or Facebook page as appropriate. Scenes focusing on history and genealogy are of primary interest.



**Outdoor bake oven, Quebec, Canada circa 1930**

*Postcard from the Auclair Collection at  
the American-French Genealogical Society, Woonsocket, RI*

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All submissions must be in electronic form. Do not copy photos directly into email messages. The photo must be submitted as an attachment. All illustrations and photos should be submitted as high resolution JPG files (at least 300 dpi). We will not accept photos saved as PDF files.

Do not send original photographs to AFGS. We are not responsible for loss or damage to originals and they may not be returned. Please include the submitter's name and contact information and a caption for the photo, identifying all individuals and the subject. You are responsible for the accuracy of the information submitted with photographs.

All photos published in *Je Me Souviens* or posted on the AFGS website or our social media pages are copyrighted and become the property of the American-French Genealogical Society.

All material submitted for publication must be original. Previously published photos, except those which are in the public domain, will be accepted only if it is submitted with written permission of the photographer. You are responsible for obtaining such permission and including the signed authorization of the owner and/or originator. Email submissions to [photos@afgs.org](mailto:photos@afgs.org).





## DAUGHTERS OF THE KING FILLES DU ROI PIN AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

It's not too late to request our Filles du Roi pin and certificate.

As Peter Gagné describes in his book, *King's Daughters and Founding Mothers: Les Filles du Roi 1663-1673*, more than 350 years ago the King's Daughters or Filles du Roi arrived in Québec. They immigrated to New France between 1663 and 1673 as part of a program sponsored by Louis XIV.

The program was designed to boost Canada's population both by encouraging male emigrants to settle there, and by promoting marriage, family formation and the birth of children. While women and girls certainly immigrated to New France both before and after this period, they were not considered to be filles du roi, as the term refers to women and girls who were actively recruited by the government and whose travel to the colony was paid for by the King. The title "King's Daughters" was meant to imply state patronage, not royal or even noble parentage. Most of these women were commoners of humble birth. Almost every person of French-Canadian descent can claim at least one of these incredible, young women in their heritage.

There were between 832 – 852 Filles du Roi. You can find a list of the Filles du Roi on our website at: [http://www.afgs.org/AFGS\\_Daughters\\_of\\_the\\_King\\_List\\_of\\_names.pdf](http://www.afgs.org/AFGS_Daughters_of_the_King_List_of_names.pdf)

Instructions and information on the documentation requirements for submission are also on our website at: <https://afgs.org/site/kings-daughters/> . *Verified descendants of a Fille du Roi will receive a pin and certificate.*



## FILLES À MARIER PIN AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

A list of THE FILLES À MARIER AND THEIR SPOUSES 1634-1662 is on our website at <http://afgs.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/filles.pdf>

By popular demand, AFGS is offering a new pin and certificate program after our successful Filles du Roi program. This time we will be honoring the marriageable girls who came to New France before the Daughters of the King – THE FILLES À MARIER. For those receiving this newsletter electronically, all the necessary information will be found on our AFGS

website at <http://afgs.org/site/les-filles-a-marier/> *Verified descendants of a Fille à Marier will receive a pin and certificate.*

According to Peter J. Gagné, in his book, *Before the King's Daughters: The Filles à Marier, 1634-1662*, just 262 women answered the call to populate France's colony before King Louis XIV started the government sponsored Filles du Roi program which brought an additional 768 women to New France. These early seventeenth century women, who came alone or in small groups, left behind families in a civilized country, faced the dangerous ocean crossing to arrive in an uncivilized colony with harsh weather and the constant threat of attacks by the Iroquois Indians to marry a settler and raise as many children as possible for the glory of God and King.



**ACADIEN CONGRESS  
AUGUST 10 TO 24, 2019  
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND AND  
SOUTHEAST NEW BRUNSWICK**

August 2019 will mark the 25th Anniversary of the Acadian Congress. Every four years, Congrès Mondial Acadien takes place in a location where the Acadians settled as a result of “Le Grand Dérangement.” In 2019, the 6th edition of the Congrès Mondial Acadien will be held on Prince Edward Island and in Southeastern New Brunswick. Planning is ongoing and

updates to their website will keep you informed as the event approaches.

For information on the event program, family reunions, the host region, and other topics see:  
<https://www.cma2019.ca/en/>

**Le Congrès Mondial Acadien ~ The World Acadian Congress 2019**

On Thursday, May 3, a delegation representing le Congrès Mondial Acadien, the World Acadian Congress 2019 gave a presentation at the AFGS.

Next year marks the 25th anniversary of the first Congress in 1994. Prince Edward Island and Southeast New Brunswick will host the events from August 10 – 24, 2019. It's a large gathering of Acadians, Cajuns and those who wish they were.

CMA 2019 is expected to draw nearly 100,000 people, in a festive atmosphere featuring local cuisine, live music, crafts, quilts, costumes, history, family reunions, parades... What's not to love?

There are currently 26 family reunions planned for the Congress next summer. For a list of contact information, visit: <https://www.cma2019.ca/en/program/families>

Arsenault  
Babin  
Babineau  
Barrieau  
Belliveau  
Boudreau  
Bourgeois  
Breau  
Broussard

Caissie  
Chevarie  
Cyr  
D'Amour  
Duguay  
Forest  
Gaudet  
Gauvin  
Girouard

Granger  
Guidry / Labine / Petitpas  
Haché / Gallant  
Hébert  
LeBlanc  
Léger  
Maillet  
Robichaud

### **ACADIAN FESTIVALS - Part 3**

by Anselme Chiasson

Reprinted from *Je Me Souviens*, Vol. 35, No1, Spring 2012

From *Le Réveil Acadien* Volume XII No 1 February 1996 and Volume XII No 2 May 1996  
(Excerpts from CHÉTICAMP, HISTORY AND ACADIAN TRADITIONS, pp 490)

#### **APRIL FOOL'S DAY**

The Acadians with their fondness for pranks, made good use of the first of April to play April Fool tricks. Everyone wanted to trick someone else without being caught himself. And any way of pulling someone's leg was fair. Someone might say "Look! A deer at the edge of the woods!" or "Here comes the priest!" or some similar hoax. If anyone fell for the trick and went to look out the window the prankster would call, "Poisson d'avril!" (April Fish, i.e. fool) or "largue at ligne" (let out your line). There were other tricks as well, such as attaching a piece of cardboard cut in the shape of a fish to the victim's back, and letting him walk around for hours in public before he realized what was causing all the hilarity around him. This custom is still observed.

#### **THE FIRST SNOWFALL OF MAY**

The first snowfall which fell during the month of May was thought to have medicinal qualities and was said to cure sore eyes, ear aches and other maladies. The Acadians believed this and were careful to collect enough to melt down into several bottles of May water, as it was called.

#### **CORPUS CHRISTI**

In every parish, the Sunday following Corpus Christi (Feast of the Body of Christ) was marked by a solemn procession of the Blessed Sacrament outside the church. During the preceding week two wayside altars were erected along the route of the procession to shelter the Blessed Sacrament. These altars might be placed before the door or on the porch of some parishioner, for whom this was a great honor, or built from scratch in a field, from timber draped in white sheets and decorated with branches and flowers. The route itself was marked out with firs and decorated with flags and streamers. All parishioners who were able to do so would take part in the procession, reciting the rosary and singing hymns along the way. Parish organizations and sodalities would participate as groups, bearing their standards or banners.

One characteristic feature was the improvised military guard which accompanied the Blessed Sacrament. Men dressed in blue trousers with yellow stripes up each side and white shirts with wide red ribbons draped across their chests, wearing military caps and carrying rifles (or muskets, in the old days), added special color to this procession. Following military drill the previous day, they would attend Mass, standing in the main road, then form two rows, one on each side of the dias (Monstrance) for the procession. At each of the wayside altars, while the priest blessed the crowd with the Monstrance, the guard would fire a salute with their muskets or rifles, again at the door of the church where they halted for another salute during the final benediction from the altar.

#### **BLESSING OF THE BOATS**

Over the past fifty years, the tradition of blessing of the fishing boats at the beginning of the summer has become established here and there among the Acadians. For the occasion, all the boats of the region, decorated with flags and streamers, come together at a given location. At Cap Pele, New Brunswick the best fisherman is crowned king. The event serves also as a memorial to those fishermen who have been lost at sea, and the widow of one of them is chosen to throw a funeral wreath of flowers into the water. Then, the priest blesses the entire fleet with holy water as they

sail by in parade fashion. (This celebration is often held near the feast day of SS Peter and Paul, St Peter having been a fisherman when called by Christ to follow him.)

#### SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS

Every parish, in the old days, used to celebrate the feast day of its patron saint. Even if it were not a holy day of obligation, people would attend Mass and refrain from working on that day.

Since 1881, when Our Lady of the Assumption was chosen as Acadia's patron saint, the national holiday on August 15th has been marked in almost every locality by a high Mass in the church with an appropriate sermon, and patriotic speeches on the church steps after the religious ceremony. Today, this festival is more popular than ever among the Acadians, who often arrange to have it coincide with the closing of many local festivals.



#### PERIODICALS PERSPECTIVE by Diane Olivier

With spring approaching, many projects which our valued volunteers have worked on during the winter, are coming to fruition. One of those projects is electronic exchange of periodicals with other genealogical societies. As a result, AFGS is once again receiving "LAGS News" by La Crosse Area Genealogical Society (AFGS #207). The January 2019 issue has an interesting article about using patents for genealogy research. The February 2019 issue discusses DNA (as do so many newsletters we receive).

The Alberta Family History Society's "Chinook" (AFGS #2), January 2019 issue, has sent us its first issue since 2014. Its main focus is the turbulent year of 1919 following the end of World War I. There were strikes in many countries and the Spanish flu was destroying families and communities.

The Fédération Québécoise des Sociétés de Généalogie (AFGS #310) is again sending us its newsletter after a break of six years. This publication is in French.

The Minnesota Genealogical Society also has put AFGS back on its radar by sending us "Minnesota Families" which has resumed from 2009. This newsletter seems geared towards events which the society sponsors or which are local to that area.

Due to the electronic exchange between AFGS and the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), AFGS receives "The Weekly Genealogist." The publication we receive gives links to many topics which CAN ONLY BE ACCESSED AT THE NEHGS WEBSITE ([americanancestors.org](http://americanancestors.org)) IF YOU ARE AT AFGS. Click on NEWS – WEEKLY GENEALOGIST – READ THIS WEEKS ISSUE.

Also renewed is receipt of the newsletter of the Whitman County Genealogical Society (AFGS #190). This publication also is geared toward local issues. The Dec. 2018-Jan. 2019 issue advises of its exchange of publications with AFGS! Electronic communications are all the rage!

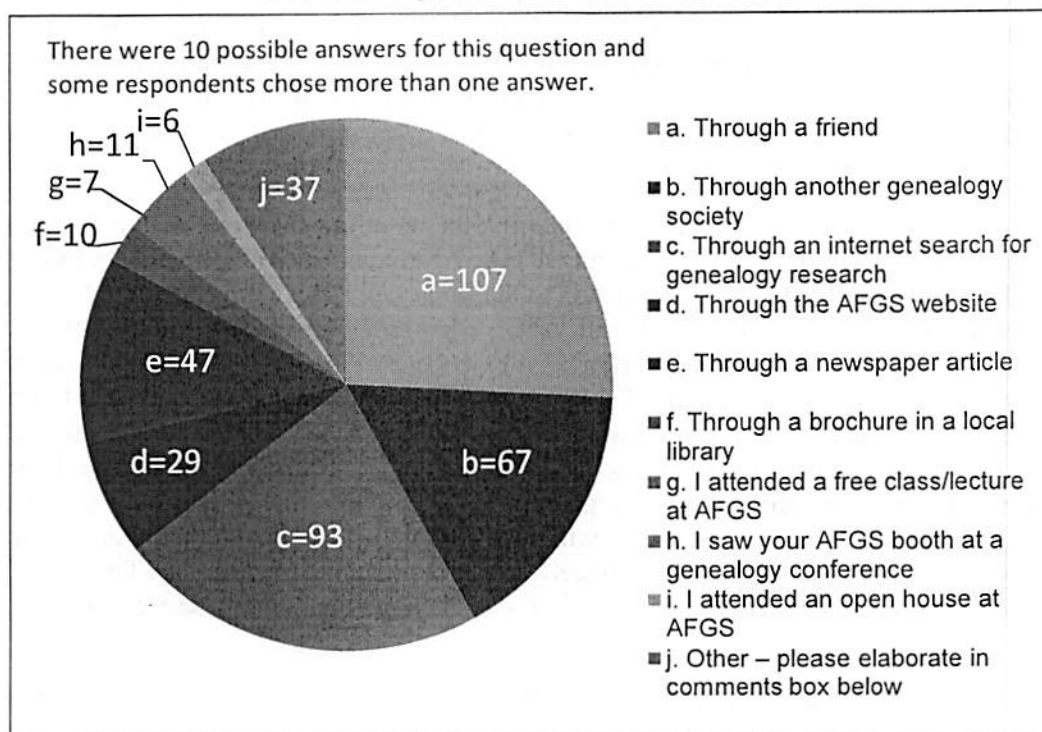
## YOU CAN'T IMPROVE WHAT YOU DON'T MEASURE

by Annette Smith

Last fall AFGS included a survey with our membership renewal mailing. It was the first time we had attempted this and we were not sure what to expect. How many surveys would be returned with the renewal papers? Did we ask the right questions? Do our members want to tell us anything? We were bowled over by the responses! We received over 350 responses and the comments included were amazing! Thank you so much for taking the time to complete the surveys and sending them back to us. Even our members who renewed online, mailed the surveys back to us so they could be “heard.”

Tom Allaire, the head of our AFGS Research Department and I compiled the survey answers and presented the results to the board of directors at their meeting in January. We'd like to share some of these results and comments with you at this time. Please keep in mind that the review of these results is ongoing. Every time our board members look at your responses, it leads to a discussion where we try to better understand our membership and how we can improve on what you like and how we can change our approach to areas that need improvement. We have already taken some steps toward growing our membership based on the results of this survey.

### *How did you learn about AFGS?*



As you can see from the chart displaying the responses to our first question, “How did you learn about AFGS?” An overwhelming number of respondents replied that they had heard about AFGS from a friend. This response led to a lively discussion among the board members of what it was like when we first walked into the AFGS library. Most of us confessed that it was very overwhelming to be standing in the stacks of reference books and not knowing what to do next. My own first visit to the AFGS library was with a friend who was a member. As a beginner, I was lost and did not know even the basics of genealogy research. My friend, Marcelle explained that I had to lock my purse and tote bag in a locker and could only bring a pencil (NEVER a pen) into

the library with my papers and laptop. Once my workspace was set up on the long tables, she showed me where the various books were located that I would use to find my ancestors – Blue Drouin, Red Drouin, Tanguay, Jette, parish registers of births, marriages and deaths filed by parish within towns, counties, provinces, and countries... the library catalogue. (It's the sort of huge book you would pick to stand on to reach the cookie jar on the top shelf, but our librarian, Jan Burkhart would never allow such behavior.) I saw the film room where the microfilms of the Drouin Collection of original French-Canadian records are available for viewing. She showed me the maps on the wall where I could find the many towns mentioned in the records of my ancestors. I saw the huge books of bound Woonsocket newspapers dating from the early 1800's. She showed me the computers in the library with access to Ancestry, Family Search and the PRDH (amazing!). I was in American-French Genealogy heaven – she handed me a 5-generation chart and I was hooked!

Today there are many reasons for people to be interested in genealogy research. The popularity of DNA testing has led some people to question what they were told or believed about their own ancestors. Some genealogists were intrigued and inspired by television shows such as *Finding Your Roots* and *Who Do You Think You Are?* Many of our members who dabbled in this research at a younger age are now filling their retirement years with a passion for finding out all they can about their ancestors and the lives they lived. Many of our members have stories to tell for their children and grandchildren, wanting to preserve their personal and family histories for them. For those reasons and more, our membership should be growing every year. But we have looked back over the past few years and see a plateau with our total membership numbers. We gain new members, but some of our members fail to renew. We have been in operation for forty-one years, so attrition may be a factor. The reasons for that plateau may be discovered in a subsequent study. But our observation is that we are gaining new members every month and we want to expand on this work.

We have members all over the United States and in other countries as well. Within the states of Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut we have 657 members. These members live within an area where they are able to "Bring a Friend" to the library and so we have instituted a program that will encourage them to visit with a friend. AFGS charges \$5 per visit for a non-member to do research at the library. With this new program, an AFGS Guest Pass has been emailed to members in the surrounding states, RI, MA and CT that can be printed more than once and used to bring a guest along for a library visit. In some instances, a trip to the AFGS library in Woonsocket can still be a long drive and it is always nice to have a friend with you for the journey. We hope this new "Bring a Friend" program will encourage our members to introduce their hobby (passion) to others with a visit to our library where they will have a friend beside them to help guide their first visit. They will also discover that our volunteers are among the most helpful and knowledgeable guides you will find anywhere. With this first visit behind them, new researchers are very comfortable visiting the library again.

We also have members who have heard about us through another genealogy society. AFGS has an Exchange program with over 90 genealogy societies throughout the United States and Canada. This means that these societies send us their journals and we send our journal to them. Our members benefit from the articles in these journals that are filed in our library. Many interesting articles from these exchange member societies' journals are highlighted in our JMS column "Periodicals Perspective" by Diane Olivier. Many members of these genealogy societies find it worthwhile to join AFGS as an individual member in order to receive our journal, *Je Me Souviens* for their own research use. NOTE: Did you know that all of our journals, beginning with the first one in 1978 are available to read in our Members-Only section? We are in the process of indexing



them and the first half of the collection can be searched by names, articles and key words. We are working to have the remaining issues on line for you very soon.

The second most popular way that our members have found us was through an internet search. Over the past two years, we have completely redesigned our AFGS website at <https://afgs.org/site/>. We have a website committee that has been meeting every Tuesday morning to work on content for our new members-only section that can be beneficial to all our members, wherever they may live. The members-only section of our AFGS website is designed to be a “virtual visit” to our library. Francis Fortin, a member and gifted programmer has worked along with Larry Rainville and Roger Bartholomy to compile the databases that you will find in the members-only section. This work will be ongoing and more content will be added as it is compiled.

If you haven't visited the **AFGS members-only section**, please note that there is a one-time registration process to gain access to this part of our website. To register for access, go to the main AFGS website page. You will find three “buttons” beneath the “Members Only Online Library” text. Choose the **“First Time Register”** button where you can set up your own user name and password. This information will be sent to our volunteer who will check the status of your membership (must be current) and grant your access to the members-only site. When you receive the email that your access has been approved, you can log onto the members-only site using the **“Login”** button with your user name and password to do your research at any time. We have also added a **“Forgot my Login”** button if needed. You do not have to log-out of the Members Only site. When you leave the site, you will be automatically logged out.

Along with creating our new AFGS website, we are also examining metrics from our website and learning how to increase our presence on the internet when searches are generated for genealogy research websites. Everyone that finds AFGS is happy with our offerings, so we are trying to make sure that we are easy to find on the internet. This is a complicated process that Normand Deragon has agreed to take on in a newly created position as our Marketing Director at AFGS. At this very moment, I imagine Norm is analyzing traffic, conversions, bounce rates, clicks, user sessions, and various information from Google Analytics and researching SEO (Search Engine Optimization) to establish how to best raise our profile when genealogy searches are done.

Newspaper articles, classes and the distribution of brochures in local libraries are also ways that our members have found AFGS. We will continue working to improve the quality and quantity of all these offerings and outreach methods.

We are a participating member of the New England Regional Genealogical Conference (NERGC). Our president, Rob Gumlaw and our Assistant Treasurer, Dorothy Deragon are on the planning committee for this year's conference in Manchester, NH from April 3-6, 2019. Every year, this conference fills quickly with over 1,000 attendees from all over the country. With nine parallel tracks of lectures throughout the day, this three day conference is jam packed with information for researchers at every level – beginner, intermediate and advanced. Nationally known speakers are in abundance and both the novice and seasoned genealogists are able to learn the skills they need at their own comfort level. AFGS will have a booth in the exhibit hall as well as members volunteering throughout the conference.

Your responses to our survey are valuable to us. I have featured only the first survey question from the survey with you and you can see how much information you have given us and how we are using it to help us plan for the future. In the next edition of JMS, we will cover another section of the survey. To paraphrase Dr. Frasier Crane on the TV show “Frasier” – *Hello AFGS members, we're listening.*

**Say it in French!**  
**On The Breakfast Menu - Le Menu du Déjeuner**

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Juice - orange, tomato or grapefruit  
*Jus d'orange, jus de tomate, jus de pamplemousse*  
A glass of milk  
*Un verre de lait*  
A cup of coffee with milk and sugar  
*Une tasse de café avec crème et sucre*  
A cup of tea with lemon  
*Une tasse de thé avec citron*  
Oatmeal with cream and brown sugar  
*Farine d'avoine avec crème et sucre brun*  
Two eggs with bacon and white toast  
*Deux oeufs avec bacon et pain blanc grillé*  
Scrambled eggs with ham and wheat toast  
*Des oeufs brouillés avec jambon et pain de blé grillé*  
Pancakes with maple syrup  
*Crêpes avec sirop d'érable*  
Crepes with strawberries and cream  
*Crêpes avec fraises et crème*  
Croissant with butter and apricot jam  
*Croissant avec beurre et confiture d'abricot*  
Muffins - blueberry or bran  
*Petit pain rond de bluets ou de son*

NOTE: This translation is decidedly French-Canadian.

[Some of these dishes don't exist in Europe or are used in a different way.]

Oatmeal is usually referred to as "porridge." It can consist of different grains.

Bacon is rare in Europe. One usually finds a meat which is more like Canadian bacon.

Toast (toasted sliced bread) is not common in restaurants. They usually serve bread such as a baguette or other forms of bread (untoasted).

Pancakes are very rare and in most places unheard of.

*Bon Appétit!*

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Would you like to be able to make Canadian Yellow Pea Soup or French Meat Pie or Beef Ragout with Dumplings? How about French Canadian Stuffing or Salmon Pie? How about Maple Syrup Pie for dessert?

Maybe Mémère never wrote down her recipes, but AFGS has over 250 pages of recipes, including many traditional ones submitted by our members. They may be found in our cookbook

***Je Me Souviens La Cuisine de la Grandmère***

You can order our 277 page cookbook with authentic French-Canadian recipes from the on-line store on our website for \$15 plus shipping at <https://afgs.org/site/shop-online/> It is listed under Books & Publications – Other.

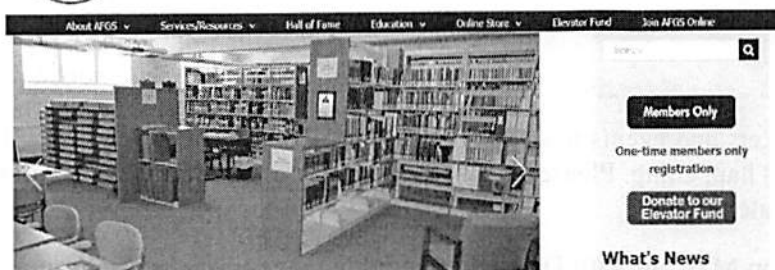






## American-French Genealogical Society

Preserving Our French Canadian Heritage...Connecting Generations Since 1978



### FIND IT ON OUR WEBSITE

If you have not visited the AFGS website, you should do so at once! Simply go to <https://afgs.org/site/> and you will find many resources for your use. One area to check out will be the library, listed under **Services/Resources**.

Once you click on that heading you will find an abundance of information about the AFGS Library including an updated library catalog listing our holdings. Check it out. It will be worth your time.

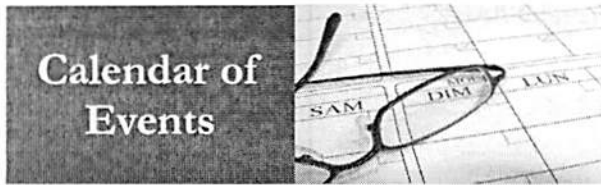
You can always find a link to our latest edition of *Je Me Souviens* on the main page of our website. Just click on the words *Je Me Souviens* at the top or bottom of the AFGS web page. Members can find a copy of all 85 issues beginning with the first edition of *Je Me Souviens* in 1978 up to our current issue on the Members Only website. You can open the pdf file for each issue and read them whenever you desire. We are grateful to all of the dedicated researchers over the last 41 years who have written articles for our journal. You will find an incredible amount of information there to help you with your research. The first 27 issues are now searchable by articles, names and key words. Work is continuing to make the remaining issues that are on our Members Only page searchable as well.

When researching places in Québec, have you been confused by Municipal Names, Administrative Regions, Regional Counties and Municipalities? The government of Québec has not been using the county system since the early 1980s. It was replaced with Regional County Municipalities (RCMs). As an aid to your research, we have placed the list of these RCMs on our main website – just scroll down the main page and you will find the link to download this file under our Facebook logo. Here's a sample of the first few lines of this 18 page document:

Municipal Name	Administrative Region	Regional County Municipality, RCM
Abercorn	Montréal	Brome-Missisquoi
Acton Vale	Montréal	Acton
Adstock	Chaudière-Appalaches	Les Appalaches
Aguanish	Côte-Nord	Minganie

We have completed work on Thomas Laforest's wonderful books, *Our French-Canadian Ancestors*. Mr. Laforest's wife has given AFGS permission to put her late husband's books on our Members Only website for you to use in your research. If you are unfamiliar with these books, they are biographies of the early settlers of Québec. So please check the Members Only website for this valuable resource.

The Headstone Project is under construction and will be coming soon. You won't find many of these 140,000+ images on Find-a-Grave. AFGS thanks Sue and Joe Musial for 20+ years of their dedicated work photographing these headstones and Francis Fortin for his many hours of work organizing this collection into a searchable data base that will be easy for you to use.



Events are held at the AFGS Franco-American Heritage Center, 78 Earle Street, Woonsocket, Rhode Island 02895. Admission is **free** for workshops and presentations unless otherwise noted.

We are always adding new speakers and events to our calendar throughout the year and you will want to keep up to date on what is happening. Please check our website at [www.afgs.org/site](http://www.afgs.org/site) often for new classes on our fall schedule.

Our spring lecture series ended on May 5th with David Vermette, the author of *A Distinct Alien Race: The Untold Story of Franco-Americans, Industrialization, Immigration, and Religious Strife*. A Massachusetts resident, he discussed his family's assimilation in the U.S. He is a researcher, writer, and speaker on the history and identity of the descendants of French North America. David wrote, "Americans don't think of Canada as a source of potential terrorists—speaking a foreign tongue, serving a foreign religion, and invading their country. But when a million French-Canadians crossed the border between 1840 and 1930, many seeking work in New England's burgeoning textile industry, they were cast as foot soldiers in an alleged Roman Catholic plot."

For 2019, we have moved our lecture series to Sunday afternoons at 1:30 pm in order to help you fit these educational opportunities into your busy schedules. Also, our new elevator is now in use, making our free classes easily available to everyone who would like to attend.

AFGS will be partnering with the Museum of Work & Culture in Woonsocket, RI who will be holding programs on alternate Sundays. This will expand the reach of both associations and help to promote a variety of programs and activities for everyone.

We are excited to be able to bring you high quality lectures on many different facets of genealogical research. In our spring program, Raymond Bacon shed light on historical events and the lives of immigrants to frame your ancestors within a particular time period and give life to the vital statistics on the pages of your research. Many of our speakers helped to improve your research skills like *How to Use the National Archives* with Seema Kenney and **Maple Stars and Stripes** founder, Sandra Goodwin gave a master class on *French-Canadian Research* that left no stone unturned with a research plan covering every source a successful genealogist researching French-Canadians should consult to break through those brick walls. Maureen Taylor, "The Photo Detective" presented *Preserving and Identifying Family Photos* to an enthusiastic audience. Richard Ried gave us instruction and comprehensive handouts on Irish research in his program *Celebrating the Irish Among Us* and Margaret R. Fortier provided instruction with her lecture, *Andiamo! Finding your Italian Family* to help us find our Italian roots. We also enjoyed Marjorie Turner Hollman's lecture on *How to Develop Interviewing Skills* as we all left with a new understanding that "documents can tell only so much" and a determination to collect oral histories from those members of our families who lived in different times.

If you have a suggestion about a class that you would like to attend, please let us know at [JMSeditor@afgs.org](mailto:JMSeditor@afgs.org). We are interested in your ideas and needs as we plan our fall program schedule.

## HAVE YOU USED OUR AFGS RESEARCH SERVICES?

Did you know that AFGS will help you do genealogy research? The members of our AFGS Research Committee have over 70 years of combined experience in genealogy research. If you hit a brick wall or just don't have the experience or extra time to really dig into your research, let us help you.



You can find our helpful volunteers in the AFGS Library at 78 Earle Street in Woonsocket, RI. We are open on Monday from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, Tuesday from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm and Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. If you are not a member of AFGS, there is a fee of \$5.00 for your visit to the library. There is no charge for the help you may receive from our expert research team in person.

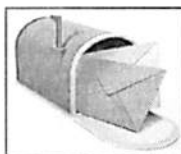
If you live too far from our library to visit for help, we also have a research service where you can request help for specific lines. You can submit your information to us on line at our website, <https://afgs.org/site/>. On our main page, click on "Services/Resources" on the blue bar and select "Request Research" and "French Ancestors/Vital Records Request." This will take you to the "Research Options and Fees" page where you will find a link to a downloadable order form or you can scroll further down the page to an on-line order form for Birth/Baptism, Marriage, Death/Burial, 5 Generation Chart, Direct Lineage, or Other (specify). You may also request photo or microfilm copies of original records, if available. DO NOT send payment in advance. You will be billed when the research is completed. AFGS members receive reduced rates for this research service.

## American-French Genealogical Society

### *Mission Statement*

The mission of the American-French Genealogical Society is to:

- ✦ Collect, preserve and publish cultural, genealogical, historical and biographical matter relating to Americans of French and French Canadian descent;
- ✦ Play an active part in the preservation of French and French Canadian culture and heritage; and highlight the role that they have played in the history of North America;
- ✦ Maintain an educational, research and cultural center;
- ✦ Conduct periodic educational programs and conferences to explore cultural, genealogical, and historical topics;
- ✦ Disseminate cultural, genealogical, historical, and biographical information to members and the general public.



## In our eMail Box

We are always happy to hear from our members. Thanks so much for reaching out to us!

Jan Burkhart and Annette Smith – [JMSeditor@afgs.org](mailto:JMSeditor@afgs.org)

Hello, as a Member I was reviewing online the *Je Me Souviens*, Jan. – Mar. 2019, Vol. 42 no. 1. I found it very well done and extremely interesting. I need some help. On page 19, fifth paragraph, last sentence has a Reference 14, which refers the reader to a "Boyer" reference. I cannot find any information about the Boyer reference. Can you please point me in the proper direction?

I think the daughter Marie of Nicolas Leroy was one of my ancestors.

Thank you, Dan Roy  
Member 7412-F

*Dear Daniel,*  
*I am so glad you enjoyed the article. The reference is as follows: Boyer, Raymond, Les crimes et les châtiments au Canada Français du XVIIe au XXe siècle. Montréal: Le Cercle du Livre de France, 1966. P. 341.*  
*Jan Burkhart, Editor*

Dear Editor:  
Some questions for you: When did the Canadians change the spelling of Louis from Louïs? (Note the umlaut.) I believe that it was about 1800. Am I correct?

When is dite used instead of dit in the Canadian surnames? It would appear that it was for females, but not consistently. Or does it have to do with the gender of the name after the dit, like in le verses la?

William Newcomb, member #3422

*Dear Daniel,*  
*I do not know about Louïs versus Louis. I have not been able to find an answer. (Perhaps one of our members can provide an answer?)*  
*As to the dite and dit, dite is used for women and dit for men.*  
*Jan Burkhart, Editor*

Dear Editor,  
I was on the AFGS website looking at the list of Germans who married in Quebec. I would like to correct a couple of errors. On page 6 of

the article, there's an Ignace Filsch – he is my 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather – he married Marie Josephte Dupuis, on Feb. 13, 1760 in Notre-Dame, Montreal. Josephte was the daughter of Jean Francois Dupuis dit Destours and Thérèse Périgord. Ignace was from Mannheim, Germany, the son of Laurent Filsch and Christine. I learned all this information from the church record of their marriage. Ignace Filsch died June 24, 1787 in Pointe-Claire, Montreal, P.Q. and his wife was still living at the time of his death, so he was married only once.

On the other hand, page 18 of the article shows that Marie "Louise" Josephte Dupuis married a Jean Weitt on Sept. 10, 1787 in Pointe-Claire, Montreal. I also have this marriage and it shows that Marie "Louise" Dupuis was the widow of Ignace Filsch. I have both marriages and sending them to you as proof.

The author of the article is researching his own German ancestry and says that he has not found it yet. I also have another German ancestor whose name the priest wrote as Jean, Michel Smith – he could have been of any nationality – but he was German. I have proof for this also, because the night before "Jean, Michelle Smith" got married, he converted to the Roman Catholic faith in order to marry Archange Berthiaume, and he signed his name in German, Johann Michail (?) Schmidt. I found many examples of his signature when he got married and also when he signed the church record when his daughters were baptized.

My descendants from Ignace Filsch had their name degenerate from Filsch to Filtz to Felsque, the name with which my maternal grandfather was baptized in 1869, in Pointe-Claire. My grandfather changed his name from Felsque to Decasse, I don't know when but I have some paper from the Canadian

army record, which shows both names, Felsque and Decasse.

The author of that article should research some of his French ancestors to see if their names were changed by the priests.

Kathleen A. McKenna #5155

*Dear Kathleen,*

*I agree with everything in your letter and am amazed at the additional information you have uncovered. The transformation of Filsch to Filtz to Felsque to Decasse shows how genealogy is sometimes more like detective work. Thank you for your suggestions on my search for my German ancestors. I am still searching.*

*After reviewing my list, I found the reason for the error. If you look at the very next entry on the list – Jean Filsoffer – you will find the correct info on Ignace Filsch's marriage. How this happened I do not know, but I am now reviewing my notes/records to see the correct information on Jean Filsoffer.*

*Regards,*

*Bill Beaudoin*

Dear Editor,

Please make a correction to the spelling of my name in the AFGS Daughters of the King four volume set. My surname is misspelled with an o and should be spelled Iversen. Can a correction be published as it is wrong on all my lines?

Suzanne Louise Iversen

*Dear Suzanne,*

*Please accept our apology for the misspelling of your surname in our Daughters of the King books. At this time, we have no plans for a second printing of this collection. We are therefore asking our members who have purchased these books to make a note of your correction and change Suzanne Louise Iverson to Iversen in Volume 3 on the page after 1042 and on page 1044. Also in Volume 4 on the page after 1830, page 1831 and on the page after 1904 and on page 1907.*

We are looking forward to your responses to our latest issue. Please let us know what you would like to read about in the future. You can reach us at [JMSeditor@afgs.org](mailto:JMSeditor@afgs.org).

## **WANTED: YOUR STORIES**

DO YOU HAVE AN ANCESTOR WHO WENT WEST AS AN  
EXPLORER, VOYAGEUR, COUREUR DES BOIS, FUR  
TRADER, SOLDIER OR SETTLER?

WE WOULD LIKE TO FEATURE THEM IN UPCOMING  
ISSUES OF **JE ME SOUVIENS**.

PLEASE SEND YOUR STORIES TO US AT [JMSeditor@afgs.org](mailto:JMSeditor@afgs.org)

WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE THEM WITH  
YOUR FELLOW AFGS MEMBERS.

### CELEBRATING OUR NEW MEMBERS



*Welcome!  
Enchanté!  
Bienvenue!*

Michael R. Martineau, FL

Sharon A. Doherty, RI

David Thibodeau, CT

Susan Griffiths, CT

Nancy Rice, MA

Robert LeRoy, MA

Robert Corriveau, RI

Eric Blouin, RI

Jeremy Long, MA

Laurie Greaney, RI

James Goyea, MA

Robert Mallett, ID

Pierre Baillargeon, FL

Danielle Pray, NH

Robert & Jacqueline

Kenworthy, MA

Donna Brandelli, CT

Gail Denomme, RI

Lee Coddens, MA

Stefan Fisher, RI

Nancy Cupido, ON, Canada

Cynthia A. Cole Berry, RI

Cheryl Sirois, MA

Margaret Nielsen, AB, Canada

Leah Beatty, IN

J. Paul and Janice R. Freniere,  
Sr., MA

Lorraine Boisvert, RI

Betty Rider, OH

Sally Dillon, RI

Scott Paradise, PA

Sandra Nicolo Muench, VA

Laurie Evans, WI

Marylouise White, MA

Eleanor Green, NY

Barbara Bulgarelli, MI

Valerie Moriarty, PA

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Wayne April, CA

Eleanor M. Brown, MA

Claudette Paget, RI

Susan Chapdelaine

Campbell, ME

Donald M. Sylvestre, RI

Jeanne Desautels, RI

Carl Erickson, FL

### *Membership renewal continues*

Your membership must be current to access the Members Only website.

#### ***BENEFITS OF AMERICAN-FRENCH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP***

- Access to the research library and collections,
- Access to our quarterly *Je Me Souviens*, a digital magazine filled with resources for genealogists, research stories, new member listings, tips and facts,
- Access to a Members Only section of our website containing genealogical research resources, archives of *Je Me Souviens*, and other useful material,
- The right to attend the annual business meeting where members are informed of Society activities,
- New members who visit our library receive individual assistance and training from experienced and highly competent staff members,
- Members unable to conduct their own research may use the library resources through the Research Committee. A staff of experienced researchers is available to conduct research at low member rates.

For more information visit our website at [www.afgs.org/site](http://www.afgs.org/site) .



## *Great Books That Should Be In Your Library!*

### **Before the King's Daughters: The Filles à Marier, 1634-1662**

AFGS is proud to offer a wonderful book that all genealogists doing French-Canadian research should have in their library. This book, written in English by Peter Gagné, is a treasure trove of historical, genealogical and biographical information. It is being offered for sale with the permission of the author who holds the copyright.

**Before the King's Daughters: The Filles à Marier, 1634-1662** is a biographical dictionary of the 262 women and girls sent from France to populate Québec between 1634 and 1662. This work gives an overview of who the Filles à Marier were and then presents comprehensive biographies of all the "Marriageable Girls" including a wealth of information never before available in English! This set also includes a glossary, a comprehensive bibliography, various historical documents, and an index of husbands.

This book is extremely popular at our library. Most French-Canadians have multiple "Fille à Marier" in their line. By popular demand, AFGS is also offering a certificate and pin program to honor and recognize these very brave women. Therefore, we have decided to offer this wonderful book for sale to you as we know that you will be delighted with it. Current inventory is limited so please order right away and give yourself a well-earned gift.

---

### *A Companion 2-Volume Set*

#### **King's Daughters and Founding Mothers: Les Filles du Roi 1663-1673**

Written in English by Peter Gagné, this is a groundbreaking biographical dictionary of the nearly 800 women and girls sent from France to populate Québec between 1663 and 1673. The introduction explains the need for the program, compares it to similar initiatives by the British and Spanish, dispels misconceptions about the "Filles du Roi" and gives a history of the program in Canada. After defining who can be considered a "Fille du Roi", this work presents comprehensive biographies of all the "King's Daughters," including a wealth of information never before available in English.

This large softcover 2-volume set has 662 pages and also includes 20 photographs and reproductions of artwork relating to the "Filles du Roi", biographies of 36 women falsely identified as "Filles du Roi", a table of all the "King's Daughters" by year of arrival, an appendix with supporting documentation, a glossary, thematic index and an index of husbands.

Volume One includes Biographies A-J, Introduction, Historical Background and 20 Images. Volume 2 contains Biographies L-Z, Complete Table of "Filles du Roi" by Year of Arrival.. Appendix and Glossary. It is being offered for sale with the permission of the author who holds the copyright.

**ORDER FORM**

***BEFORE THE KING'S DAUGHTERS: THE FILLES À MARIER  
KING'S DAUGHTERS AND FOUNDING MOTHERS: LES FILLES DU ROI 1663-1673***

**YOU MAY ALSO ORDER ONLINE AT <http://afgs.org/site/shop-online/>  
You will find the books listed in our on-line store under "Books & Publications – Other"**

Please send me:

**Before the King's Daughters: The Filles à Marier** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$50.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

**King's Daughters and Founding Mothers:  
Les Filles du Roi 1663 – 1673** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$65.00 for each 2-volume set \_\_\_\_\_

Sub Total \_\_\_\_\_

RI Residents please add 7% tax:

\$3.50 per *Before the King's Daughters* book and  
\$4.55 per *King's Daughters and Founding Mothers* 2-volume set \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping: \$6.00 for *Before the King's Daughters*  
\$6.00 for King's Daughters and Founding Mothers 2 volume set  
\$8.00 for both publications Shipping \_\_\_\_\_

Above postage charges are for within US only.

For shipping outside US, contact us at [rdbeaudry@afgs.org](mailto:rdbeaudry@afgs.org)

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RESIDENTS OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES, PLEASE USE CREDIT CARDS ONLY  
AND CONTACT ROGER BEAUDRY AT [rbeaudry@afgs.org](mailto:rbeaudry@afgs.org) FOR POSTAGE CHARGES.



## AUTHORS GUIDELINES

*Je Me Souviens* publishes articles of interest to members of the American-French Genealogical Society and people of French Canadian and Acadian Descent. Articles dealing with history and genealogy are of primary interest, although articles on related topics will be considered. Especially desirable are the 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 two 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 and submitted to [JMSeditor@afg.org](mailto:JMSeditor@afg.org) . Any word processing file will be accepted but we prefer .txt, .doc, .docx and .rtf files. Please no PDFs. All illustrations and photos should be submitted as JPEG files. You may also submit printed black-and-white photographs for publication. These photographs should be labeled with the submitter’s name, 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 published in *Je Me Souviens* is copyrighted and becomes the property of the AFGS and *Je Me Souviens*. 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.

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## RESEARCH POLICY

The American-French Genealogical Society accepts requests for ancestral searches. This offer is open to the public for both members and non-members. 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 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/site](http://www.afgs.org/site) , fill in the necessary information, and send via regular mail to the address listed on the form.

To utilize the AFGS Research service, please fill out the research form with the following information and send it by postal mail to AFGS, Attn: Research Dept., P.O. Box 830, Woonsocket, RI 02895-0870.

**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.
- **Births, baptisms, deaths and burials** will also be researched at the rates listed below.
- **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.
- **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 are included are as they would start a new five generation chart.

You must include your mailing address: name, street, city, state, zip code. Also include your phone number, email address and member number if you are an AFGS member. Any other pertinent information you may have regarding your research request should also be sent.

Please do not send payment with your research request. You will receive an invoice with your completed research.

**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. When your research is completed, we will send the requested report with our findings to you along with the invoice for the research performed.

**Your payment:**

After receiving your research report and invoice, please return the top portion of your invoice with a payment by check payable to AFGS in U.S. funds. We are unable to accept/process foreign checks. Non-U.S. residents must use credit cards. We will accept payment by credit card by mail or over the phone during our business hours.

You may use the rates listed below as a guide to estimate the cost of your research:

<i>Request</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>AFGS Member</i>		<i>Non-Member</i>	
Birth/Baptism	Price per Act	\$7.00	each	\$12.00	each
Death/Burial					
Marriage	Price per Marriage	\$5.00	each	\$10.00	each
5 Generation Chart	Price per 5 Generation Chart	\$35.00	each	\$50.00	each
Direct Lineage	Price Direct Lineage Chart	\$35.00	each	\$50.00	each
Other – Specify Below	Price quoted depending on research requested				

Please be patient, the Research Committee is a volunteer group, as is the entire AFGS. There is a backlog of requests, and the group is working very hard to keep up with the demand!



## AFGS FILM ROOM REQUEST SERVICE

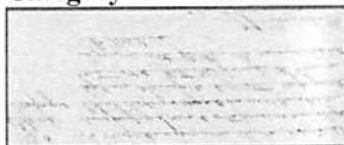


The **Film Room Request Copy Service** is where members and non-members who are unable to visit the library can request copies of actual obituary and headstone pictures or of births, marriages and deaths from the vital records of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. Also members and non-members can request a copy of births, marriages and death from our own personal collection of the prestigious Drouin Microfilms. Note: The Drouin records are online, but many are unreadable due to the digital process, AFGS has access to the original microfilms and can make copies for you.

Attention: This is a copy service only. You must provide the needed information. All documents must have the name, month, year and place. Without this information, your request is considered research, not a document copy. For a research request, please click here <https://afgs.org/site/request-research/>.

The collections are listed as Categories A & B and are described below.

### Category A – Vital Records:



Birth



Marriage



Death

AFGS has a number of microfilms of vital records including RI, MA, VT and NH. Also AFGS owns the original Drouin Microfilm Collection of the Canadian records from 1606 to 1943. Category A is available for both members and non-members for a fee. Please visit our Category A section on our website at <https://afgs.org/site/category-a/> for the list of vital records. You will find a complete list of the years that are available for each state and their fees as well as the years available in our Canadian records.

### Category B – Obituaries and Headstones - Under construction - Coming Soon

**Obituaries** - AFGS has a large collection of 600,000+ obituaries dating from 1979 – 2018 covering the U.S. and Canada.

**Headstones** - In addition, we have a collection of 116,000+ headstone pictures that covers RI, MA, CT, NY and Quebec.



Obituary and Headstone categories are for non-members and for members who have not joined our Members-Only site. Non-members will receive copies of the pictures for a small fee. To register for access to our Members Only website, click here [https://www.authpro.com/auth/afgs\\_olb/?action=reg](https://www.authpro.com/auth/afgs_olb/?action=reg)

**How to make Payment** - You will receive an invoice for services rendered. After receiving your invoice, please return the top portion of your invoice with a payment by check payable to AFGS in U.S. funds. We are unable to accept/process foreign checks. Non-U.S. residents must use credit cards. We will accept payment by credit card in the mail or over the phone during our business hours.

Email questions to [filmroomrequest@AFGS.org](mailto:filmroomrequest@AFGS.org) or call AFGS at 401-765-6141, ask for Fran Tivey, film room manager.

**AMERICAN-FRENCH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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## WHAT IS AFGS?

The American-French Genealogical Society, founded in 1978, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization devoted to people of French Canadian ancestry. However, we have many research holdings pertaining to Native American nations and other nationalities including Irish, English, Italian and German. Its purpose is to assist members in tracing their ancestors and discovering the daily events that shaped their lives, and eventually, our lives.

The Society collects and publishes Franco-American vital statistics, parish registers, burial records and other data consistent with our culture.

The AFGS is dedicated to the preservation of French Canadian culture in the United States. Long and short-range plans include increasing the Society's capability to direct research and facilitating members' ancestral search.

### Library Hours:

Monday from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M.	Tuesday from 1 P.M. to 9 P.M.
Saturday from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.	(Closed Saturdays in July)

## RESOURCES

The AFGS library has more than 20,000 volumes of marriage, baptism, birth, death and burial records, genealogies, biographies and histories.

The *Forget Files* – records include thousands of early Franco-American marriages in Rhode Island and other New England states.

A collection of more than 7,000 microfilms of vital records (BMD) in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire from about 1854 to circa 1915.

Members have internet access to Ancestry.com, americanancestors.org, PRDH, FamilySearch and other digital research records and information.

AFGS publications such as our popular cookbook, our quarterly magazine *Je Me Souviens*, local church records, books, maps, journals from other genealogical societies, family histories and other items of interest to genealogists.

The *Drouin Genealogical Collection of Canadian Church and Civil Records* – this unique collection of books and microfilms, available to our members, includes records from the beginning of Québec through 1935. The films contain images of the actual baptism, marriage and burial records as they were written.

AFGS is a Family History Affiliate. Therefore, visitors can access information from the Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS) data base from our library facility. This makes researching your ancestors from many countries throughout the world a possibility.

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