



# *Je Me Souviens Magazine*

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**AMERICAN-FRENCH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
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78 Earle Street, P.O. Box 830, Woonsocket, Rhode Island 02895-0870

Website: [www.afgs.org/site](http://www.afgs.org/site)  
Inquiry email: [info@afgs.org](mailto:info@afgs.org)  
Editor: [JMSeditor@afgs.org](mailto:JMSeditor@afgs.org)

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**ARTICLES**

Original manuscripts are welcomed. Please see our author's guide elsewhere in this issue.

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**ABOUT OUR COVER**

In France, the River Vienne rises as a spring in the department of Corrèze, at the foot of Mont Audouze, on the Plateau de Millevaches, near Peyrelevade. It then flows roughly west to the city of Limoges where it once played a major role in the famous Limoges porcelain industry. A little way after Limoges it takes a turn to the north. En route to its confluence with the Loire, the Vienne is joined by the rivers Creuse and Clain. Finally, after a journey of 372 km it reaches the Loire at Candes-Saint-Martin in the department of Indre-et-Loire.

This photo was taken by Sindi Broussard Terrien on her trip to France. You can read the story of her travels, *Acadien Tour de France 2019* in this issue. You will also find links to the records for many of the departments and provinces in France in the article *The French Genealogy Blog* by Fran Tivey.

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**FROM THE  
PRESIDENT'S  
DESK**

*by Robert Gumlaw*

Saison de voyage, travel season is upon us. We have included a few articles on travel in this edition of *Je Me Souviens*. There is something special to be found while walking where your ancestors once did. Guided tours often fill in gaps in time and circumstance of an old place. Books and the internet only give us glimpses of an experience. Discovering off-the-beaten-path

restaurants, talking with locals, and absorbing the spirit of a place leaves us with a sharper background while writing about our families. We strive to give long distance visitors a similar experience when they visit us in Woonsocket.

Guests are always interested to learn more when they see the AFGS Hall of Fame plaques in our Franco-American Heritage Center. It started as part of our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration to recognize the contributions made by many remarkable people. Sixteen classes were inducted from 2003 through the final ceremony in 2018. If you want to learn more about the inductees, a virtual Hall of Fame is available on [afgs.org](http://afgs.org) or you can visit the original. We'll be glad to show it to you.

I'm pleased to report our Winter-Spring speaker program was very well attended. We utilized many advertising avenues to reach a wider audience. We have purchased a video subscription service and are in the process of refining a few videos to be available to you at home. More research content is prepared for inclusion on our Members Only Online Library. It has been a test of our patience and resolve in getting all the kinks worked out, but our website committee is determined to achieve its goal.

The Filles du Roi and Filles à Marier certificate and pin programs have continued to draw interest well beyond what we anticipated. Requests from all over North America keep coming, so Jan Burkhart and her team continue to verify the lines of those pioneering women. The AFGS DNA Project has new members eager to learn and make connections with others. All connections made are voluntary. The AFGS does not share our membership information with anyone.

We want to keep the momentum we've built as we head into the 2020's. We work to bring our members the most we can deliver while staying affordable. The Board of Directors is keenly aware of its fiduciary responsibility to maintain balance and stability of the AFGS. It has been 11 years since an increase in the membership dues. After a lot of discussion, thought and consideration, the Board voted to increase the dues by five dollars.

As we look forward, our Fall Speaker Program is being finalized. When the schedule is complete, it will be made available to you. We continue to renovate and modernize our building. The addition of the elevator has allowed many to visit us once again. On our website, "Titles Recently Added to the Library" is a new feature. If you're thinking about adding to your own collection, check our online store Excess Used Books list and save. As usual, my e-mail door [rgumlaw@afgs.org](mailto:rgumlaw@afgs.org) is always open.

Have a fun summer,





**A TIP FROM YOUR  
BOOKIE**

*by Janice Burkhart  
Librarian*

**SAFEGUARDING YOUR DATA**

The weather has been on my mind. Massachusetts has had many, many cloudy, cold and rainy days this spring. Hopefully, summer is just around the corner and warmer weather will ease its way into the mix. But of course, New England has been spared the

disastrous weather and tragedies that many other sections of the country have experienced. These disasters have had a great impact on many lives and as Curt Witcher points out, the weather has had many consequences on documents, photos and artifacts that genealogists have so carefully preserved over the years. The following article written by Mr. Witcher is well worth reading. It is reprinted here with permission.

**Genealogy Gems:**

News from the Allen County Public Library at Fort Wayne No. 183, May 31, 2019

**Floods, Fires, and Failsafing Our Future**

by Curt B. Witcher

“The final days of this month, and many of the weeks of this year, have been filled to overflowing with tragedy – tragedy that directly and negatively impacts personal family documents and heirlooms. The unbelievable amounts of rain throughout so many states have overrun reservoirs and quickly flooded thousands of homes. The flood waters often rose so quickly in many locations that individuals only had time to escape with the most critical essentials, leaving photographs, documents, and all manner of family records to be washed away. And so many of those that were not washed away were still destroyed by the amazing, record-breaking number of tornados.

Just a few months ago, raging wildfires demolished entire communities in our western states. The affected individuals were often left with only the precious few things they could carry. Again, many properties were so quickly overcome by the flames that nothing material could be saved. In less than two years, fires, floods, and tornados destroyed millions of personal papers, photographs, and family records. Add to the natural disasters the foolish and careless things we may do as well as accidents and we truly are in the middle of a crisis.

While I appreciate that this is hardly the first time I have written about the adverse effects natural and human-made disasters have on individuals being able to discover and tell their families’ stories, I remain alarmed that many are only giving lip service to safeguarding documents and data. There are a couple of easy steps everyone should not just consider but act upon.

First, be informed. Arm yourself with information on the many ways artifacts and documents can be safeguarded to be shared with many future generations. This information can be in many hundreds if not thousands of places on the internet. From short YouTube videos to TED talks and more lengthy archived webinars, there is so much information available from which we can develop strategies that are both worthwhile and doable. Arming ourselves with information is a very significant first step.

Take some time to watch this informative video presented by Allen County Public Library's Special Collections staff for this past April's Preservation Week. The presenters talk about several more commonly used smart devices and the methods you can use to preserve your photographs for future use and certainly future generations. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAgN-xId9WE>. Yet another way to ensure that "Oops, all the images on my smartphone were accidentally deleted" doesn't happen to you.

And second, we must truly embrace the concept of LOCKSS--Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe. Truly embracing LOCKSS means not only sharing data and images with immediate family members, but also placing copies with known entities more skilled at preservation and data migration, in the case of electronic files, than we are. The temptation to sole-source our genealogical data is so great, and we really need to resist that temptation.

In the Genealogy Center, we often hear, "Oh, I put all my data in 'XYZ' tree," and then the individuals are panicked when they cannot access the data while on their research trips because of some technical glitch. Recall the persistent challenges with RootsWeb. Think back to other here-today-gone-tomorrow data experiences in our lives. Share your sources and compiled data with societies, archives, libraries – any organization that will preserve and present it. Those entities are doing us a favor by providing more locations for our data to live.

Thoughts and prayers for the families who have lost so much in this current wave of disasters is certainly appropriate. Equally appropriate is actively making and executing plans that leave us in much different situations should we ever be in harm's way.

I hope you take Curt's words to heart. Back up your information. Store copies off site. Invest in a few thumb drives. Share your work with family members. Think about a safety deposit box for your more valuable documents. We never know what disaster may be just around the corner.

#### **THE MANY ADVANTAGES OF YOUR ELECTRONIC COPY OF JMS**

- Pictures are in color.
- Links are live and you just click on them to go to the websites cited.
- You can print out one article at a time, thus saving ink and paper or you can print the entire edition, including the color photos, if you prefer to read it on paper.
- They can all be stored neatly in one folder on your computer without taking up space on your bookshelf.
- The articles are searchable by keywords in your pdf reader.

## JOSEPH LÉON DALPE DIT PARISEAU – ADVENTURER

By John Dalpe



Joseph Leon Dalpe dit Pariseau

My great-great grandfather Joseph Léon Dalpe dit Pariseau, born August 5, 1853, was many things in his life – a boot and shoe repairman, a farmer, a barber, a weaver and bobbin maker and a laborer in the local Woonsocket mills. But he was probably best known as being an adventurer and a risk taker always looking to make a “fast buck.” The 1891 Canada Census actually listed his occupation as “traveler.”

As a child, Joseph Léon traveled with his parents in search of farm work wherever it was available. That traveling spirit became part of his “DNA.” Joseph married his wife Mathilde Riberdi on October 9, 1872 in Québec, Canada, and soon started his traveling ways like his father before him. In 1873, they first traveled to Cohoes NY where his father resided and first son Alfred was born. They then returned back to Québec, Canada where they had 3 more children - my great grandfather William being one of them. In 1881 they then moved to Spalding, Menominee, MI where their son Archille was born, then back to Québec, Canada where they had 3 more children. They finally settled in Woonsocket RI around 1891 where the last 3 children were born.

However, all this travel paled in comparison to his most interesting and impressive journey. Right before the Spanish American War, news spread far and wide that people were striking it rich in the Alaska / Yukon Territory and the rush was on to capitalize on the good fortune. At the beginning of 1898, this “Gold Fever” finally reached fever pitch in Woonsocket RI and surrounding areas. According to Woonsocket historian Ed Allaire, three parties of organized men from Woonsocket banded together to set off to the Yukon Territory in search of gold. The largest group, the

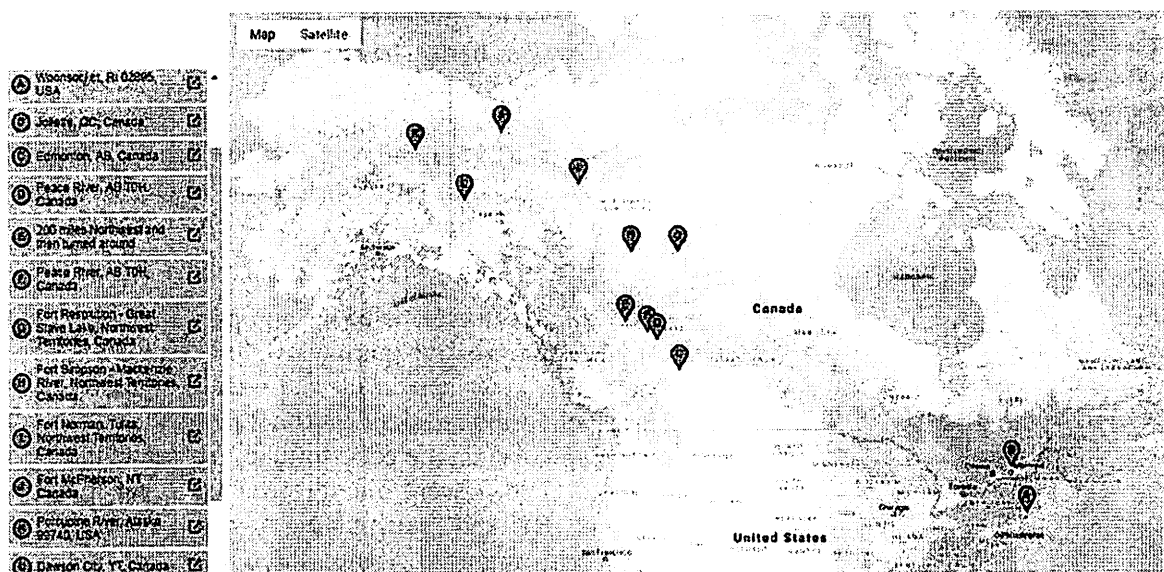
“Klondike Club” was led by a painting contractor named George Dougherty. Another group was led by a shoe repairman named N. P. Lefrançois, while the third group was led by George Morelock, a barber in the Patriot Building.

According to historical records, there were two types of Canadian routes available to reach the Yukon Territory in those days. There was no train service directly to the Yukon. One was a land route and two others were water routes. These three routes started from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. They were advertised as the “inside track” and “Back door to the Klondike” although these were barely trails at all. The overland route headed north-west from Edmonton, ultimately meeting the Peace River and then continuing overland to the Klondike, crossing the Liard River en route. The two water routes involved more river travel. One went by boat along rivers and overland to the Yukon River system at Pelly River and from there to Dawson and the other went north of Dawson by the Mackenzie River to Fort McPherson, before entering Alaska and meeting

the Yukon River at Fort Yukon, downstream to the Klondike. From here, the boat and equipment had to be pulled up the Yukon about 400 miles (640 km). An estimated 1,660 travelers took these three routes, of whom only 685 arrived, some taking up to 18 months to make the journey

My great-great grandfather decided to join the "Klondike Club." Apparently he and a Joseph Choquette (brother of one of his daughters-in-law), decided to leave their families and make the long 4,086 mile journey from Woonsocket, RI to Dawson City, Yukon, Canada in search of gold and riches. According to an article in the *Woonsocket Patriot*, Joseph Dalpe and two other men, Archie Pelland and George Vincent, left on the 5:00 PM train on February 8, 1898 to Joliette, Québec, Canada to visit and stay with relatives for a few days. They then went to a staging area in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada to join up with an advance party of George Dougherty and Napoleon Miller - an ex-patrolman. The article states that both Joseph and Archie had large families and they would be "well provided for" in their absence. It must have fallen upon my great grandfather William (age 23) and his older brother Alfred (age 25) to support the family.

**The Dougherty Group's actual "back door" route from Woonsocket, R.I. to Dawson City, Yukon, Canada**

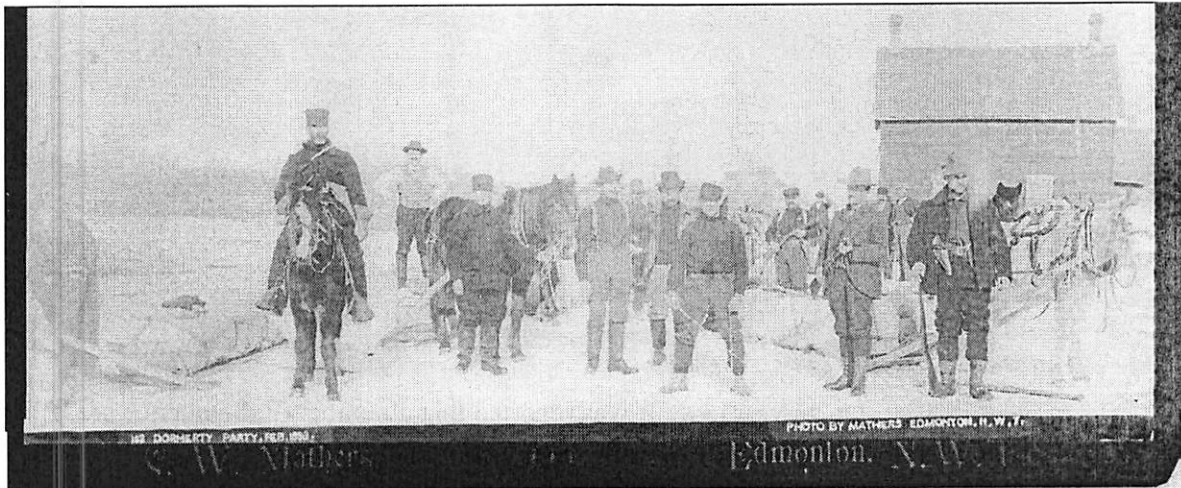


A map of the "actual" route taken by my great-great grandfather, Joseph Léon Dalpe dit Pariseau based upon newspaper articles from some that came back earlier. They started the overland route and after about 20 miles, they doubled back. Points D to E to F on the map.

The remaining men who joined the Klondike Club left by train on February 15, 1898. They were Adélard Dubois of 153 River St., Onesime Lefort of 17 Janson Ave., Arthur Deslauriers of 23 Center St., Joseph Choquette of Clinton St., Silas Proulx of Monument Square, Eugène Barsalou of 37 Wood Avenue, Albert Renaud of Monument Square, and Gilbert Ferland of Cumberland St.

The members of the Lefrançois group were Norbert Lefrançois and his wife, the only woman to attempt the journey. Other members were Joseph and Louis Mayer, Olivier and John Boissy, Magloire Bouchard, Joseph Froment, Nazaire Rousseau, and Alfred Gervais and his Canadian family member.

The George Morelock group included members William Butterfield and four others who preferred not to disclose their names. In all, the groups which consisted of about 25 Woonsocket residents left for the Yukon.



Around February 26<sup>th</sup>, 1898, a letter received from one of the groups stated they were almost ready to leave the staging point of Edmonton Alberta, Canada. The Klondike club decided to take the planned overland route documented on the enclosed map. However, from the articles I have read, their best laid plans did not come to fruition and they had some miserably hard times on the way. A published letter penned from Joseph Choquette to his father Maxime on June 29, 1898, describes some of the hardships they bore on their journey.

*"We went on the Mackenzie River having had a lot of misery. We were forced to push our boat for a mile in the Slave River. We were walking in knee deep water. Then we tied our boat to a steamship to cross the Great Slave Lake. We went 38 hours without seeing land, the lake is 400 miles long and 350 miles wide. We arrived at a fort, (Fort Providence), and there were enough mosquitoes that we had to dip our heads in water to remove them.*

*We hope to conclude the end of our trip in a few weeks and we are full of courage. There are those that are discouraged and are returning. We are very relaxed. I am in good health as well as the whole company. Tell the news to all my family and friends."*

*Your devoted son,  
Joseph Choquette*

The July 5, 1898 *Evening Call* article reported that family members received letters from the Lefrançois group stating that three groups, the Dougherty, Lefrançois, and the Dubois-Laforge groups, happened to meet up at the Great Slave Lake – about 800 miles from the Klondike fields. They mention that the Dougherty group lost most of their horses as well as getting lost once and traveling 425 miles out of their way for nothing. They said that the Indians were helpful in transporting their goods. They wrote that the days are 20 hours long, but the weather was good. Ironically the Lefrançois party left two months after the Dougherty group but arrived at the same time since they had an easier route and the Dougherty group experienced many misfortunes. They also reported none of the members were sick and no serious accidents had happened.





**1070.**  
**KLONDIKERS ARE OFF.**  
 Tomorrow 8 More Will Leave to  
 Join Miller-Dougherty Party.  
**READY FOR FORTUNE.**  
 They Will Leave in High Spirits  
 and Hopes.  
 Tomorrow eight Woonsocket men  
 leave this city, fired with a desire to  
 gain riches in Klondike, the land  
 where, it is said, to abound. These men  
 are:  
 Adolard Dubois, 153 River street.  
 Oesime Lefort, 17 Joseph avenue.  
 Arthur Deslauriers, 23 Center street.  
 Joseph Chabot, Clinton street.  
 Elias Proulx, Monument square.  
 Eugene Barsalou, 17 Wood avenue.  
 Albert Renard, Monument square.  
 Gilbert Furland, Chamberland street.  
 The majority will leave on a morning  
 train, but Barsalou and possibly one or  
 two others will leave on the 12:13  
 train. They will go to Worcester and  
 then to Edmonton by way of the Ca-  
 nadian Pacific.  
 These men will complete the party  
 of which George Dougherty and ex-  
 Patrolman Napoleon L. Miller started  
 out nearly two weeks ago as the ad-  
 vance guard. These two were followed  
 last Wednesday by Joseph Dalphé and  
 Archie L. Folland, who in turn were  
 followed on the following day by  
 George Vincent of Manchoug, who is  
 also a member of the party.  
 This makes in all 13 determined  
 men, who have banded themselves to-  
 gether for the purpose of forming a  
 more formidable array against the  
 hardships and terrors of the icy re-  
 gions of the north. These dangers and  
 hardships are great, but these men  
 realize all this, and are determined to  
 surmount all obstacles and return to  
 their homes and friends as soon as  
 sufficient wealth has been accumulated.  
 Nearly all these men have wives and  
 families and many are the fearful  
 scenes to be enacted tomorrow between  
 wives and children and their loved  
 ones who are about to part for how  
 long a time no man can with certainty  
 say.  
 Yesterday afternoon a family reunion  
 was held at the home of Eugene De-  
 solou, 17 Wood avenue. The party  
 which numbered about 25, consisted of  
 several relatives from out of town. All  
 sat down to dinner, after which the  
 afternoon was spent in conversation in  
 regard to the past and future of the  
 Barsalou family.

On July 9, 1898, it was reported that a number of members were either returning home or had returned home after abandoning the trip before arriving at their destination. Dougherty group members Albert Renault and Silas Proulx arrived back in Woonsocket on July 17, 1898 and George Dougherty, the party leader, was expected soon afterward. Norbert Lefrançois, leader of the Lefrançois party and his wife were also expected home soon. When interviewed, Mr. Proulx explained that they became disappointed after travelling over 200 miles when they realized that the supposedly accurate overland trail the Canadian government provided did not exist. That is when they retraced their steps and decided to take the water route the rest of the way. They continued on their trip until they got to Fort Norman. At this location, they were apprised of the tough and treacherous remaining portion of their journey to Dawson City. It is then that he, Mr. Renault, Mr. Dougherty, and Mr. and Mrs. Lefrançois decided to turn back. He said the remaining members of the parties decided to continue on. Proulx said he was out \$700.00 and Mr. Renault said he was out \$500.00 besides his lost time. Mr. Dougherty returned home to Woonsocket, RI on September 15, 1898. Mr. and Mrs. Lefrançois returned on September 19, 1898. None of the gold seekers made a rich strike. Some quickly ran short of funds, due to the prohibitive cost of food and supplies. Eugène Barsalou, in a letter to his daughter back home in Woonsocket, wrote that prices in Dawson City in 1899 included \$16.00 for a chicken, \$2.00 for a pound of butter and \$1.30 for a pound of sugar.

As of this writing, I have not found any more articles about the trip. I did find my great-great grandfather possibly mentioned in a book entitled *"Strange Things Done – Murder in the Yukon Territory"* by Ken S. Coates and William R. Morrison. The book is about the hunt for one of two murderers who killed three miners who had just arrived in the Yukon. In the book, a detective

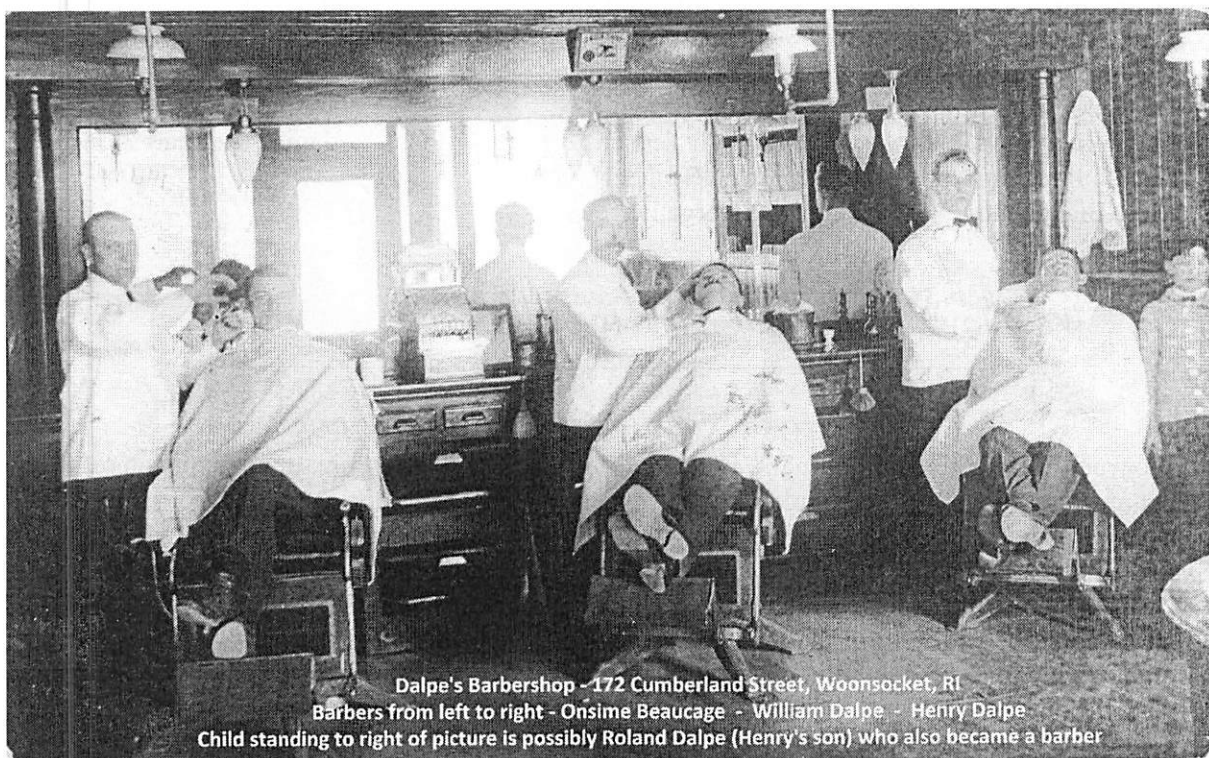
Article from 14 Feb  
 1898 Woonsocket  
 Patriot newspaper

named Welsh was looking for a murderer by the name of Ed LaBelle. Welsh interviewed a Joseph Dalpe, who happened to know LaBelle, to see if he might know where he had gone. Unfortunately, I have not been able to confirm whether this is actually my great-great grandfather since Joseph was a common first name and there was no mention of where he was from.

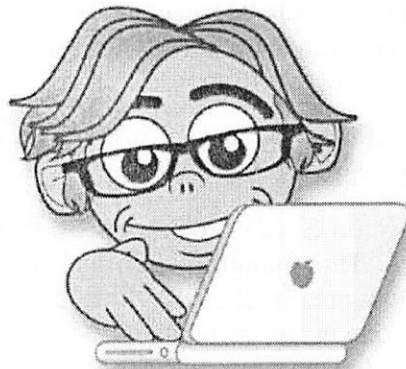
We never knew if he ever got lucky and struck gold, but on April 9, 1922 he and his wife celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. The details about the party read as follows:

"...on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday afternoon by their 8 children, 41 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren. The young children had a well-rehearsed recital program... and a bouquet of 84 roses was presented by the 'little' Murielle Dalpe... the celebration continued with the presentation of a magnificent bouquet of flowers presented by the oldest of their children, Alfred Dalpe... they also received two magnificent rosaries--decorated in gold-- and a purse of gold coins."

Joseph Dalpe, the "voyager," traveled much of his life and he went as far as the Yukon gold fields in search of gold. Ironically, the greatest riches he probably ever found turned out to be at home with his wife and family.



Dalpe's Barbershop - 172 Cumberland Street, Woonsocket, RI  
Barbers from left to right - Onisme Beaucage - William Dalpe - Henry Dalpe  
Child standing to right of picture is possibly Roland Dalpe (Henry's son) who also became a barber



*Thank you to our  
growing army of data  
entry volunteers:*

## WANTED:

### Your help

with a very large data entry project.

See page 41 for details.

Claire Small  
David Coutu  
Dennis Boudreau  
Ed Gentley  
Larry Rainville  
Lucille Langlois  
Mike Blanchette

Paul Raposa  
Paula Porter  
Rene Saulnier  
Roger Lavoie  
Sindi Terrien  
Sue Beaudet  
George Perron

Terry Perron  
David Gregoire  
Louise Lussier  
Roger Beaudry  
Janice Burkhart

*We'd love to add your name to our list!*

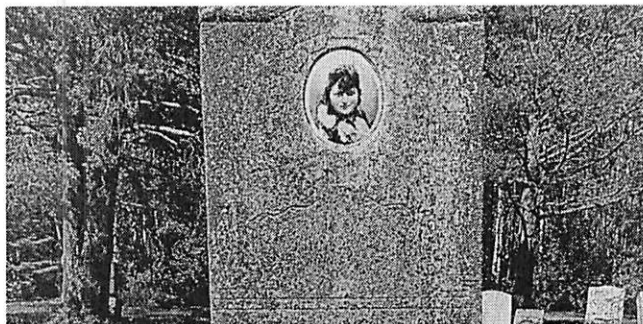
### PHOTOS WANTED FOR JE ME SOUVIENS

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 it to us for possible publication. It could be a picture of some place in Québec, the Maritimes or France. 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. 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 should email it as a .jpg file to [JMSeditor@afgs.org](mailto:JMSeditor@afgs.org). If you must mail your photos to us, please do not send originals as they will not be returned.

## 5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU VISIT A CEMETERY THIS SUMMER

by Melanie Mayo, Family History Daily Editor

*Reprinted from familyhistorydaily.com (This article was found on Pinterest, which is a great place to find tips for research.)*



Summer is the season of travel and while we are wandering the world many of us are also planning a visit to a cemetery or two.

If you're going to try and find a burial site, no matter its age or location, you'll want to take a few things into consideration before you head out

### 1. Cemeteries are Not Always Easy to Find, or Access

The first step to visiting an ancestor's grave site is discovering which cemetery they are buried in. This is not always easy and once we have secured a burial location from a death certificate, obituary or other record we often feel like we have overcome the most difficult hurdle. But the truth is, finding the name of a cemetery is just the very first step in a long process.

Once you have the name of your ancestor's cemetery (or other burial site) you'll need to take the time to look up its exact address and directions for finding the location and accessing the graves. Many cemeteries are tucked away, exist in remote locations, are on roads that are difficult to travel on, have hard to locate entrances, are only open during certain hours or are on private property.

You can generally gain an address and directions to a cemetery on FindaGrave or by typing the name and town/county into Google. Record the address and directions and then look them up on Google Maps to get a better idea of what you are dealing with.

We suggest you take this search a step further and call the cemetery (if a number is available) or a local historical or genealogical society, associated church or funeral home for more specific directions and pointers. People in the know are often more than happy to help.

Don't assume that a cemetery listed as being on private property is not accessible to the public – it may very well be accessible. Just make sure to get permission.

Know exactly where you are going before you start your journey. If you will be traveling a long distance, or into an unknown area, make sure to let someone know where you are going. Many remote cemeteries may not have cell phone service and you don't want to get stuck.

### 2. You Need to Be Careful and Prepared

In addition to the difficulties that you may encounter in locating a cemetery you will deal with more challenges once you get there. You will want to make sure you have everything you need to have a successful, comfortable and safe trip.

Many cemeteries are quite large and vary in how well they are kept. Expect lots of walking and uneven, rocky, sandy, wet or spongy ground. If it is a sunny day, shade may be hard to come by and sudden rain can leave you caught many minutes from your car.

Dress for the weather and, if possible, wear pants that cover your legs and comfortable shoes that don't leave the toes exposed. Wear sunscreen and bug repellent when needed, and always carry water. Also remember that poison oak and ivy, as well as thorny plants, may be found in cemeteries, so be cautious of these as well.

Don't visit a cemetery alone. Bring someone with you to help you search and in case of a flat tire, twisted ankle or other unexpected happening.

**We suggest you bring these items with you.**

- Plenty of water and a small spray bottle
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- An umbrella
- A snack
- A first aid kit
- A notebook and pencil
- Your phone or a camera for photos
- Gloves to cover your hands for removing leaves, grass and twigs from markers
- A flashlight for dark areas and shadows
- A hand towel to kneel on and clean your hands

**3. Gravestones are Even Harder to Find Than Cemeteries**

Finding a cemetery can certainly be a challenge, but locating your ancestor's marker will often prove to be the biggest hurdle of all to overcome. Many cemeteries have hundreds or even thousands of graves and others are so old and overgrown that you may be the first person to visit them in some time.

The first thing to do when attempting to find an actual burial marker is to know the location **in the graveyard** where it can be found. Preferably, you should do this before you come. We suggest starting with FindaGrave and Billion Graves to see if your ancestor has an entry and, if so, if a location in the cemetery is noted. If so, the next step is to secure a map for the cemetery and use it to pinpoint the approximate location of the marker before you ever set out.

Current, well-managed cemeteries will provide maps to visitors or have someone on hand who can show you where a grave may be located if you know the section/lot/or marker number. Other cemeteries may be able to help you look in their records to find this information, but you will need to do this legwork before you arrive.

Some entries on FindaGrave and Billion Graves have GPS coordinates as well. These are the most helpful as they provide the exact location of the grave. Download a free app or use Google Maps to locate a grave with this information.

If you are unable to secure any helpful information about where your ancestor is buried try looking for clues once you are there to help in your search – such as by locating other burials from the same time period. Many cemeteries have clearly designated older sections. You might also discover people grouped by ethnicity or religion.



Many people are buried in family plots so be sure to look for family surnames and examine markers around them closely (don't always expect to find the surname repeated on individual markers).

If you don't have an exact location for your ancestor expect to look at many, many grave stones before you find the one you are looking for. When you do find it, be sure to pay attention to those in the same area as there is a good chance that you are looking at relatives.

Snap photos of everything that looks interesting and sort them out later. Take notes when needed to help you keep details straight and to help you find the location of the graves again in the future.

If possible, use a GPS coordinate app to record the EXACT location. This is built into many cameras and camera apps or you can download a separate app for this purpose. FindaGrave and Billion Graves both offer free apps for this purpose.

#### 4. You May Never Find the Grave You're Looking For

The sad truth about trying to find your ancestors' graves is that many have been lost to time. Grave sites, especially old ones and those that only ever had ground markers or markers made of wood etc. "disappear" very easily if they are not maintained.

A quick walk in any older cemetery will show you how many markers are falling apart or are almost completely covered by grass and debris. Imagine how many others have disappeared altogether. Notice as you explore the site how many seemingly "open" grassy spaces there are between graves. Often these areas contain covered markers or unmarked graves.

Other individuals may be buried in areas of the cemetery that are no longer maintained and are inaccessible or may never have had a marker at all.

**Your ancestor might be buried in the cemetery you have located, but there is a very good chance that you will not be able to locate their marker.** This is very, very common and comes as an unexpected shock to many new to these searches.

The following two images are from one trip to the same cemetery showing that some burial sites are completely inaccessible (now in a wooded area with no markers) and others that were moved from an old cemetery because of development and were never given markers at the new site (sadly, this is an all too common reality for many Native Americans).



#### 5. Don't Try to Clean or Repair a Gravestone or Marker

If you do find a marker for your ancestor you might find that it is difficult (or impossible) to read due to chipping, wear, debris, lichen or moss, coverage by bushes, trees or grass etc. It is very tempting to want to remove debris and start cleaning so that you can record the information on the marker, take a picture and show respect for the person buried there.

**However, it is very easy to do more harm than good** (to yourself and the gravesite). There are many schools of thought on how old graves should be handled but, unless you are an expert with permission from the cemetery, you should play it safe and leave the marker alone for the most part.

Generally, it is OK to:

- Gently remove LOOSE plant matter from the marker if it is not intertwined with the stone in some way. This means brushing away leaves or twigs, removing small amounts of grass that have grown around or over a marker, or carefully pulling back the branches of a tree or bush.
- Pour a reasonable amount of water over the marker (if outdoors) to remove mud or debris.

Generally, it is NOT OK to:

- Wipe or scrub the marker in any way or use a brush or tools to remove debris.
- Remove lichen or plants that are clinging to or intertwined with the marker.
- Remove a large amount of plant matter from (or around) a gravestone or other marker.
- Poke or dig up the ground to attempt to find a marker.

Are grave rubbings OK?

Grave rubbings can damage markers so please avoid this practice. Most people use their cameras to record a grave and this is the preferred method for reading faded stones as well. Take a close photo of a faded stone and use an image editing program on your phone to zoom in, invert the image, change brightness and tones to see if you can reveal the writing.

You can also try spraying a bit of water directly on the stone around the writing to create contrast or use a flashlight to remove shadow to help with your image.

We hope these tips help you find your ancestors' grave sites and be safer doing it. While you're taking the time to locate a grave, consider uploading your photos and information to a place like FindaGrave to help others. As mentioned above, their free app makes it easy.

*By Melanie Mayo, Family History Daily Editor*

<https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/visit-cemetery-tips/>

**You may also like to read:**

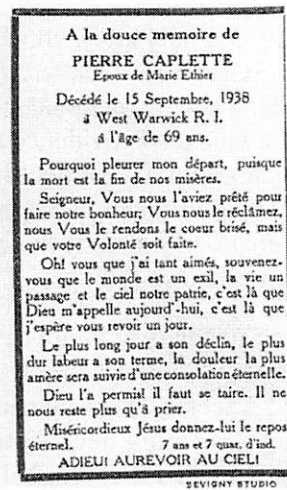
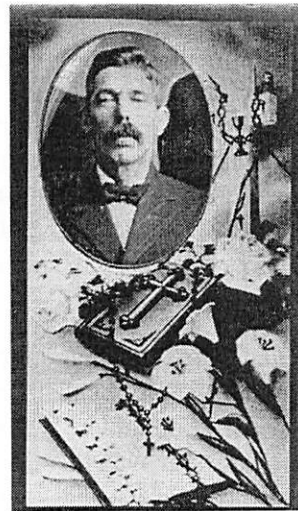
A Gravesite Can Reveal Remarkable Details About Your Ancestor, IF You Can Find It: Here's How

<https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/find-a-gravesite/>

How to Find a Cause of Death When You Don't Have a Death Certificate for Your Ancestor

<https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/find-cause-of-death-ancestor/>

## HAVE YOU SEARCHED OUR FUNERAL CARD COLLECTION?



Here are just two of the many funeral cards that can be found in our Members Only Online Library. The funeral cards are indexed and searchable by name and for women, includes their maiden and married names. If a spouse is listed on the card, the information is also in the index. For some researchers, this may be the only photo they may find of an ancestor in their family tree.

If you have old funeral cards that are among your family records, especially cards with photographs and family information, we would be happy to add them to our funeral card collection. Contact us at [JMSeditor@afgs.org](mailto:JMSeditor@afgs.org) for information on how to submit them for scanning. We will gladly return them to you after they have been scanned into our collection.



### 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).

## **WHY I LOVE GENEALOGY**

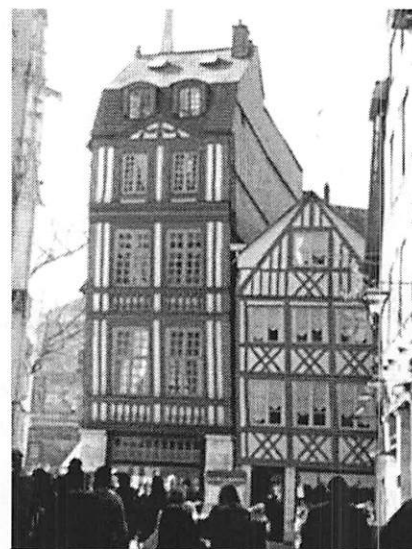
by Jan Deutsch

Until 2015, I only knew about my immediate relatives. Both sides of my family had arrived in the United States from Québec, specifically Marieville and Granby. My maternal side arrived in the late 1880's and my paternal side in the 1920's as part of the Migration to New England. They lived in the Pawtucket/ Providence Rhode Island area and became welcome members of the large French Canadian group that settled there. My grandfather was a machinist and had a good job but others were not so fortunate. Economics drove them to move. Like many other families that immigrated to this area. They already had relatives here and I'm sure that helped to make them feel comfortable in their new surroundings.

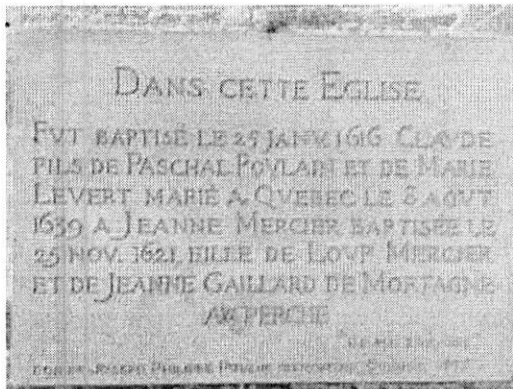
As often happens with amateur genealogists, what spurred my curiosity into family history was wondering who the people were in all the photos that I inherited from my parents. In about 2015, I joined Ancestry in partnership with my daughter. We both found that turning back the clock and learning something new about an ancestor was thrilling. There is nothing like tracing back and finding another Filles du Roi or Filles à Marier in your background. It was a little later when I learned about AFGS and took advantage of the verification certificate program.

Late in 2015, I started to think about taking a trip to France to visit the birthplaces of some of my ancestors. I was at the beginning of my research and I only had about 5 names of towns where my relatives lived. In the spring of 2017, my husband and I were joined by my brother and his wife for a 19 day trip around France. This would be a trip of a lifetime. The most definitive information I had was about Claude Poulin (Poulain) b. January 25, 1616 and baptized on January 26, 1616 in St. Maclou Church in Rouen, France. He is my 8x great grandfather. Claude arrived in Québec in June 1636 and was an experienced carpenter. On August 9, 1639, he married Jeanne Mercier, a Filles à Marier. Their marriage was the 18th celebrated in Québec. They were also settlers and land donors for the church and parish of Ste. Anne de Beaupré.

We arrived in Rouen on Palm Sunday weekend in 2017. It was Saturday and we checked the internet to see if there were any Masses at St. Maclou. Hurrah! There was one Mass at 6 p.m. on Saturday. Upon approach, the Gothic Flamboyant style was evident. The ushers and greeters were passing out palms to everyone as we entered. It's hard to say exactly how I felt walking into the church that my 9x great grandparents and 8x great grandfather had attended. I remember feeling honored, excited and a little emotional. We took our places on very small wooden chairs set up close to the altar that was in the center of the church. The parishioners were greeting each other with a familiarity that showed this was a parish and not a large shrine like the neighboring Notre Dame de Rouen. The Mass was longer than usual with the Passion of Christ being read by the parishioners. My rusty French and familiarity with Mass made this moment special. Soon it was over and the



Buildings near the church in the village of Rouen, France



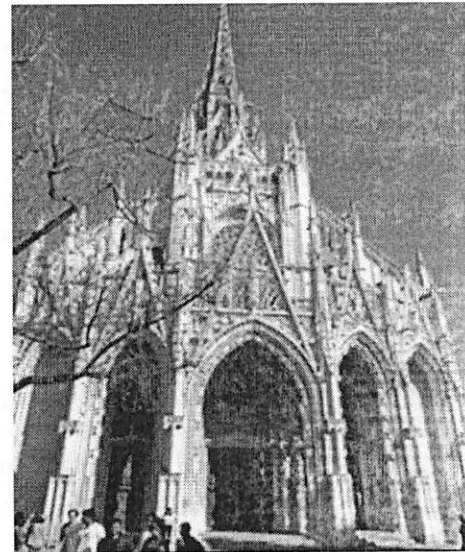
wife. In my excitement and broken French I asked the priest at the door to please wait until I could get my family to return and see the plaque. I ran out to the top step, looked around and saw they were about to sit down for dinner at an outdoor cafe. I waved and called them to come back - thankfully they did and we all had a few minutes to take pictures and revel in a happy moment. To walk where my ancestors walked was thrilling.

The groundbreaking for the Church of St Maclou was in 1436 and it was completed 85 years later in 1521. It is considered the most celebrated example of late Gothic building in France. This church replaced a Romanesque style church that had been neglected and ruined with a collapsed roof.



Interior view of altar in the Church of St. Maclou

clock read 7:30 pm. The acolytes and the altar care members were putting things away and I knew the church would be closing very soon. As with many Catholic parishes in the US, St. Maclou is now part of a three church parish and the remaining Palm Sunday Masses were going to be held at another church the next day. The church would not be open again until the next week. I quickly walked around and tried to take everything in, trying to visualize what it was like centuries ago. Lo and behold, on a side wall I found a Plaque honoring Claude Poulin, his baptism, his parents and



The Church of St. Maclou

Without my newly found interest in genealogy, I would not have taken this wonderful trip to France in search of my roots. As many genealogists will tell you, when you find your ancestors on documents and add them to your family tree, you make a connection that compels you forward to the next step – understanding the history of the times in which they lived and walking in their footsteps. If you are fortunate enough to be able to follow that dream, you will feel a connection that transcends the generations. Yes, I do love genealogy!

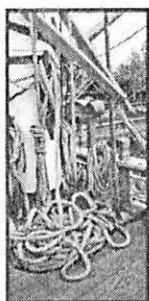


**THE FRENCH GENEALOGY BLOG**<http://french-genealogy.typepad.com/genealogie/>

by Fran Tivey

Are you interested in researching your French-Canadian Ancestors further? If so you might consider visiting Anne Morrdels website. Once there, you'll see the vast amount of information about our French-Canadian ancestors in France. She introduces you to the National Archives of France [*Archives Nationales de France*] as well as Departmental Archives of France. Anne Morrdels is the creator and author of over 650 informative posts on her blog, a leading source and online manual, in English, on French genealogical research. She is based in France and regularly visits the French archives facilities. Anne is a certified genealogist since July of 2011 and is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

Below is one of her articles on her website [dated August 18, 2018] which you might find interesting. It is entitled, "Files on Officers of the French Navy Are Going Online." There, she has included a direct link to the *Archives Nationales*. Perhaps one of your French-Canadian ancestors was a soldier!

**Files on Officers of the French Navy Are Going Online****19 August 2018****The National Archives of France**

The *Archives Nationales* is located in Paris, France. This is France's official archives. The *Archives Nationales* has one of the largest and most important archival collections in the world. It has been in existence for more than twelve centuries. Click here to visit the archives [https://www.siv.archives-](https://www.siv.archives-nationales.culture.gouv.fr)

[nationales.culture.gouv.fr](https://www.siv.archives-nationales.culture.gouv.fr)

The *Archives Nationales* was created at the time of the French Revolution in 1790, but it was a state decree of 1794 that made it mandatory to centralize all the pre-French Revolution private and public archives seized by the revolutionaries. In 1796, a law was passed which created departmental archives in the Departments of France to alleviate the burden on the *Archives Nationales* in Paris, thus creating the collections of the French archives as we know them today. In 1800 the *Archives Nationales* became an autonomous body of the French state. Today, they contain about 252 miles of documents, an enormous mass of documents growing every year. The original documents stored by the *Archives Nationales* range from AD 625 to today.

The Archives of France manage the 100 departmental archives located in the *prefectures* of each of the 100 departments of France, as well as various other local archives. These departmental and local archives contain all the archives from the decentralized branches of the French state, as well as all the archives of the pre-French Revolution provincial and local institutions seized by the revolutionaries (parliaments, chartered cities, abbeys, and churches). Thus, in addition to the 252 miles of documents kept by the *Archives Nationales*, at least 1,753 miles of documents are kept in the departmental and local archives, in particular the church records and notarial records used by genealogists.

You will find a complete list of France's Departmental Archives on Anne Morrdels website. These are located on the left hand menu of her home page. These same departmental archives are listed below.

The Departmental Archives is where you can obtain documents of birth, marriages and death vital records, plus notary and inventory records. These records are written in French [France]. In order for you to read the records please visit her Glossary section. There, you'll find a complete list of French [France] words along with their English translations that will be used in these records.

In the map below you'll find 22 provinces that are numbered and the departments within them. The list Anne Morrdels supplies us with and this map coincide with each other.

Paris	8. Limousin-Quercy-Périgord	16. Auvergne
1. Nord	9. Bordeaux-Guëenne	17. Alpes-Savoie-Dauphiné
2. Normandie	10. Toulouse-Gascogne	18. Lyon et Vallée du Rhône
3. Ile-de-France	11. Corse	19. Provence
4. Bretagne	12. Champagne	20. Riviera-Côte d'Azur
5. Vallée de la Loire	13. Lorrains-Vosges-Alsace	21. Méditerranée-Languedoc-Roussillon
6. Berry	14. Bourgogne	22. Pyrénées-Pays Basque
7. Poitou-Charente	15. Franche-Comté, Monts Jura	

### Websites of the Departmental Archives

- Ain  
Capital: Bourg-en-Bresse. Archives Numériques Départementales de l'Ain. Online: parish registers, civil registers, censuses. Wonderfully they also have put up the Tables de Succession, (lists of those who died and whether or not they left a will) and the Matricules, (military recruitment documents) for some communes. Having been added in stages are the all-important notarial document registers.
- Aisne  
Capital: Laon. On a very nice site that works well: parish and civil registrations, land records and maps, and many images of historical and genealogical value. There is a nice section on genealogy to help one get started. Additionally, it is possible via a different search page to see all documentation relating to a particular commune.
- Allier  
Capital: Moulins The parish and civil registrations for over 300 communes are now online and free. One must click an agreement form before access is allowed. Nice site.
- Alpes-de-Haute-Provence  
Capital: Digne-les-Bains Online: parish and civil registers, annual indices, ten-year indices, censuses, land records.
- Hautes-Alpes  
Capital: Gap. Online: parish and civil registers through 1916, marriage banns, ten-year indices. Incredibly helpful people when contacted by e-mail; they really go out of their way to help further one's research.
- Alpes-Maritimes  
Capital: Nice. Parish and civil registrations from the 16th century to 1914.
- Ardèche  
Capital: Privas. Online: parish and civil registers, ten-year indices, land records, Protestant registrations, military registers, and censuses from 1791 to 1911!!!
- Ardennes  
Capital: Charleville-Mézières. Online: the ten-year indices with a list of all communes, land records, parish registers and civil registers from the 16th century to 1890. Military conscription lists from 1867 to 1921, with a new index that can be searched by the conscript's name.
- Ariège  
Capital: Foix. Finally! Online: Parish and civil registrations from 1551 to 1892, with ten-year indices up to 1902, and military conscription lists from 1884 to 1918.
- Aube  
Capital: Troyes. Online: ten-year indices, post cards of various towns and villages, land records, parish and civil registrations from 1552 to 1915, military enlistment records, probate indices (tables des successions), census returns from 1820 to 1931. Additionally, the Fichier Chandon has about 8000 names and biographical notes on families of the region. Works in Progress: 1) a collaborative index to the names on the census returns; 2) a surname index to the registrations -- now pushing 600,000 names.
- Aude  
Capital: Carcassonne. Online: parish and civil registrations from 1547 to 1872 and some ten-year indices. Just up: military conscription lists.
- Aveyron  
Capital: Rodez. Online: parish and civil registrations from the 16th to the end of the 19th century. There is a plan afoot to put notarial records -- not just indices -- online gratis. NEW: military recruitment lists from 1887 to 1921.
- Bouches-du-Rhône  
Capital: Marseille. Online: parish and civil registers, land records, censuses from 1836-1931, old post cards, military recruitment registers from 1872 to 1912. Probably the worst AD website of them all.
- Calvados  
Capital: Caen. Online: parish and civil records and the ten-year indices and annual indices. Also some interesting pictures of the Normandy invasion.

- Cantal  
Capital: Aurillac. Online: parish and civil registers, ten-year indices, censuses, alphabetic indices to military recruitment lists and the lists as well, photographs, and notarial records and Holocaust records that relate to Cantal. In 2010, the website won a prize for the way it is possible for users to index collaboratively the civil registrations.
- Charente  
Capital: Angoulême. Online: census records for 1842 to 1872, land records, teachers' notebooks, church inventories, old post cards of local towns, villages and sites. Parish and civil registrations are now online. At long last, the charge has been dropped and the site is now free to use.
- Charente-Maritime  
Capital: La Rochelle. Online: parish, Protestant and civil registers, post cards, photographs of the Second World War, notarial records and entry lists (répertoires), military recruitment lists from 1859 to 1921, admiralty records, employment contracts for those sent to America (engagés) from 1606 to 1758, and quite a lot more.
- Cher  
Capital: Bourges. As with many, but not all, you must create an account. This will gain you access to parish and civil registrations, censuses, maps, military enlistment registers and indices to them. They have embarked on a big collaborative indexing project.
- Corrèze  
Capital: Tulle. Online: ten-year indices from 1802 to 1902, parish and civil registrations for all communes from their beginnings to 1902, EXCEPT for Brive-la-Gaillarde (see their own website: <http://archives.brive.fr>), census returns from 1906 to 1936, military recruitment lists, alphabetic death and will registrations to 1940, maps.
- Corse-du-Sud  
Capital: Ajaccio. All new! Online: Parish and civil registrations from 1548 to 1914, probate tables, land records and census returns. Very nice.
- Haute-Corse  
Capital: Bastia. Online: Maps, civil registrations from 1793 to 1902.
- Côte-d'Or  
Capital: Dijon. Online: parish and civil registers, ten-year indices, censuses 1800 to 1936, indices to the military recruitment lists and the lists themselves from 1867 to 1921, court and judicial records, administrative records, maps, tables to notarial records, succession tables. NEW AND FABULOUS: scans of 170 registers of notarial records dating from 1310 to 1475!
- Côtes-d'Armor  
Capital: Saint-Brieuc. Online: land records, parish and civil registrations, census records to 1906, will indices, post cards, posters, photograph collections, military recruitment lists from 1867 to 1909. Just up: scans of old newspapers.
- Creuse  
Capital: Guéret. New website! Online: Parish and civil registrations, maps, posters from the Second World War, census returns, military recruitment lists, and -- very nice -- alphabetic indices to inheritances.
- Dordogne  
Capital: Périgueux. New website! Online: historic maps, ten-year indices, parish and civil registrations, census returns through 1896, military conscription lists from 1887 through 1921.
- Doubs  
Capital: Besançon. Online: Ten-year indices. Rumors that the censuses will soon be online. DREADFUL search facility. NEW! Civil and parish registrations begin to appear.
- Drôme  
Capital: Valence. Online: parish registers, ten-year indices, civil registers up to 1852, with some up to 1916, notarial archives, land records, military recruitment lists from 1865 to 1921, census returns from 1790 to 1911; also many finding aids. NEW: Protestant registers with indices!

- Eure  
Capital: Évreux. Online: parish and civil registers, military recruitment lists, censuses, old postcards.
- Eure-et-Loir  
Capital: Chartres. Online: Parish and civil registers, military conscription lists, censuses, probate lists, land registry records, electoral rolls, church plans.
- Finistère  
Capital: Quimper. Online: Maps, parish and civil registrations census returns, military recruitment lists from 1860-1913. Parish registrations from 1772 to 1909 have been indexed on FamilySearch. NEW: local maps with place names in Breton.
- Gard  
Capital: Nîmes. At last! Gard has its own website, previously having relied heavily upon TéléArchives at Brozer.fr which have the municipal archives of Nîmes and a large number of archives for Gard. On Gard's own website at the moment there are only the military recruitment lists from 1887 to 1915. Still, a fine beginning!
- Haute-Garonne  
Capital: Toulouse. Online: Land records, parish and civil registers, military recruitment lists, marriage contracts from Toulouse from 1501 to 1739, censuses, insinuations from 1693 to 1790. The site is maddening in that images cannot be adjusted; there is no possibility to zoom in or out. The 1872 and 1886 census returns for Toulouse are being indexed by FamilySearch. Updates are ongoing and the site is improving.
- Gers  
Capital: Auch. Online: Finding aids, historic maps, military conscription lists and census returns. Parish and civil registrations are not expected to be online before late 2015.
- Gironde  
Capital: Bordeaux. Online: Transcriptions of some parish registers, parish and civil registers and ten-year indices, maps, passport applications from 1800 to 1889, military recruitment lists from 1867 to 1921, register of deeds, wills, etc., 182 registers of the Admiralty of Guyenne, crew and passenger lists of departing vessels from 1683 to 1778. Click on GAEL to search. While there are some civil registrations for Bordeaux, most are on the website of the Bordeaux municipal archives.
- Hérault  
Capital: Montpellier. Online: Military recruitment registers, parish and civil registers, censuses, land records, notarial records, post cards, maps, municipal meeting minutes. NEW: Copies of the Land Registry records, showing transfers of ownership -- the Table des hypothèques -- are now online.
- Ille-et-Vilaine  
Capital: Rennes. Online: Land records, parish and civil registrations for most but not quite yet all locations. For Rennes see the Archives municipales de Rennes.
- Indre  
Capital: Châteauroux. Online: Finding aids, maps, parish and civil registrations to 1902, ten-year indices, census returns to 1901. NEW: Complete military recruitment records from 1859 to 1921.
- Indre-et-Loire  
Capital: Tours. Online: Parish registers, ten-year indices, land records, old post cards and records of wills filed, military conscription lists. NEW: Land registers for Chinon, Loches and Tours from 1800 to 1955.
- Isère  
Capital: Grenoble. Much improved! Online: Ten-year indices, parish and civil registrations to 1892, census returns to 1906, military conscription lists from 1856 to 1921, scans of WWI family records, treasury records from the 13th to the 15th centuries.
- Jura  
Capital: Lons-le-Saunier. Excellent progress! Online: maps, postcards, historic photographs, parish and civil registrations from the 16th century through 1892, ten-year indices from 1802-1932, marriage banns and dispensation requests from the 18th century, military



conscription lists from 1867-1921, registers of notarial records from 1694-1791, census returns from 1800 to 1911. This has to be one of the most helpful archives in the country.

- Landes  
Capital: Mont-de-Marsan. Lots of problems with this site, and many efforts to repair them, finally leading to a new site. Online: Parish and civil registrations, military recruitment lists, maps, town meeting minute books.
- Loir-et-Cher  
Capital: Blois. Online: parish and civil registrations, census returns, indices to military recruitment lists, maps.
- Loire  
Capital: Saint-Étienne. Online: Ten-year indices, parish and civil registers from 1469 to 1909. Census returns from 1810 to 1911, maps, 1906 inventories of church properties, postcards, military recruitment lists from 1865 to 1921, newspapers from 1873.
- Haute-Loire  
Capital: Le Puy-en-Velay. Online: Nice website which has parish and civil registrations, ten-year indices to same, military conscription lists, census returns, registers of notarial records. There is much, much more here than can be listed, so explore this site.
- Loire-Atlantique  
Capital: Nantes. Online: Parish registers, civil registers, censuses, land records, maps, old post cards, notarial records, military enlistment registers, WITH a surname index to them! Do not waste your time contacting by post or e-mail, as they brusquely refuse to be of any help at all.
- Loiret  
Capital: Orléans. Online: Civil registrations from 1833 to 1902 are gradually being put online. About one third of all communes have been added. However, there are some that will never be online, for they were destroyed during the Second World War. Many communes have their own websites with their parish and civil registrations found online there. Nice new website, much improved!
- Lot  
Capital: Cahors. Online: Parish and civil registrations to 1902, including clerk's copies, census records, succession tables, military registers. This site has had some trouble but seems to be working properly as of November 2012.
- Lot-et-Garonne  
Capital: Agen. Much improved! Online now: civil registrations of the 19th century, census returns, many maps and land records, photographs, old post cards, unique funds of local history and customs, and the recordings of the accounts of some Spanish refugees.
- Lozère  
Capital: Mende. An all new website! Online: the parish and civil registers from the 17th century to 1902, photographs, maps, post cards, town histories, insinuations. Unusually, the municipal archives of the capitol city are at the same site. Nice little bit of cooperation, that.
- Maine-et-Loire  
Capital: Angers. Online: Parish and civil registrations, land records, ten-year indices. NEW! Military recruitment lists, cahiers de doléances and more.
- Manche  
Capital: Saint-Lô. Online: Historic maps, parish and civil registrations and ten-year indices, military conscription lists. Click on moteur de recherche, then on état civil. There is a nifty little video explaining how to use the search engine. Paris registrations from 1533 to 1906 for some towns have been indexed on FamilySearch.
- Marne  
Capital: Châlons-en-Champagne. New! Online: parish and civil registrations, maps, censuses, and land records. NEW! Military recruitment lists from 1887 to 1896.
- Haute-Marne  
Capital: Chaumont. Online: finding aids and land records are online. Gradually being added are: parish and civil registers, ten-year indices, and notarial records. Here, one can also read the

interesting "Notes généalogiques du Baron de l'Horme."

- Mayenne

Capital: Laval. Online: parish and civil registers from the 16th century to 1882, ten-year indices, a data base created by volunteers of the details from the marriages of the 19th century, military registers, census lists from 1836 to 1906, land records, transcriptions of marginal notes from the parish registers. Mayenne is acknowledged as the gold standard of departmental archives online.

- Meurthe-et-Moselle

Capital: Nancy. Online: parish and civil registers up to 1882, land records, military recruitment lists from 1887-1921, census returns from 1872 to 1936, probate indices from 1849 to 1945, and letters patent from 1473-1508. As the archives are relocating, all is pretty chaotic, including the website.

- Meuse

Capital: Bar-le-Duc. Nice new website design! Online: Parish and civil registers, military conscription lists, census returns, land registry maps, old newspapers, illuminated manuscripts!

- Morbihan

Capital: Vannes. Online: parish and civil registers, ten-year indices, military conscription lists from 1867 to 1921, maps, photos, 19th century local newspapers.

- Moselle

Capital: Metz. Redesigned site! Online: parish registrations, tables to civil registrations, photographs, maps, military recruitment lists. Work is underway to get the civil registrations online.

- Nièvre

Capital: Nevers. Online: finding aids, list of communes, old post cards, cahiers de doléances, pregnancy declarations, censuses, military conscription lists (recently updated to include the soldiers of WWI), parish registrations and civil registrations are completed.

- Nord

Capital: Lille. Online: Ten-year indices, parish and civil registrations, military recruitment lists,

land records, 1906 census. If you are researching people from the capital, check the website of the Archives municipales de Lille at archives.lille.fr

- Oise

Capital: Beauvais. Online: old post cards, parish maps, parish and civil registers, censuses, military registers. It is necessary to register with the site; this is free.

- Orne

Capital: Alençon. Online: parish and civil registers to 1902, ten-year indices.

- Pas-de-Calais

Capital: Arras. Online: Lots of advice, plus ten-year indices to parish and civil registrations up to 1912, census records from 1820 to 1886, military recruitment records through 1921, land records.

- Puy-de-Dôme

Capital: Clermont-Ferrand. Online: All parish and civil records, a wonderful collection of land registry files, images of clerical seals and finding aids, census returns, maps, military conscription lists from 1859 through 1921. Nice new website.

- Pyrénées-Atlantiques

Capital: Pau. Now online: land records, finding aids, parish and civil registrations, Jewish registers, some notarial records, military recruitment lists from 1878 to 1921.

- Haute-Pyrénées

Capital: Tarbes. Online: Cahiers de doléances, census returns, military recruitment lists, maps, affidavits. The city of Tarbes has put up its parish and civil registers from 1611 to 1909 on [www.archives.tarbes.fr](http://www.archives.tarbes.fr). NEW: Parish registers from 1620 to 1792. Soon to enable collaborative indexing. Civil registrations from 1792 to 1915 are expected to be online in January of 2017.

- Pyrénées-Orientales

Capital: Perpignan. Online: finding aids, civil registrations, military conscription lists through 1921 with alphabetic indices through 1935, census returns.

- Bas-Rhin

Capital: Strasbourg. Online: parish and civil registrations, and census records, now up to 1912. Also a very interesting discussion of an early 19th

century manuscript of a history of Jewish people in Alsace, by Jacob Meyer.

- Haut-Rhin

Capital: Colmar. Nice new website. Online: the heraldic devices for each commune, a list of those who died in the two World Wars, a list of all of the mairies (town halls), civil registrations from 1793 to 1892, ten-year indices and lists of Jewish names, and the census of 1866.

- Rhône

Capital: Lyon. Online: Censuses from 1836, parish and civil registrations from 1527, military recruitment registers, maps, indices to notarial records, a very large collection on orphans. Collaborative indexing of both registrations and censuses is making this site incredibly useful. Rhône is the first department to allow the images of their ten-year indices and of their parish and civil registrations to appear on [www.genealogie.com](http://www.genealogie.com), though why you would pay there when you can get it free here is a mystery. For researching your ancestors from Lyon, see also <http://www.archives-lyon.fr/archives/>

- Haute-Saône

Capital: Vesoul. Online: Land records, census records, civil and parish registrations, conscription registers, bureaux de succession registers. Exceedingly helpful staff. Ten-year indices for many communes can be found on the website of the local genealogy group, Serv@nc'nautes : [www.servancnaute.fr](http://www.servancnaute.fr)

- Saône-et-Loire

Capital: Mâcon. Online: land records, ten-year indices, parish and civil registers to 1902, censuses from 1836 to 1901, cahiers de doléances, succession tables, post cards, and a nice facility to see all that is available for each town. NEW: Indices to notarial records from 1790 to 1958.

- Sarthe

Capital: Le Mans. Online: land records, parish and civil records from 1515 to 1892, military conscription registers from 1878 to 1922, manuscripts from private collections, a spoken

dictionary (very cool!) census records from 1906 to 1936 (earlier census returns were destroyed), property records, historic maps, and town council minute books from 1787.

- Savoie

Capital: Chambéry. Online: maps, some ten-year indices, census records from the 16th to 20th centuries, parish and civil registers from 1501 to 1793 and from 1815 to 1860. Also: some old newspapers, indices to maps, posters, etc.

- Haute-Savoie

Capital: Annecy. Online: NEW! Parish and civil registrations, censuses and military conscriptions from 1860 to 1940, and maps.

- Paris

Online: index cards to the surviving and reconstructed parish and civil registers to 1860 (the microfilm of these "reconstituted" parish and civil registrations prior to 1860 are on FamilySearch. Patience required.), birth registrations from 1860 to 1912, marriage registrations from 1860 to 1940, death registrations from 1860 to 1986, military recruitment registers from 1875-1909; lists of the first names of children accepted into care from 1742-1909, ten-year indices for the civil registrations from 1860 to 1984. Beautiful website. NEW! Interment lists for Paris cemeteries.

- Seine-Maritime

Capital: Rouen. Parish and civil registrations up to 1912 and in some cases up to 1935. Promised soon are maps. Passenger lists of French ships sailing from Le Havre are now online.

- Seine-et-Marne

Capital: Melun. Online: Censuses, ten-year indices up to 1916, notarial records, parish and civil registrations, marriage banns, military conscription lists, World War One photographs.

- Yvelines and the old Seine et Oise

Capital: Versailles. Online: ten-year indices, parish and civil registrations to 1912 (to 1937 for some towns), military recruitment lists, censuses, land records, cahiers de doléances, community monographs (histories), remarkable indices to

114 towns in the arrondissement of Versailles civil registrations covering the years from 1843 to 1912 . Indices to notarial records dating from 1575 to 1899. NEW! Land ownership records -- matrices cadastrales.

- Deux-Sèvres  
Capital: Niort. Online: parish and civil registers, land records and census records. Nice, clean site. NEW: military conscription registers are now online.
- Somme  
Capital: Amiens. Online: old post cards, seals, parish and civil registrations, censuses, historic maps, local histories, seals, photographs of WWI, and.....(drum roll) a user's guide in English. Just up: military conscription lists.
- Tarn  
Capital: Albi. Online: some parish registers, civil registers, ten-year indices, land records. It is necessary to register to use the site.
- Tarn-et-Garonne  
Capital: Montauban. Online: Ten-year indices, civil and parish registrations dating back to 1590; military recruitment lists, with alphabetic indices for some years.
- Var  
Capital: Toulon. Online: land records, census returns, parish and civil registrations, ten-year indices, medieval notarial records, architectural records, cahiers de doléances, records about the liberation of Var during WWII, finding aids, a "genealogy database", an index to military recruitment lists from 1887 to 1921 and transcriptions of more than a million pages from the register of land sales. Constantly being updated.
- Vaucluse  
Capital: Avignon. Online: parish and civil registrations, ten-year indices, finding aids, maps census records from 1836 to 1906.
- Vendée  
Capital: La-Roche-sur-Yon. Online: parish and civil registers, censuses, notarial records, land records, old post cards, faire parts, notarial minutes and délibérations municipales, the World

War I soldiers from the Vendée. Sadly, these archives have suffered two floods in 2016; the website explains the consequences in great detail. NEW: a database of 13,700 names of members of religious houses from the 18th century to 1903.

- Vienne  
Capital: Poitiers. Online: parish and civil registers (now up to 1912), land records, the military registrations from 1867-1908, census lists (collaborative indexing in progress), tables of inheritance and probate records. Interesting: A collection of notes on cards made during the 1950s extracting further information on Protestants, abandoned children and more. NEW: notarial records!
- Haute-Vienne  
Capital: Limoges. Online: Maps, finding aids, parish and civil registrations from 1737 to 1912, photographs, a medieval manuscript from Limoges, military recruitment lists from 1878 to 1921, inventories of parish properties from 1905. NEW: census returns from 1836.
- Vosges  
Capital: Épinal. Parish registers from 1526, civil registers to 1905, ten-year indices, censuses for the years from 1886 to 1906. NEW: military recruitment lists, land records from 1807 to 1913, and town histories (monographs des communes).
- Yonne  
Capital: Auxerre. Online: parish and civil registers. Census records, and now military lists from 1867 through the First World War.
- Territoire de Belfort  
Capital: Belfort. A very nice site with plenty online: parish and civil registrations, censuses, military registrations, and historic maps. Additionally, local archivists have created an excellent site of indexed data from the parish and civil registrations. It is a bilingual site: <http://lisa90.org>
- Essonne  
Capital: Évry. Online: Parish and civil registers, censuses, historic maps, and 184 village and town histories written for the 1900 Paris Expo, as well as indices to notaires' minutes.

- Hauts-de-Seine  
Capital: Nanterre. Online: maps (also for the old department of Seine from 1930 and for Seine-et-Oise from 1960); ten-year indices to the civil registrations through 1932 (but for one town); census records from 1891 to 1911, civil registrations for all towns from 1793 to 1918.
- Seine-Saint-Denis  
Capital: Bobigny. Online: no genealogical records are online, but there are lots of postcards and photos.
- Val-de-Marne  
Capital: Créteil. Online: parish and civil registers, ten-year indices, historic maps, finding aids, census records from 1795 (!) to 1906. Nice, easy site to use. Wonderfully interested, knowledgeable and helpful staff.
- Val-d'Oise  
Capital: Cergy-Pontoise. Online: Parish registrations from the 16th century to 1792, civil registrations from 1793-1900, ten-year indices, and census returns from 1817 to 1975, indices to probate records of Argenteuil from the 17th century to 1914, old newspapers.
- Guadeloupe  
Capital: Basse-Terre. NEW! Online: Civil registrations and military conscription lists. Site still under construction but very nice.
- Martinique  
Capital: Fort-de-France. This is actually the website of BNPM - The Banque Numérique des Patrimoines Martiniquais. Online: the actes d'individualité of freed slaves, 1848-1851, military conscription lists from 1889 to 1921. NEW: many, many new registers concerning the slave populations from 1770 to 1899.
- Guyane  
Capital: Cayenne. Online: finding aids only. Preparation to put parish and civil registrations online is under way. There is an excellent list of links to other research resources.
- La Réunion  
Capital: Saint-Denis. Online: no records are online, but there is a nice new site for the archive


### Change the language of your Chrome browser

Please use the instructions below in which to change any other non-English websites you might need while doing your genealogy research.

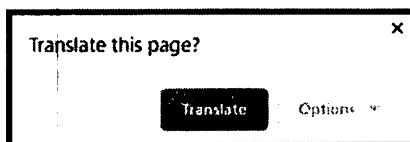
The Google auto translation feature may be enabled in your Google Chrome browser. The auto translation feature lets Google automatically translate text on web pages where the text is from a language you do not speak into a language that you speak.

#### How to turn translation on for all languages

You can control whether Chrome will offer to translate webpages.

1. On your computer, open Chrome.
2. At the top right, click More  > Settings.
3. Scroll down to the bottom, click Advanced.
4. Under "Languages," click Language.
5. Check "Offer to translate pages that aren't in a language you read."

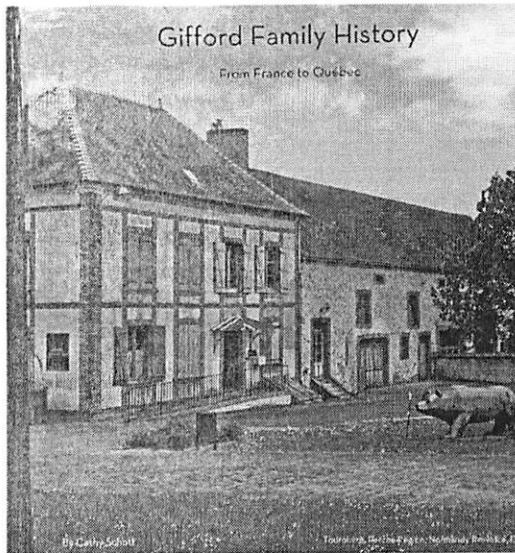
When you now visit a website not in the language of your choice a popup box will appear on the top right of your screen, click the blue translate button. You will now be able to read the website in your language. This service will not translate PDF's.



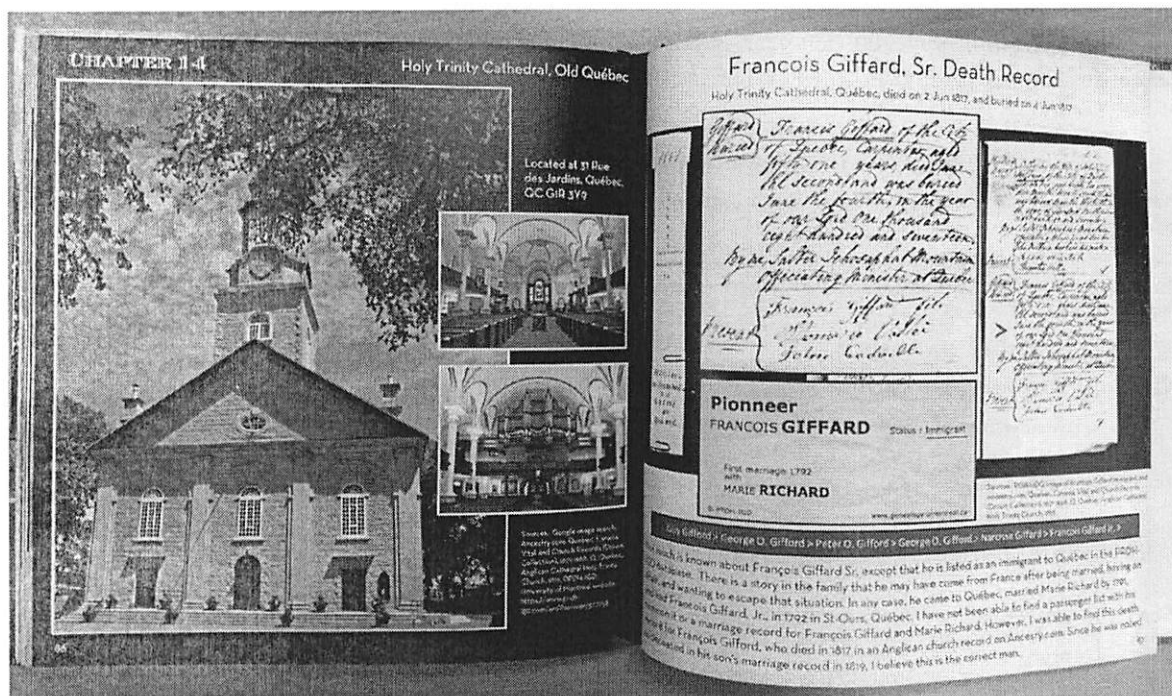


## GIFFORD FAMILY HISTORY: FROM FRANCE TO QUEBEC

by Cathy Schott



We have received a beautiful new book for our AFGS library's History section from Cathy Schott. It documents the family history of the Gifford (Giffard) family and the lineage of her great-grandfather Peter Odilon Gifford (born Pierre Odilon Giffard) who immigrated to the United States with his parents in the late 1800s. The lineage includes many of the original Beauport, Québec, residents such as Zacharie Cloutier, Abraham Martin, Robert Caron, and recently discovered Noël Langlois, Jean Guyon, and Marin Boucher. The story begins in the French towns of Mortagne-au-Perche and Tourouvre-au-Perche in the Normandie Province. There are photos included from the French- Canadian Museum, and travels to Québec City, Château Richer, Beauport, Ile d'Orléans, and many other areas in Québec.



Here is a photo of two pages from this remarkable book. The author has combined photos, both current and vintage (with sources) as well as images of source documents from microfilm, PRDH, Ancestry, and the Drouin Collection along with her analysis of these documents in this story of her ancestors.

### PHOTO FROM JOE MIGNEAULT



My ancestor Jean Mignaux settled in the village of Beauport in 1643. Beauport was a settlement adjacent to Montmorency Falls. The falls are between Quebec City and the Shrine of Ste Anne de Beaupre and are about 100 feet taller than Niagara Falls. Following a tradition of wealthy young men traveling to New France, Jean dropped the "LT" from his name and replaced it with an "X". In 1993 the town of Beauport erected a monument in memory of Jean on the 350 year anniversary of his arrival. The park is adjacent to Montmorency Falls

and designated with a sign and a monument bearing this plaque.

Joe Migneault  
Member # 5019

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### THANK YOU FOR BEING AN "ONLINE" READER

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!*"

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## ACADIAN TOUR DE FRANCE 2019

by Sindi Broussard Terrien

Châtelleraut, Saint-Suliac, Nantes, St. Malo. These are some of the places in France where my Acadian ancestors have recorded births, baptisms, marriages and deaths. When I came across these faraway places in Albert Robichaux, Jr.'s "Acadian in Exile" series, I knew I wanted to visit where my ancestors had lived. Since I did not have the privilege of learning French, I awkwardly tried to pronounce the names of these villages and cities.

I had the opportunity of taking the Acadia Tour de France offered by Les Voyages DiasporAcadie in May 2019. The 14-day tour guided by Claude Boudreau included visiting major cities like La Rochelle, Nantes and St. Malo where the French set sail to North America beginning in the 1600s as well as places like Châtelleraut and Saint-Suliac where Acadians settled during the diaspora. Now I can better pronounce these French names.

Since I have returned home, I think back on the trip and try to determine the best memory, the prettiest place, the best experience, the best meal. Here are a few highlights.

How I wish I had more time to spend with the original Beaubassin Parish Records which are now part of the La Nouvelle-France Collection at the Archives Départementales de la Charente-Maritime in La Rochelle. The Beaubassin parish registry was saved by fugitive Acadians in 1750 and transported to La Rochelle in 1778. Claude organized a private viewing of the registry of Notre-Dame de l'Assomption in Beaubassin, Acadie for the period 1712-1748. Because the registry was in such poor condition, it had been restored in 2007 in a plastic-like material and we could leaf through the pages and try to read the tables to locate an ancestor's record. Alas, there was not enough time for 15 or more people to each take a turn to find a record. After we left the archives I realized that I had actually touched the original documents from the 1700's that had recorded my ancestors' life events but I had not fully appreciated the honor because the race was on to find a record. Thankfully, the registry is available digitally online at [https://archinoe.fr/console/ir\\_ead\\_visu.php?eadid=FRAD017\\_E-Depot-105\\_520&ir=23107](https://archinoe.fr/console/ir_ead_visu.php?eadid=FRAD017_E-Depot-105_520&ir=23107). In addition to the Beaubassin Parish Records, the Archives made available an original edition of Samuel Champlain's *Les Voyages de la Nouvelle France* to view under glass. Having recently read *Champlain's Dream* by David Hackett Fischer as well as other books about Champlain, I asked to see the book cover and the curator was pleased to honor my request.

Taking the ferry from La Rochelle to Île d'Aix, we reenacted our ancestors' departure from France for the New World, to some extent. Alongside Rue de l'Armide, we saw the area in which passengers would have camped out before boarding the outgoing ships while waiting for the tide. We sailed past the gateway of the Saint Nicolas Tower and the Chain Tower where families may have stood to wave their last goodbyes. Then as we traveled west into the Atlantic Ocean, we watched as the towers became smaller and smaller to see La Rochelle no more. Prior to boarding the ferry La Maline, Claude read Marc



Lescarbot's *Adieu la France* and translated it for those of us who did not understand French. The poem evokes the feeling of sadness and loss to know you may never return to families or homeland France.

Another favorite memory was visiting the city of Châtellerault which became the home of 150 Acadian families after the "Great Upheaval." We gathered at the Place de Grand Pre and the Acadians from Prince Edward Isle and New Brunswick sang "Grand Pre" written by Angèle Arsenault. Though I had never heard the song before and it was sung in French, I could tell it was a poignant song and story of l'Acadie. Tears were shed by many in the group. I have since used Google Translate in order to understand the words of the song.

We then took a walk along the banks of the River La Vienne. (See cover photo.) Here our ancestors would have boarded boats to travel to Nantes before departing for Louisiana. My ancestors Zacharie Boudrot, his wife Marguerite Daigle, and sons were in the First Convoy leaving Châtellerault for Nantes on October 24, 1775.<sup>1</sup> My other ancestors Bennoni Blanchard, his wife Madeleine Forest and family were in the Fourth Convoy leaving Châtellerault for Nantes from March 6 to March 13, 1776.<sup>2</sup> Also in the Fourth Convoy, were my ancestors Andre Temple, his wife Marguerite LeBlanc and family.



An unexpected surprise in Châtellerault was walking the path of Saint-Jacques de Compostelle, the pilgrimage route to the Shrine of the Apostle St. James in Spain. I noticed the scalloped medallions nailed in the road while we walked to City Hall for a reception with the mayor.



We also visited the village of Saint-Suliac named one of the most beautiful villages in France. Spring flowers were in full bloom everywhere. The roses were fragrant. Saint-Suliac, outside the walled city of St. Malo, was the home of Bennoni Blanchard for 13 years and where he was married. His son, Joachim-Jacques Blanchard, my ancestor, was born and baptized there.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Albert J. Robichaux, Jr., *The Acadian Exiles in Nantes, 1775-1785* (Harvey, Louisiana, Albert J. Robichaux, Jr., 1978)

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*

<sup>3</sup> Albert Robichaux, Jr., *The Acadian Exiles in Saint-Malo 1758-1785 Part I* (Eunice, Louisiana 70535, Hebert Publications, 1981)



Oh my. Somebody burned a cake and chose to serve it for breakfast anyway! Since the round cake with a blackened crust was partially cut with slices nearby, I wondered why this was being served. The inside of the cake was a beautiful mellow yellow and looked delightful. I had to try it. The hotel in Richelieu served le tourteau fromagé for breakfast. This cheese cake was light and delicate. Delicious! I was happy to find the tourteube being sold at the outdoor market in La Rochelle a few



days later and purchased one to share. I asked Anne-Christine, our local guide, if the cake was supposed to be burned like that. She told me that it was a traditional cake of the region and not an easy cake to make because it has to be baked without burning it too much.

A few years ago I was introduced to the decadent pastry kouign-amann (pronounced like queen aman) served at Seven Stars Bakery in East Providence, RI. While taking the ferry to Belle-Île-en-Mer I chatted with a lady who was making her weekly visit to the island. She wanted to share the region's pastry with me and gave me her kouign-amann with instructions to heat it up for the next day's breakfast. I did, not knowing at the time that it was the pastry I had in Rhode Island. Kouign-amann in Brittany means cake and butter and don't forget that there's sugar. It's perfectly yummy and I don't want to know how many calories are in it. Unlike the tourteau fromagé, I can run over to any one of the Seven Stars bakeries in Rhode Island for a kouign-amann and visit my memories of the Brittany region of France. I'm happy to say that Seven Stars Bakery's kouign-amann is as good as the ones I ate in France.

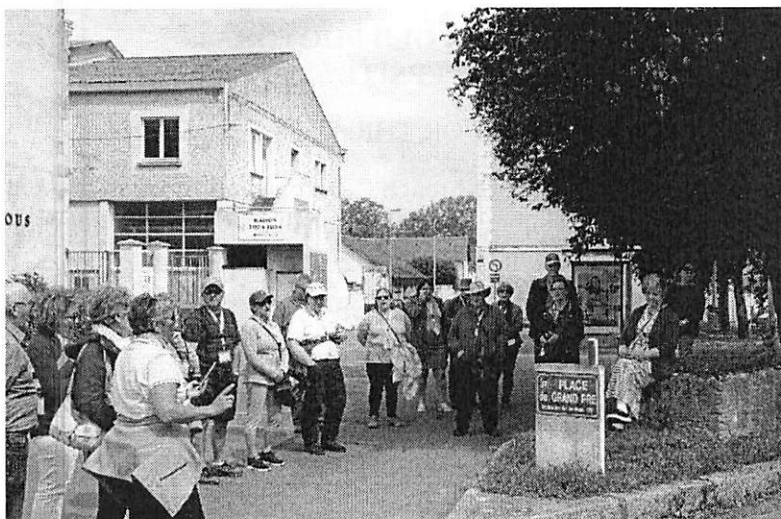
I would be remiss not to mention meeting the descendants of the Acadians who remained in France. There was Giles Thiboudault and Michèle Touret of La Maison de l'Acadie Association in La Chaussée. In Archingy we met members of Les Cousins Acadiens du Poitou and toured the Musée des Huit-Maison, an original farmhouse where Acadians had lived in 1773.

The local duke of La Chaussée and his wife invited us to view his castle, Château de la Bonnetière. The duke told us he has evidence that Etienne Robichaud, the first Robichaud in the New World, had property just beyond his land. Because of the rain, we were not able to walk to the property. The foundation of Robichaud's home is still there. In the rectangular part of the photo is where the property is located.

We met Michèle DeBain of the Châtellerault Québec Acadie Association. The Belle-Île-en-Mer Acadia Association met us at the ferry in Belle-Île-en-Mer, hosted supper for us one night and then waved goodbye to us when we left. Here my husband surprisingly met some Terriens who also do not have the "h" in their name. Since he has no known Acadian ancestors in his background, he was moved by the unexpected connection.

The tour group numbered 39 Acadians and Cajuns, most likely all related somehow several generations back. This new-found family included Claude Boudreau the organizer, Theirry the bus driver, Anne-Christine the local guide, 9 from the US and 27 from New Brunswick, Prince Edward Isle and other Acadian provinces. Seven of us spoke only English while everyone else was bi-





friends and family goodbye. Unlike our ancestors, this makeshift family can share photos and keep in touch via phone calls, Facebook, and email. Many from the group will reunite at the Acadian World Congress August 10 to 24, 2019 in Prince Edward Isle and New Brunswick. I wish I could attend to visit my new-found cousins and friends.

lingual. For two weeks together we sat on a bus for hours on end traveling from village to town to city just like our ancestors did. The bus represented a packed ship of people. We ate together, we shared our life stories, and helped each other out when we tripped, got sick or had a headache. Then after spending so much time, experiences and emotions together, we had to say goodbye; just like our ancestors had to tell their

#### **ARE YOU GOING TO BE TEMPORARILY AWAY?**

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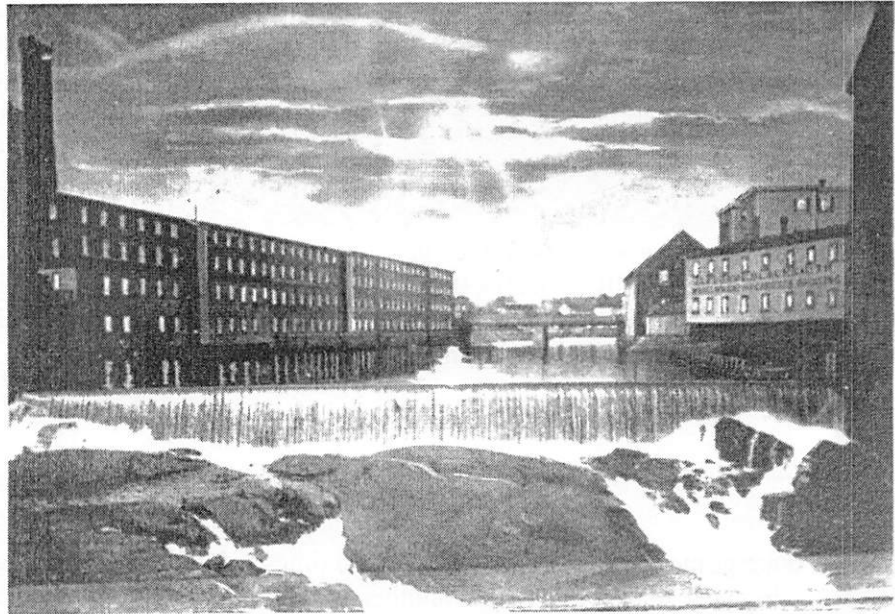
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ON OUR MEMBERS ONLY WEBSITE?**

**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.

According to the 1908 Woonsocket, RI Street Directory, this photo shows the Glenark Mills on the left, an historic textile mill complex along the Blackstone River located at 64 East Street in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. The original stone section of this mill was constructed in 1865 by William Norton and was enlarged with a brick addition in 1885. Originally a cotton mill, the building was



converted for use as a knitting mill and then as a worsted mill. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. The building has now been converted to apartments. Joseph L. Fugere's place of business, on the right, is located at 24 & 26 River Street, also overlooking Woonsocket Falls. The signage painted on the building reads: J. L. Fugere Blacksmith, Wheelwright and Carriage Painting.

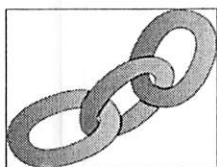
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All submissions must be in electronic form. Do not copy photos directly into email messages. The photo must be submitted as an attachment. All illustrations and photos should be submitted as high resolution JPG files (at least 300 dpi). We will not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



## INTERESTING LINKS

## WEBSITES YOU MIGHT LIKE

Do you have the voyagers itch to travel? If you'd like to visit Québec and follow in the footsteps of your ancestors, this website invites you to "Bask in the European charm as you stroll through the old

quarters and take in over 400 years of history in the birthplace of French North America." Plan a trip to experience the marvels that await you in the Six Sectors of Old Québec, a UNESCO World Heritage treasure: [https://www.quebec-cite.com/en/old-quebec/?idContact=338577&clKey=uyR4Kr&utm\\_source=dialog%20insight&utm\\_medium=infolettretre&utm\\_campaign=infolettretreotq\\_2019\\_05\\_b2c&oft\\_id=8834944&oft\\_k=iPfQxDwv&oft\\_lk=xp5ef0&oft\\_d=636950722215600000](https://www.quebec-cite.com/en/old-quebec/?idContact=338577&clKey=uyR4Kr&utm_source=dialog%20insight&utm_medium=infolettretre&utm_campaign=infolettretreotq_2019_05_b2c&oft_id=8834944&oft_k=iPfQxDwv&oft_lk=xp5ef0&oft_d=636950722215600000)

You can sign up for a free newsletter from Family History Daily at <https://familyhistorydaily.com/> where you will find articles relating to genealogy, census records, immigration records and helpful hints for your research.

## YOU SHOP AND AMAZON GIVES

### *What is AmazonSmile?*

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience at Amazon, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.



### *How do I shop at AmazonSmile?*

To shop simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) in order to make it even easier to return and start your shopping.

### *Which products are eligible for charitable donations?*

Tens of millions of products are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products

marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

### *Can I use my existing Amazon account?*

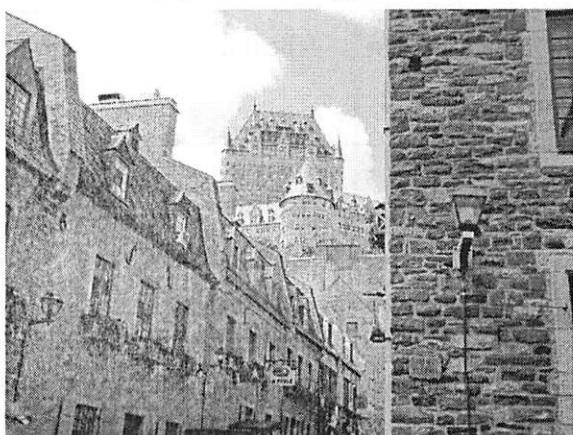
Yes, you use the same account information you use on Amazon. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

*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.*

**A GENEALOGIST TRAVELS TO QUÉBEC**

by Annette Mimeault Smith

Last summer, I had the most wonderful opportunity to travel to Québec for a week with a group of genealogists from all over the United States. This bus trip was organized by Sandra Goodwin who hosts the *Maple Stars and Stripes* blog and podcasts at <https://maplestarsandstripes.com/>. I was amazed to meet so many genealogists from places such as Washington State, Oregon, Texas, Florida and Maine and many states in between, who flew to New England to board the beautiful new coach bus that took us to Québec City. The bus departed from Millbury, MA and stopped in Manchester, NH and Newport, VT to pick up travelers. We arrived in Québec City in late afternoon. After dropping off our luggage at the Palace Royal Hotel outside the gate to the Old City, we stretched our legs by taking a walk past the Parliament Building to the Grande Allée where we enjoyed a relaxing meal at Le Grand Café.



On our second day, we toured Old Québec with a local guide who entertained and enlightened us with stories and history lessons on the Plains of Abraham and throughout the city from the Hôtel Frontenac to the Place Royale. We had lunch at the historic Côtes-à-Côtes Restaurant, and enjoyed the rest of the day exploring shops and historic sites on our own in this wonderfully walkable city.

On the third day, we traveled to the bucolic Île d'Orléans exploring the genealogy and history of our ancestors. We stopped at the Maison de Nos Aïeux (House of our Ancestors) where we

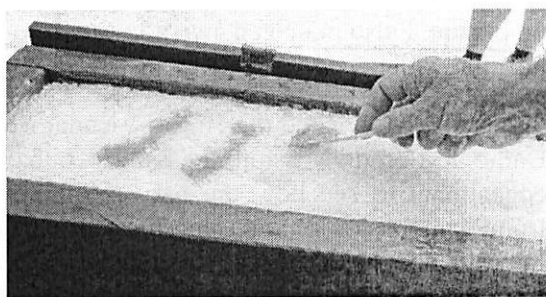
learned about the early settlers of New France that lived on this island in the St. Lawrence River. We also received publications of research into the particular founding families of the island that were in our own family trees (which we had ordered in advance). We also toured the Maison Drouin to see how our ancestors lived in 1730.

Many of the original home sites along the road that circled the perimeter of the Île d'Orléans had markers indicating which families originally lived there. We made a game of spotting the markers so we could take photos from the bus as we passed them. Many of my amateur photos were blurry, but some of our travelers took excellent photos, which they shared with us through our Facebook group after the trip. Our bus driver commented that he was amazed at the strange behavior of our group because whenever he stopped at an old church, we jumped off the bus and ran *en masse* through the cemetery looking at the gravestones in search of our ancestor's names.



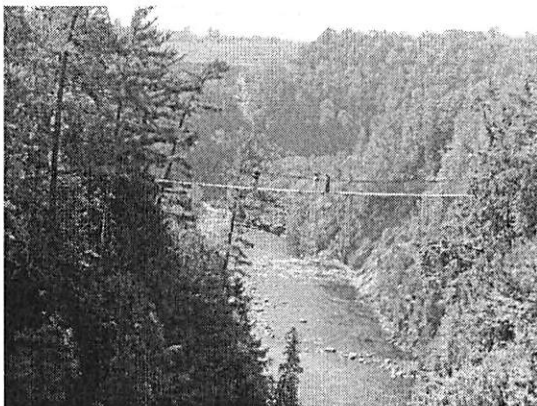


My favorite lunch of the week was at L'en-Tailleur, a Cabine à Sucre (Sugar Shack) in Sainte-Famille on the Île d'Orléans. The large room was set up like a function hall at any fraternal organization here in the US with long tables, metal chairs and pine paneling. The meal was served family style and almost brought me to tears. It was all the food my grandmother made for us when I was a child. We had thick yellow pea soup, *tourtière* – a French-Canadian meat pie, ham, baked beans, coleslaw, pickled beets, corn bread, *Oreilles de crisse* (French for "Christ's ears") which are technically meat-free, (but meat-free deep-fried pork fat), and more. Large carafes of maple syrup were all over the tables, its glorious sweetness ready to pour on anything and everything. I truly felt like I was six years old again, sitting at the table in my childhood home. After the meal, we were entertained by an amazing performer who played the accordion and sang French songs. He distributed wooden spoons and gave us a lesson on playing the spoons and also taught us how to make a wooden string puppet dance on a paddle. This brought back memories of my father, who grew up in Mont Louis, PQ. He did these same things to entertain us at family gatherings. We worked off our meal with dancing to traditional French-Canadian music – once again, I became six years old! As if this experience wasn't enough, they had an additional surprise for us when we were leaving the hall. We were directed to long, narrow tables of crushed ice in the yard outside. We gathered around the tables where we were given wooden sticks, like tongue depressors and watched as very thick, warm maple syrup was poured into channels in the crushed ice. We then proceeded to roll our own maple taffy treats onto the sticks – I was in French-Canadian heaven!



On day four, we explored the Côte-de-Beaupré with an early stop at Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré Shrine where we felt the presence of our ancestors who worshiped there. Further up the coast, we stopped at Canyon Ste-Anne to enjoy the marvels of nature and be amazed at the courageous zip-liners who flew past us as we nervously traversed the hanging walkway across the canyon. Upon seeing the wilderness of the countryside along the St. Lawrence River, it is no wonder that our ancestors homes were only along the shoreline of this great river-highway. I can only imagine the treacherous wilderness beyond the shores that greeted

In late afternoon, we stopped to tour a vineyard and did a little tasting (and buying). The sun was setting as we relaxed on the patio and enjoyed the view of this most beautiful island.





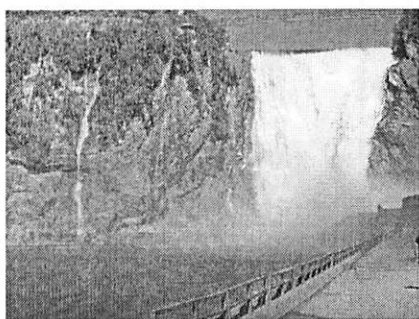
our original immigrant ancestors when they arrived from France in the 1600's. We finished the day with a tour of Beauport.

On the fifth day of our visit, we divided into two groups: one group spent the day at the National Archives on the Laval University campus where they moved back and forth between the Archives and the Library of the Société de Généalogie de Québec, located in the same building. The second group was free to explore Québec and enjoy the opening of the New France Festival with the admission lanyards that allowed us to pass into all areas of the festival where costumed revelers were on parade. I also managed a visit to the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec National Historic Site of Canada, a hospital which was constructed in 1695 and is among the places listed in records of my ancestors.



On day six we visited the Huron-Wendat Museum in Wendake, the National Longhouse, Notre-Dame-de-Lorette Mission, the Kabir Kouba Falls and the Nation's fresco. It was fascinating and educational to see how the natives of this area in Canada lived. The Huron-Wendat are an Iroquoian-speaking nation that have occupied the St. Lawrence Valley and estuary to the Great Lakes region. "Huron" was a nickname given to the Wendat by the French, meaning "boar's head" from the hairstyle of Huron men, or "lout" and "ruffian" in old French. Their confederacy name was Wendat (Ouendat) perhaps meaning "people of the island." During the fur trade, the Huron-Wendat were allies of the French and enemies of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois). Following a series of 17th century armed conflicts, the Huron-Wendat were dispersed by the Haudenosaunee in 1650. However, the Huron-Wendat First Nation still remains (located in Wendake, Québec) and as of July 2018, the nation had 4,056 registered members.<sup>4</sup>

After lunch, we had a guided tour of Charlesbourg's Trait-Carré, the only remaining star-shaped village in North America, and the Moulin des Jésuites, an old mill where we learned the history of this ancestral village. In the evening, we returned to Québec to enjoy the Nouvelle France Festival.

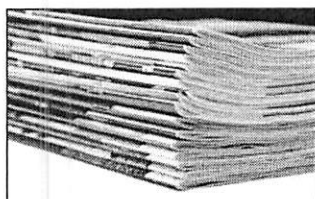


Day seven began with the breathtaking views of Montmorency Falls, where I chose to ride the cable car (not the 300 meter zip line) over the cove of the falls. In the afternoon, we enjoyed free time at the Nouvelle France festival in Old Québec. I was able to take a guided tour of the crypt beneath the Notre-Dame de Québec Basilica-Cathedral. Our final day ended with a farewell dinner of old fashioned Québec cuisine at Aux Anciens Canadiens, located in the oldest house in Québec (built in 1675-76)

I would recommend a trip to Québec for any genealogist interested in French-Canadian history. When your feet touch the ground, you are truly walking in the footsteps of your ancestors.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/huron>



## PERIODICALS PERSPECTIVE

*by Diane Olivier*

## TENDING YOUR GENEALOGY GARDEN

by Diane Olivier

Finally, the weather has broken and a new spring season is underway. Vegetation is sprouting and in bloom. As an AFGS

member grooming your genealogy roots or a beginner hoping for your roots to be found, please take a look at our library's vast array of information in the periodicals section. Sometimes, when working on locating that one stubborn ancestor, we need a break. Go into the library annex and take a look at some of the offerings. There are so many!

Even though *American Spirit* (published by Daughters of the American Revolution) is not geared to genealogy specifically, it is so informative about historical America. It is one of my favorite periodicals because each issue covers so many topics. The *American Spirit* volume for May/June 2019 (AFGS #329) includes an article about tomatoes in the colonial era. Tomatoes were introduced to Europe from South America and eventually made their way to North America BUT were considered to be poisonous and were grown only for ornamental use.

Due to efforts by Thomas Jefferson who was fascinated with all types of plants, as were many of his contemporaries, tomatoes were brought into the mainstream. I am so grateful because a BLT would be just a BL!

In that same issue of *American Spirit* is an article about David Hosack, botanist and physician, and friend to Alexander Hamilton. Mr. Hosack was an accomplished medical man who strove to improve the health of his fellow New Yorkers. At one point, he accepted a position as a botany professor at Columbia and worked to create a botany classroom. It is not possible to summarize his labor of love here. Please take a look.

Finally, this issue presents the article "Wonderfully Weird Physiology Terms" about common expressions in the 1600s such as:

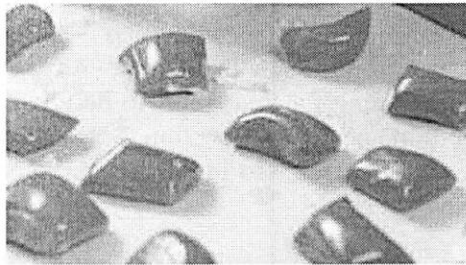
- |                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| - A "rum duke"              | - A "pult in the muns" |
| - A "rabbit catcher"        | - To "make leg"        |
| - A "nab" and a "nab-cheat" | - A "blind cupid"      |

*(Look in the box on page 40 for the meanings of these terms.)*

Plymouth County Genealogists publishes the *Genealogical Inquirer* (AFGS #83). On the cover of the May 2019 issues is a brief article about *ancestry.com*'s addition of Boston, Massachusetts Archdiocese Sacramental records, 1789-1900. Images are not currently available on Ancestry, but they do give a link to the digital images which are published on the American Ancestors web site.

## A RECIPE FROM LA CUISINE DE LA GRANDMÈRE

*Tire des Soeurs de Jesus Marie – Taffy from the Sisters of Jesus Marie*



2 c. white sugar  
1 c. brown sugar  
1 c. unsulphured molasses  
½ c. water  
1 tsp. butter  
1 ½ tsp white vinegar

Grease sides of saucepan to prevent sugar crystals from forming. Mix all ingredients together. Cook over medium –high heat, stirring only until sugar is dissolved. Cook until mixture reaches the soft crack stage on a candy thermometer (260°F – 268°F). Pour over buttered marble slab (or jelly roll pan). When cool enough to handle, powder hands with cornstarch and pull until light colored. Cut into small pieces and wrap in waxed paper. Makes about 2 pounds or 120 pieces.

*Contributed by Doris Demers, Woonsocket, RI*

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? Or maybe you would like 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 cookbook from the on-line store on our website at <https://afgs.org/site/shop-online/> It is listed under Books & Publications – Other.

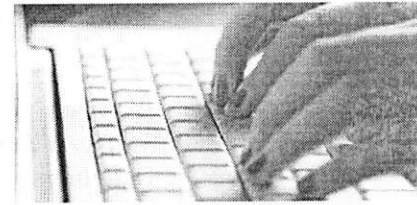


### *Answers to the “Wonderfully Weird Physiology Terms” on page 39*

Rum duke = handsome boy  
Rabbit catcher – midwife  
Nab = head, Nab cheat = hat

Pult in the muns = punch in the face  
Make leg = to bow to someone  
Blind cupid = ones backside

**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 Online Library. This database will benefit all members across the country and those members outside the United States. **BUT we need your help, because this database could contain well over ONE MILLION marriages when it is completed.**

The more members 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. (You can see a sample of the data sheet and template for data entry on page 47.)

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

Did you know that over 15,000 volunteer hours were submitted during this past year? Our society is very fortunate to have generous and committed members who are happy to contribute their skills to make AFGS such an outstanding genealogical society. With everyone's help, we will continue to provide more unique and excellent resources for your French-Canadian genealogy research.

If you would like to work on your family line for this project, just let us know the surnames in your ancestry and if we do not have that line assigned or completed, we will be happy to assign portions of that family line to you for transcribing.



Follow us on Twitter at **@AmFrGenSoc**

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



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

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.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



*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 will be 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 schedule. Also, our new elevator is now in use, making our free classes easily available to everyone who would like to attend.

Our 2019 spring session of classes was very well attended. Many members and guests learned new skills in the following classes:

- How to use the National Archives in Waltham. Mass. with Seema Kenney
- Andiamo! Finding your Italian Family with Margaret R. Fortier
- How to Develop Interviewing Skills with Marjorie Turner Hollman
- Celebrating the Irish Among Us and New Resources for Research with Raymond Bacon and Richard Reid
- Woonsocket Revisited - The History of The French in Woonsocket, RI
- Preserving and Identifying Family Photos with Maureen Taylor, the Photo Detective.
- French-Canadian Genealogy Research with Sandra Goodwin
- A Distinct Alien Race: The Untold Story of Franco-Americans, Industrialization, Immigration, and Religious Strife with David Vermette.

Last spring, we moved our lecture series to Sunday afternoons at 1:30 pm in order to help fit these educational opportunities into your busy schedules. A survey was recently electronically distributed to members residing in RI, MA and CT asking for a preference of either Saturday or Sunday for our fall lecture series and also for lecture topics. The responses were 44% for Saturday and 56% for Sunday. Because of these results, we will take the fall sports season into consideration and schedule the upcoming lectures accordingly on a mix of both days – Saturday or Sunday afternoons at 1:30 pm. Some of the lecture topics suggested were:

- How to know if your ancestor was a Native American
- What are dit names and how do I know if I have them in my family tree
- Woonsocket orphanage records
- The “cloud” and other internet tips
- Irish genealogy research before 1800
- Gaining access to vital records (births, marriages and deaths) in MA, RI and CT
- Peter Gagné – Filles à Marier and Filles du Roi
- Stephen White – Acadian research
- Native American and French-Canadian marriages (Metis)
- Using PRDH

Because our members reside all over the United States, Canada and Europe, we are also working to put videos of our lectures in our Members Only Online Library. The website committee has chosen a platform and is currently editing our collection of videos of those speakers who have given their consent to provide these lectures in our Members Only Online Library. We hope to make them available to you soon.

We are currently making arrangements for 9 classes in our 2019 fall session. All classes will be at 1:30 pm. There will be 4 in September on Saturday afternoons, and on Sunday afternoons there will be 3 in October and 2 in November. When the speakers are confirmed, the dates will be posted on our website.

Here is a tentative list of some of the topics that we are working to present:

- Search strategies you never thought of and search sites you never heard of
- The impact of the 1918 Flu Epidemic – Civil records and personal stories
- The real life of Vital Records: Tips for locating Births, Marriages and Deaths in Rhode Island
- A funeral director discusses French-Canadian funeral practices of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century
- DNA

If you have an additional 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.

#### REMEMBERING CONSTANCE (PHANEUF) LAMOUREUX



Connie Lamoureux, a long-time member of the American-French Genealogical Society Board of Directors and tireless volunteer in our AFGS library passed away on July 6, 2019. Connie worked diligently to maintain our membership records and was a tireless member of the team that produces our journal, *Je Me Souviens*.

If you received a printed copy of JMS in the past, you most assuredly received it from Connie's hands. She was the master of our finicky old "Risograph" machine and knew every trick to keep it running and printing all those pages. My favorite memory of Connie was watching her assemble the stacks of pages that made up each issue. She had her own technique which can now be disclosed. On a day when the library was closed, she would make piles of each double-sided page on the long library tables – for a 70 page issue, that was 35 piles. Then she would remove all the chairs from one side of the long tables, borrow the office chair with the wheels and slide across the room along the table grabbing a page from each stack and depositing a completely assembled JMS at the end of the table where it was stapled with her new heavy duty stapler. On more than one occasion, I tried to compete with Connie running along the other side of the table to see if I could assemble an issue faster. But I never won the race. Her warm smile, generous nature and many talents will be missed.

## **WANTED: YOUR STORIES**

Do you have an ancestor who went west as  
an explorer, voyageur, coureur des bois, fur  
trader, soldier or settler?

Did you have a relative recruited in  
“Le Grande Recrue de 1653?”  
They have been referred to as  
“The Colonists Who Saved Montréal.”

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 YOUR  
INTERESTING STORIES WITH YOUR  
FELLOW AFGS MEMBERS.



Please “like us” on Facebook at American-French Genealogical Society:  
<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanFrenchGenealogicalSociety/> so that  
you can receive the very latest AFGS news as it is happening. We will keep  
you updated with photos and let you know what we are doing.

## **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.

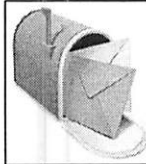
If you live too far from our library to visit for help, we also have a research service where you can request help for specific lines. You can submit your information to us on line at our website, <https://afgs.org/site/>. On our main page, click on "Services/Resources" on the blue bar and select "Request 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!

Sincerely,

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

Dear Editor,

I have seen your request for volunteers to do data entry. I am interested in helping, but I'm not sure if I have the skills that the work would require. Or if I can devote enough time to the project to be helpful. Can you tell me more about the work that you need done and perhaps show me some samples of it? Thank you, Loretta Lareau

Dear Loretta,

Thanks for your question and willingness to answer our call for volunteers. No matter if you are using a PC or a Mac, we will provide the appropriate directions and templates as well as raw data to help you complete your assignment. Here are samples of the data sheet you would receive and the file you would use to enter the data. The work is very straight-forward and we can give you a small amount to start, if that would make you more comfortable with volunteering.

### Sample Data Sheet:

Sample file with transcribed data in columns A through I from sheet:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	item	Surname1	FirstName1	Prev Marr	Parents1	Age1	Birthplace1	Residence1	Occupation1
1	86245	Aborn	Samuel C.T.	—	Frederick & Joanna D.	26	Augusta, ME	Worcester, MA	Shoemaker
2	86246	Abousamra	Fariz	—	Assad & Annie Azan	28	Turkey	Worcester, MA	Armorer
3	86247	Abrazcinsky	Adam	—	Adam & Francy Kucinsky	25	Russia	Worcester, MA	Laborer
4	86248	Abraham	Leopold	—	Ferdinand & Yetta Jeselsohn	25	Boston, MA	Boston, MA	Merchant
5	86249	Abraham	Richard	—	Peter & Ann Thornton	31	Ireland	Worcester, MA	Laborer
6	86250	Abraham	William	—	William & Mary	24	Ireland	Worcester, MA	Laborer
7	86251	Abrahamson	Blanda	—	Nils & Maria	30	Sweden	Worcester, MA	Dressmaker
8	86252	Abrahamson	Julia	—	Abraham Jonsson & Ellen	22	Sweden	Worcester, MA	Domestic
9	86253	Abrahamson	Matti	—	Abram & Lissej Lehtola	21	Finland	Worcester, MA	Laborer
10	86254	Abrahamson (Wolff)	Sophie	#2	Jacob Wolff & Bella Rosanblat	43	Russia Poland	Worcester, MA	Milliner
11	86255	Abrahamson	Viktor Hugo	—	Carl & Christina Emat	25	Sweden	Worcester, MA	Laborer

Continued image of sample file with columns J through W

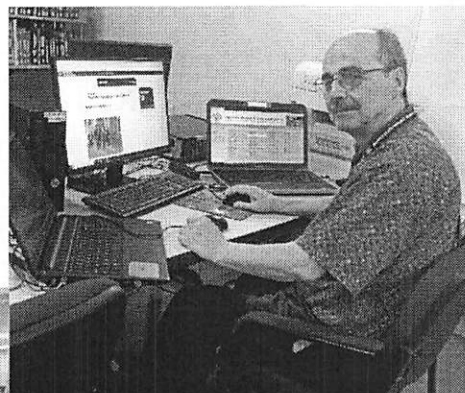
	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W
	Surname2	FirstName2	Prev Marr	Parents2	Age2	Birthplace2	Residence2	Occupation2	MarrDay	Marr Year	MarrTown	Marr State	Murr Country	Notes
1	Williams	Martha Ann	—	John & Mary	20	Gardner, MA	Worcester, MA	—	07 Feb	1860	Worcester	MA	USA	—
2	Wakid	Aster	—	George & Annie Farket	23	Turkey	Worcester, MA	Underwear Operative	31 Aug	1899	Worcester	MA	USA	—
3	Degutis	Mary	—	Mikas & Damice Wilcauckas	20	Russia	Worcester, MA	Domestic	04 Jul	1900	Worcester	MA	USA	—
4	Strauss	Bessie	—	Leopole & Henrietta Goldenberg	24	Worcester, MA	Worcester, MA	At Home	06 Jan	1897	Worcester	MA	USA	—
5	Carroll	Mary	—	Thomas & Ann O'Brien	27	Ireland	Worcester, MA	Domestic	10 Jan	1894	Worcester	MA	USA	—
6	Welsh	Mary	—	Micahel & Mary	22	Ireland	Worcester, MA	—	06 Nov	1877	Worcester	MA	USA	—
7	Stenberg	Carl Gustaf	—	Carl & Wilhelmina	23	Sweden	Worcester, MA	Machinist	07 May	1891	Worcester	MA	USA	—
8	Halsing	Frank G.	—	Magnus & Matilda	19	Sweden	Worcester, MA	Wireworker	18 Aug	1891	Worcester	MA	USA	—
9	Nicola	Hannah	—	John & Mary N. Kikgas	26	Finland	Worcester, MA	Domestic	29 Mar	1898	Worcester	MA	USA	—
10	Silber	Sam	—	Daniel & Charlotte Waldenberg	49	Russia Poland	Worcester, MA	Optician	27 Sept	1898	Worcester	MA	USA	—
11	Johnson	Anna	—	Hans & Gertrude nilson	24	Sweden	Worcester, MA	Dressmaker	07 Oct	1893	Worcester	MA	USA	—

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 contact us at [JMSeditor@afgs.org](mailto:JMSeditor@afgs.org).



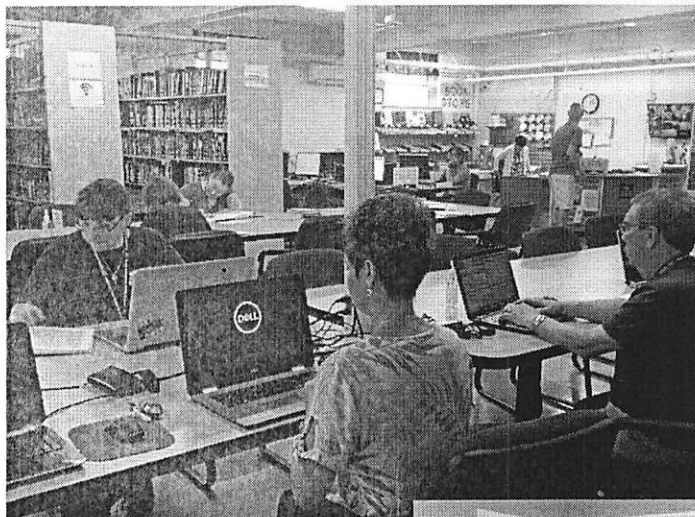
## **A BUSY DAY AT THE LIBRARY!**

Francis Fortin is seated at three (count 'em) computers working on the Members Only Online Library site. Thanks to Francis we are developing fabulous online reference databases for our members. His tireless work in coding the search engine programs for our collections of reference materials is amazing!



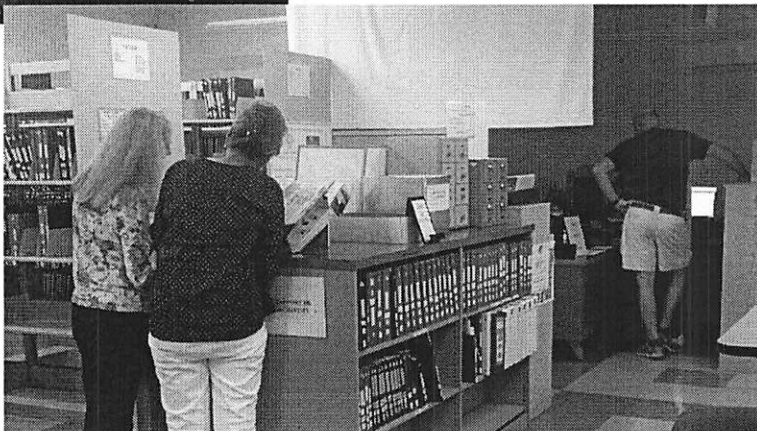
The addition of a pole with multiple electrical outlets and USB ports has been of great benefit to our members and guests who are using computers in their research. Stay as long as you wish – no more battery issues!

Our AFGS internet is available to all with a strong signal from our booster in the library.



Volunteers are available to help with your research. We will show you how to look through our index files to locate the reference books you need in our large collection of church records from Canada and the United States.

On the right in this photo, you can see the Film Room located in a corner of the library where

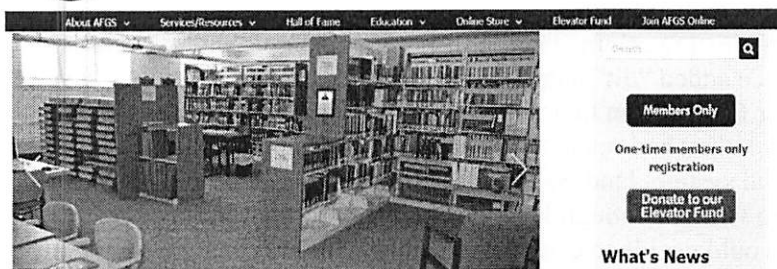


the light is limited to enhance your viewing of our collection of Drouin Films. The Drouin Institute of Montreal microfilmed parish records, both Catholic and non-Catholic, including some Indian missions. The time span covers the founding of parishes as early as 1621 to 1940 when the institute microfilmed the records. The collection contains 2,455 reels of microfilm, which includes millions of individual records for baptisms, marriages, and death records for the entire Province of Quebec, baptisms, marriages and death records for those areas of Ontario, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia known to be predominantly French-Canadian, notarial acts, such as marriage contracts, wills, deeds, and other legal documents for the Province of Quebec and vital statistics and census records for miscellaneous states.



## American-French Genealogical Society

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



## FIND IT ON OUR WEBSITE – LET’S TALK ABOUT “BOTTOMS”

*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.*

Now that we have your attention, let’s talk about what you will find at the “bottom” of our main AFGS website page at [www.afgs.org](http://www.afgs.org). There’s always a reason that we go to a website. After we find what we’re looking for on the website, we often leave the site to continue our pursuit of other information. As you know, we have placed a great deal of research information in our Members Only Online Library. But we also want you to discover the information that is still available to everyone who visits our main website. When you scroll down to the bottom of our main page, this is a list of some of the information you will find:

- **Quebec Regional County Municipalities (RCMs)** – a list of Regional County Municipalities (RCMs) that shows the Municipal Name, Administrative Region and Regional County Municipality (RCM) that were implemented by the government of Quebec in the 1980’s to replace the county system.
  - **Hessian Marriages in Quebec** – a list of over 550 marriages of Hessians in Quebec. This list includes German Auxiliary Soldiers of the American Revolution who remained in Canada and married French-Canadian women. The author has also added a compilation of 100 other marriages between German nationals and French-Canadians that were discovered in the AFGS library during this research project.
  - **King’s Daughters** – an alphabetical list of the Filles du Roi, or King's Daughters, some 768 women who arrived in the colony of New France (Canada) between 1663 and 1673, under the financial sponsorship of King Louis XIV of France.
  - **Surname Variations** – Here you will find a list of over 16,800 names. There are two reasons why there are so many variant spellings of some names. First, most of the citizens of the 1600-1800 were illiterate. Of these, a precious few could sign their names. However, the priests, seminarians, missionaries, monks and nuns were the most educated groups in the citizenry. Only an elite few were educated beyond what we, today, would consider a basic elementary education. Consequently, many of the clerics and notaries, who under the French system of administration were charged with recording “vital statistics” wrote the names as they knew them to be in France, as a precious few of the immigrants/colonists signed them, or as they heard them (phonetically). That is why one sees Garau, Garrault, Gareau, Garo, etc... even amongst the sons of a particular ancestor. A good example are the descendants of Louis Houde. Some of the variant spellings found are: Houd, Houle, Ould, Houde, Hood, etc.
- Second, as the colonists migrated within Nouvelle France/New France and eventually beyond the areas of French-speaking Canada (to current-day USA, the Caribbean, the West Indies, etc.) recorders of “vital statistics” who were not French speakers, usually

spelled names phonetically, or changed them because they didn't have a clue how to write them. For example, Rochefort became Rushfort in the Carolinas, Champagne became Shampang, Thibodeaux became Thibodo, or Tibodo. LeBrun was changed to Brown and Leblanc to White, and so forth.

The "dit" names have an interesting origin. The English translation of "dit" is "said". The Colonists of Nouvelle France added "dit" names as distinguishers. A settler might have wanted to differentiate their family from their siblings by taking a "dit" name that described the locale to which they had relocated ( ex: since the Colonists followed the customs of the French feudal system, land was divided amongst the first born sons [primogeniture]. Soon there was not enough land to divide any further. Perhaps an adventurous younger son would decide to establish himself, with or without a family, in another area... say a fertile piece of land near some streams... he might add *des ruisseaux* (streams/creeks/rivulets) to distinguish himself from his brothers. When he married, or died, his name might be listed as Houde dit DesRuisseaux, or Desruisseau(s). The acquiring of a "dit" name might also be the result of a casual adoption, whereby the person wanted to honor the family who had raised them. Another reason was also to distinguish themselves by taking as a "dit" name the town or village in France from which they originated... ex: Huret dit Rochefort.

- **Acadian Heritage** – This link will take you to our collection of Acadian information and resources.

We have moved the *Je Me Souviens* from the main page of our website to the Members Only Online Library. There our members can find a copy of all issues beginning with the first edition of *Je Me Souviens* in 1978 up to our current issue. You can open the pdf file for each issue and read them whenever you desire. **In addition, all of the issues are now searchable by articles, names and key words.** 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.

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### SAY IT IN FRENCH – DITES-LE EN FRANÇAIS

It is summer – *C'est l'été*

I planted a vegetable garden – *J'ai planté un jardin de légumes*

These are the vegetables in my garden:

– *Voici les légumes de mon jardin:*

Onions – *Des oignons*

Potatoes – *Des pommes de terre (des patates [Canadian])*

Peppers – *Des poivrons, des piments*

Tomatoes – *Des tomates*

Cucumbers – *Des concombres*

Garlic – *Des l'ail*

Lettuce – *De la laitue*

Carrots – *Des carottes*

Peas – *Des petits pois*

Corn – *Du maïs (du blé d'Inde [Canadian])*



I like my garden and so do the bunnies!

*J'aime mon jardin mais pas autant que les petitss lapins!*

## TRAVELING TO VISIT ACADIAN PEOPLE AND PLACES

by Rob Gumlaw

Some are surprised to learn I've been on trips north to Acadian places. Where are they? What did you eat? Where did you stay? What is there to do? Do you need to speak French?

Most are nestled along the coastal areas of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. With their proximity to the ocean, seafood is an abundant specialty. Traditional fare such as poutine rapée, chicken fricot, and rappie pie can be found on many menus as well.

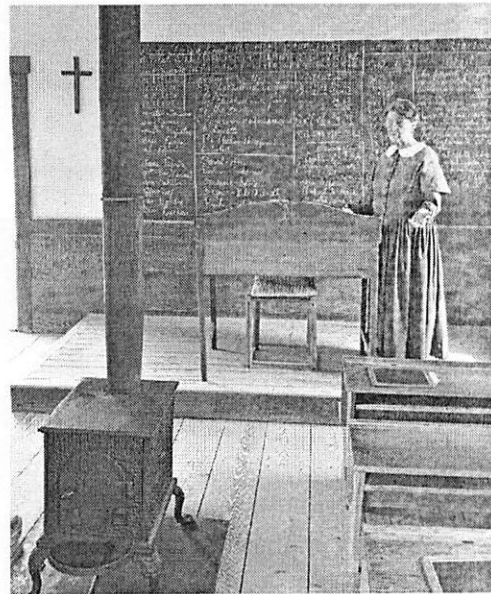
Late June, July, August, and early September are most often when the tourist attractions are open to visit. Plan and call ahead if visiting during the long off-season. Almost all who work in the service industry are bilingual and easily shift from one language to another. In many small towns, you will hear old Acadian French spoken at the market and the local Tim Horton's.

Village Historique Acadian near Caraquet, New Brunswick, is like Plymouth Plantation or Old Sturbridge Village for Acadians. Houses and buildings from the area have been rebuilt with local interpreters portraying the people who once lived and worked in them. Bread is baked, cloth is woven, and animals cared for while you wind your way through the village. Where else could I go to sit in the one-room schoolhouse my grandmother once attended?

[<http://villagehistoriqueacadien.com/en/>]

Le Pays de la Sagouine, Bouctouche, New Brunswick, is on a small island in Bouctouche Bay. It was developed to tell the story of a fictional character, la Sagouine, by way of live performances in replica buildings. The island is accessible via a long winding walkway. Tours are given in English or French, but the play and musical productions are performed in French.

[<https://www.sagouine.com/en/>]



Monument Lefebvre National Historic Site, Memramcook, New Brunswick on the grounds of the former St. Joseph's College has a museum, gift shop, and theatre with performances throughout the year. Within walking distance is Saint-Thomas de Memramcook Church and Cemetery. Across the street, try the homemade pies at LeBlanc Restaurant.

[<https://www.monumentlefebvre.ca/en/>]





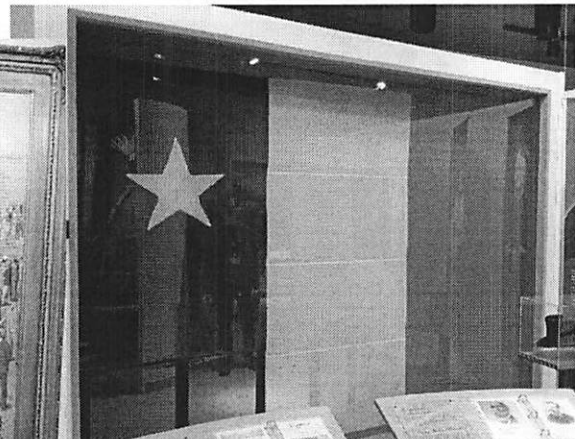
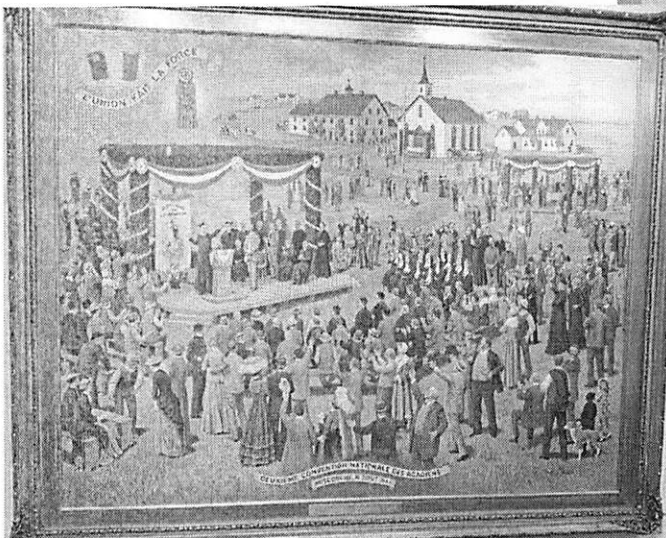
Musée Acadian, Université de Moncton holds a large collection of artifacts, relics from archaeological digs, the first Acadian flag, paintings, rugs, clothing, etc., on display. [<https://www.umoncton.ca/umcm-maum/>]

Centre d'études Acadiennes Anselme-Chiasson, Université de Moncton, New Brunswick, is **the place to go** for Acadian genealogy. Be sure to make an appointment beforehand. [<https://www.umoncton.ca/umcm-ceaac/>]

Acadian Museum of Prince Edward Island, Miscouche, PEI, for a visit of Galerie Claude-Picard, the 6 large paintings depicting the 120-year history of Acadian national symbols. There are permanent, temporary, and virtual exhibitions and a genealogy library available on site.

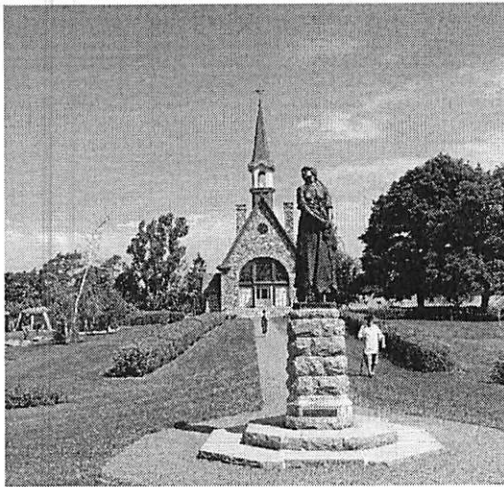


[<http://museecacadien.org/an/>]





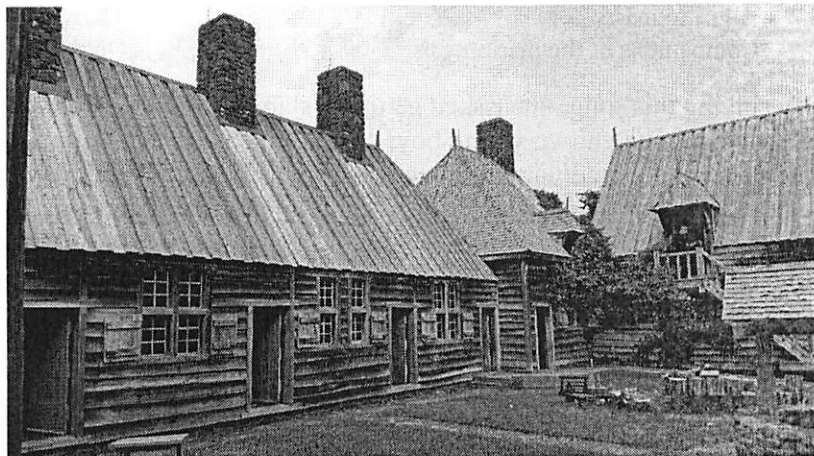
Doucet House and Farmer's Bank, Rustico, PEI is small, yet very important in Acadian history. The house was inhabited by Doucet descendants until about 1982, later saved by Friends of the Farmer's Bank. The importance of the bank and its link to Les Caisses Populaires in Québec and credit unions in Canada is explained.  
[<https://farmersbank.ca/en>]



Grand Pré National Historic Site, Nova Scotia. Take a guided tour and experience the state-of-the-art movie while surrounded by a replica ship's steerage. The Evangeline statue, gardens, orchards, sculptures and walkways are located in front of the memorial church. Events are held throughout the season. Grand Pré is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site.  
[<http://www.experiencegrandpre.ca/>]

Port-Royal National Historic Site, Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia is a replica the fort built in 1605. You can tour the residences, communal, work, and storage buildings. Interpreters in period dress will tell their tales. Festivals and events, like Mi'kmaw Culture Day, are held during the season.

Musée des Acadiens des Pubnicos et Centre de Recherche, West Pubnico, Nova Scotia - If your family lived near the southern tip of Nova Scotia, this is a must see. A small working farm and interpretive museum are located not far from a genealogy research center. If you plan to do some research, contact them well in advance.



The places listed here are only some of the many you'll find while driving in the Atlantic Maritimes. Some of the smaller, along-the-road stops, are among my favorites.

## **LES MARIONNETTES (THE NORTHERN LIGHTS)**

by Azade Harvey, famed Magdalen Islands storyteller (1925-1987)

(translated by Dennis M. Boudreau)

At the Magdalen Islands, they are called "marionnettes" which elsewhere are called the aurora borealis or the Northern Lights. No doubt you know that those luminous tongues that we see in clear weather above our heads, dance like ballerinas. The aurora borealis has always fascinated people. Since antiquity, one wondered where they came from and even today scientists do not know exactly what produces them. At the Islands, they were said to be supernatural beings, and if they were provoked, misfortune could happen to us. One way to provoke them was to sing the following song:



Who passes here so late  
Companions of the marionettes  
Who passes here so late  
On the dock

There are three young boarders  
Companions of the marionettes  
There are three young boarders  
On the dock

What do they want these boarders  
Companions of the marionettes  
What do they want these boarders  
On the dock

A girl to marry  
Companions of the marionettes

A girl to marry  
On the dock

No girl to marry  
Companions of the marionettes  
No girl to marry  
On the dock

I was told that you had some  
Companions of the marionettes  
I was told that you had some  
On the dock

Those who said that were wrong  
Companions of the marionettes  
Those who said that were wrong  
On the dock

By singing this song, one risked getting a slap on the cheek, to the point that their ears would ring. One evening when two young boys from Barachois (near Fatima) were returning from Cap Vert, the sky was covered with marionettes. They were seen wandering around, squirming; they looked like exotic dancers. Suddenly, one said to the other: "Let's sing the song of the marionettes, just to see what will happen to us..." So, he began to sing the song in question. No sooner had he finished the first verse, he received a slap on the back, which sent him rolling ten feet forward. His companion, panicked, fled without looking back. He was not running, he was flying. The other, more dead than alive, got up trembling, and ran into the house. Subsequently, he never provoked the marionettes again.

One can always watch the marionettes dance in the evening sky during soirées. It was a kind of outdoor spectacle for which one did not even have to move.

One evening, Onésime went to visit his friend Nicéphore, bringing with him his violin. He sat on the front porch of the main entrance to the house and began playing popular tunes while watching the marionettes dancing in the sky. Then, quite simply, Nicéphore said to Onésime: "Do you believe what they say about the marionettes?" – "I do not know if I have to believe it," answered

Onésime. "There are so many things about that we do not understand: like the elves, the ghosts and the mysterious fires that we sometimes see at Étang-du-Nord and Havre-Aubert. I myself have already seen, but I do not know what it is. Without being able to explain them, we know that they exist. We should not be told about it because we would be mistaken for lunatics." After a while, Nicéphore added: "Onésime, let's see tonight if the stories of the marionettes is true. Play the reel of the devil (reel du diable), and then we will finally see if the old folks were telling the truth. But before you play, I'm going to get you the big chair that is near the stove for you to be seated on." Onésime took his violin and started playing as he had never done before: he played so well that the cows in the field began to dance and that the nighthawks climbed into the sky and descended by shaving the ground, pushing his strident cry as if he wanted to accompany the fiddler. The sheep were frolicking around the house as if to participate in the dance. The horses began to gallop in the closed row, neighing as if they were on a race course. A true Saturday night soirée!

No sooner had he started to play watching the marionettes, that they began to dance more and more quickly by crossing each other and gradually approaching him, as if vaulted by his music. They began to surround him, imprisoning him little by little in their round. As if magnetized, Onésime continued to play like a robot: his hand holding the bow seemed to be directed by an invisible being, while his body was stuck to the chair, incapable of a single movement.

Panic then seized him: his eyes came out of their sockets and his hair stood on his head; he began to recite all the prayers he knew, even trying to invent others. His friend Nicéphore, who was sitting next to him at first, also panicked and fled to the house. Being unable to do anything for his friend, he resigned himself to watching him suffer through a window. After a good half hour, the marionettes withdrew and disappeared with the violin. Onésime, finally delivered, leapt into the house, like a dead person, yet trembling from all his members. He said to Nicéphore, "The old folks were telling the truth! What hurts the most is that my violin has disappeared." And still today, on a clear night, when we see the marionettes dancing above our heads, we hear violin sounds that seem to come from far away ... It's Onésime's violin.

**Translator's Note:** As further proof of the validity of this Magdalen Islands legend, a similar story in our family's oral tradition has survived to the present.

It seems that one summer evening in Cap-aux-Meules, my maternal great-grandparents, Félix and Éloïse (Boudreau) Gaudet went out after supper to sit on their back porch overlooking the harbor and village. As they sat there admiring the view, my great-grandmother took up her knitting and started to sing her favorite songs; her husband sat there quietly smoking his pipe. The porch had a roof over it, so neither of them could see what was above them, only what stretched out before them. The evening passed by very tranquilly, when suddenly in the middle of her song, Éloïse got a sudden slap in the face. She turned to her husband, Félix, and asked, "Why did you slap me?" Félix, in reply said to her, "What do you mean, I didn't slap you." "You most certainly did," she retorted. Before their back-and-forth banter turned into an argument, the couple rose from their chairs and went to the corner of the porch where they leaned over the porch railing to look up at the sky, and sure enough, above the house they spotted the northern lights dancing in the sky above them. They suddenly knew who had slapped Éloïse. Immediately, the two quietly picked up their belongings and went inside for the rest of the evening. This was a story recounted to me by my grandmother, their daughter-in-law. As to its veracity, I have no idea, but no one in our family since then has sung or played a musical instrument outdoors while the marionettes danced in the heavens above them, either at the Islands or even here in the States. Even my mother, who learned violin at an early age, would not play it outdoors on a summer's evening. Certainly, she knew better and would not tempt fate nor oral tradition.

## CELEBRATING OUR NEW MEMBERS

Paula M. Porter, RI  
Scott Walker, ME  
Pauline Crahan, FL  
David Peavy, TX  
Rex Bavousett, NE  
Georgette A. Jackson, RI  
Michael Blanchette, MA  
Maja North, MI  
Vicki Earls, MA  
Martha Pascual, CA  
Marguerite Annaloro, CT  
Lynn Frennett, CT  
Jeffrey Blair, MD  
Sigmund & Bonnie Boberg, MD  
Suzanne Beauchemin, QC, Canada  
David Labriere, OR  
Michael Lague, NJ  
Susan L. Sokoloski, MD  
John Sangala, MI  
Diane & Robert LaFrenaye, MA  
Norman Vigeant, MA  
Pauline Ryan, RI  
Raymond Fleck, CA



*Welcome!  
Enchanté!  
Bienvenue!*

Henry C. Duquette, NC  
Marsha Mitchell White, AL  
Lucie Audette, MI  
Vera MacDonald, MA  
Chuck & Sandra Arning, MA  
Claire L. Howard, MA  
Mary Rudnicki, MN  
Sandy Miller, RI  
Frances Swietlicki, CT  
Mary Beth Angin, CA  
Patrick Martin, VA  
Brenda Santucci, SC  
Patricia A. Locke, MA  
Jeanne D. Pratt, RI  
Connie & Walter Whalen, RI  
Henry Bernier, MA

Our membership renewal mailing has been sent out. Please remember that your membership must be current to access the Members Only Online Library.

### ***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.

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### *A Companion 2-Volume Set*

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

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*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.

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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.

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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.

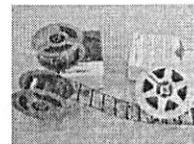
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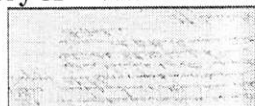
The **Film Room Request Copy Service** is where members and non-members who are unable to visit the library can request copies of actual obituary and headstone pictures or of births, marriages and deaths from the vital records of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont. Also members and 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/>.

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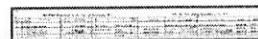
Birth



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 Québec.



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)

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

## 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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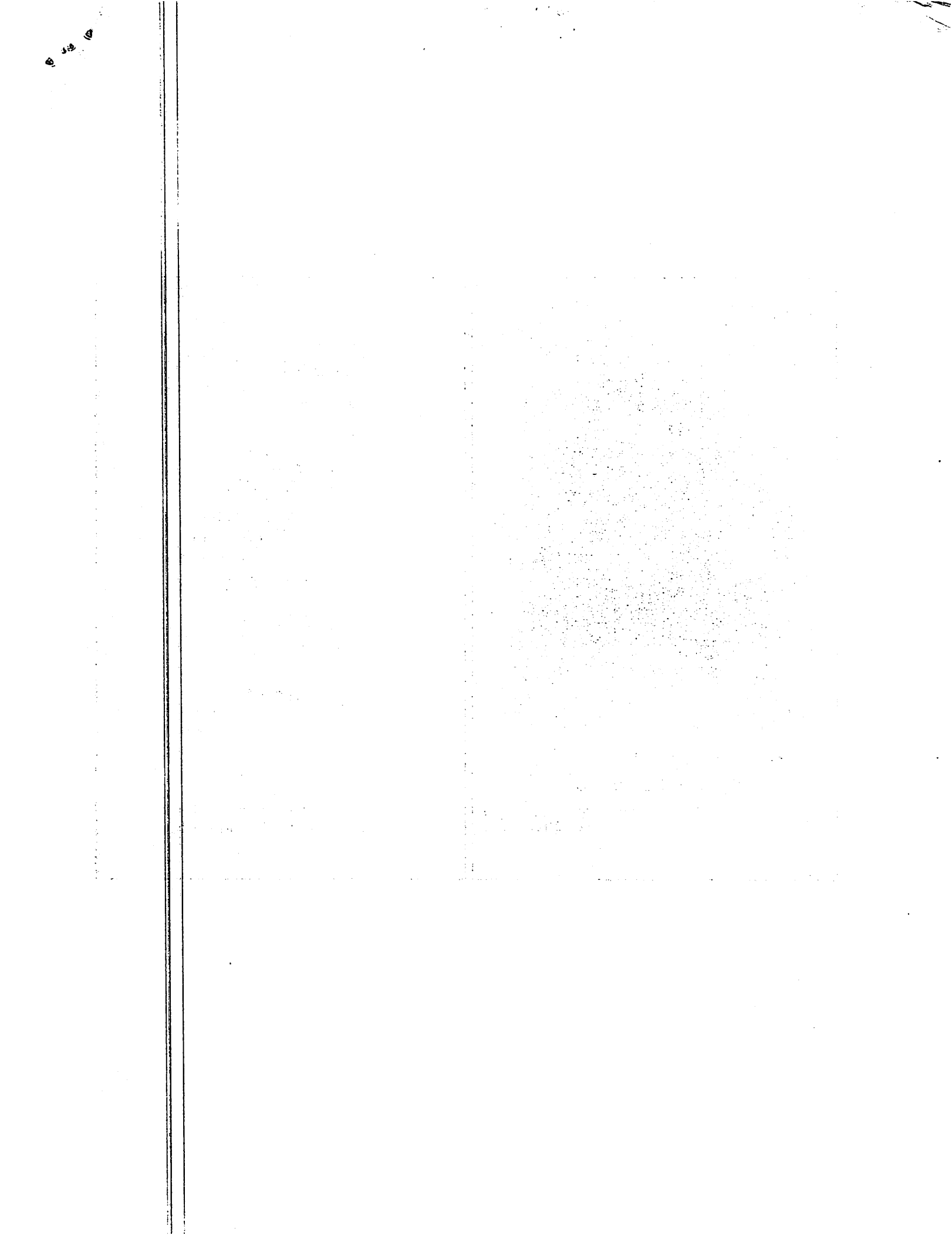
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Proprietors "Le Bijou," Dry Goods.  
JAMES MURRAY & CO.,  
Boots and Shoes, 94 and 96 Main Street.  
D. J. SNYDER,  
Proprietor Providence Clothing House, 202 Main St.  
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Proprietor Paris Clothing House, 180 Main St.  
E. CREPEAU,  
Proprietor Woon. One-Price Clothing Co., 137 Main St.  
WEEKS FURNITURE CO.,  
18 North Main Street.  
MULLEN & DEMPSEY,  
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JOSEPH PROULX & CO.,  
Furniture, 64, 66 and 68 Arnold Street.  
T. M. DEAN,  
Grocer, 255 Main Street.  
D. BOUCHER,  
Grocer, 33 and 55 Front Street.  
F. X. CAYA,  
Millinery, 171 Main Street.  
G. L. DESAULNIERS,  
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A. N. MORIN,  
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