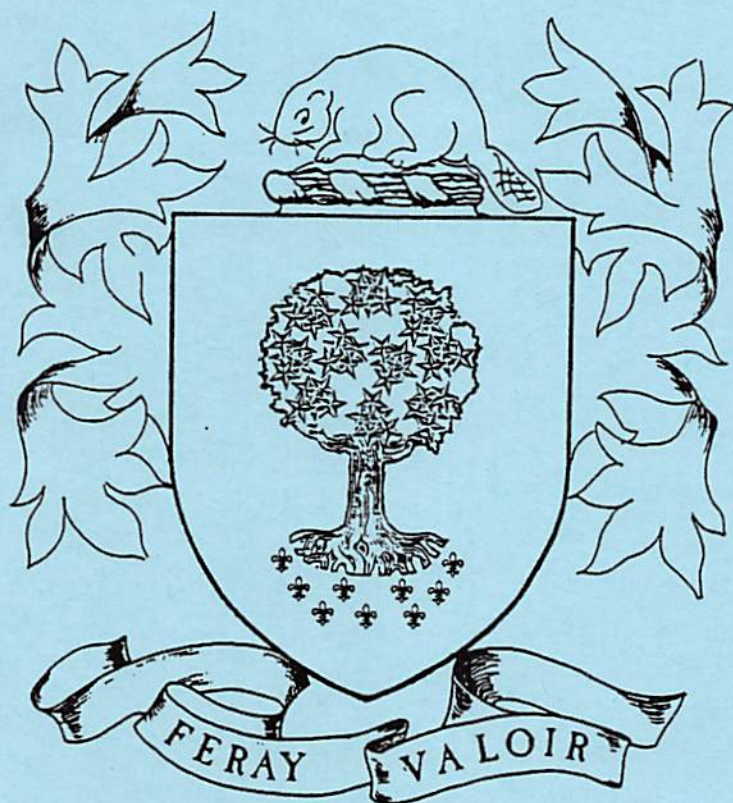


LINKS

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Winter 2020



Journal of the
*Vermont French-Canadian
Genealogical Society*

THE VERMONT FRENCH-CANADIAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

President	<i>Marcie Crocker</i>
Vice-President	<i>Tom DeVarney</i>
Treasurer	<i>Elaine Riley</i>
Secretary	<i>Janet Zell</i>
Past President	<i>Sheila Morris</i>
Directors	<i>Lynn Johnson, Janet Allard, Peter Crosby</i>
Librarian	<i>Janet Allard</i>
Publicity	<i>Lynn Johnson</i>
Genealogical Researchers	<i>Janet Allard, Tom DeVarney, Ralph Mitchell</i>

The Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society was founded at Burlington, Vermont in March, 1996. Its volunteers help members and visitors with their research every Tuesday and Saturday at the Society's *Library located in Rooms 201A, 201B, 202, 203, 204 and 206 of Dupont Hall, Ethan Allen Avenue in the Fort Ethan Allen Complex, Colchester, Vermont. Access, including a handicapped ramp and parking are best in the rear of the building, via Hegeman Avenue. In April, 2020 we are moving to Pinewood Plaza on Route 117 in Essex Junction, VT.

The chief objectives of the Society are:

- to provide aid to members in their research and to encourage them to learn more about their rich history
- to be a repository for Vermont French-American genealogical and historical data
- to promote the highest standard of ethics among genealogists.

Membership is open to any person, upon submission of application, agreement to the VT-FCGS code of ethics and payment of annual dues.

*Library Hours: Every Tuesday, 3:00 to 9:30 PM, and every Saturday of the month 10 AM to 4 PM from September to June and the second and fourth Saturday each month during July and August. The Library will not be open on a Saturday that falls on a Holiday weekend, including the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Out of state visitors may make special arrangements to use the research library at other times. To do so call either: Ed McGuire (802-310-9285), or Janet Allard (802-878-8081).

Online Resources

John Fisher: Webmaster for VT-FCGS.org
Bill Craig: Webmaster for VTGENLIB.org
Maureen O'Brien: Facebook Editor

Tax Exempt Status

The Internal Revenue Service granted the Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society tax exempt status April 15, 1997 (Ref. Case # 117050081). The determination letter reads, in part: "Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code." Please request a receipt when making a donation of cash or material items.

***In many of our pursuits we collect things,
in genealogy we collect ancestors.***

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Journal of the Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society

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LINKS is published twice per year. Annual membership in the Society, including annual subscription is \$40 (US FUNDS ONLY). Cost for one additional member at the same address is \$8 (only one copy of LINKS will be sent). Institutional memberships are \$60. Individual annual subscriptions to LINKS for non-members in the United States are available for \$14; in Canada for \$17; in Europe for \$19. For single copies: in the United States \$7; in Canada \$9; in Europe \$10. Back issues are available from the Circulation Department.

Please direct subscription inquiries to:

*Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 65128 Burlington, VT 05406-5128*

To submit articles (electronic files are appreciated but not mandatory):

Mail to above address or e-mail to: mail@vt-fcgs.org

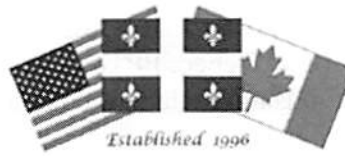
Advertising: Rates for camera-ready copy are \$40 for a full page and \$25 for a half page.

The society and **LINKS** reserve the right to reject advertisements that they deem inappropriate for their readership. The society assumes no responsibility for the quality or performance claims of products and services advertised in **LINKS**.

The editor reserves the right to edit all contributions. The editors will consider, but assume no responsibility for unsolicited material. Letters to the editor may be edited for length or to delete potentially libelous statements.

Unless specified by the submitter or otherwise under copyright, all submissions become the property of the society for purposes of publication and its library. Do not submit material for publication that is copyrighted, except where you can forward to us the written republication permission from the copyright holder.

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A Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends:

Good news! We have signed a lease on a new location and will be moving this Spring! We will be moving to Pinewood Plaza, 57 River Road (Rte. 117), Essex Junction, from our current location at Fort Ethan Allen between the middle of March and the middle of April. We are not sure of the exact date because there is still a lot of work to get this space ready for us. Walls need to be installed, electrical added, as well as, flooring and paint. We will be holding a fundraiser to help pay for this and the move itself. We will also be looking for volunteers to help with the move. If you might be interested, please contact me at Marcie.Crocker@uvm.edu and I will notify you when we get closer to knowing exactly when the move will be. We will also be posting any library closures on the library website and our Facebook page. Thank you to the volunteers who attended the Volunteer Celebration and helped us choose carpet, vinyl tile and paint colors.

On the topic of volunteers, we are looking for more folks to help us out. As you may know, everything at the Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society and the Vermont Genealogy Library happens because of volunteers. Volunteers who generously give of their time and expertise and help keep us open. Our volunteers are great; we just need more of them. We are often hard-pressed to have enough volunteers to staff the library, so much so, we have almost had to close on some days. You do not have to be a genealogy expert to help at the library; there are several tasks that require no knowledge of genealogy at all. Best of all is how much you will learn by just being at the library. We are also looking for a new volunteer coordinator to help schedule these folks.

To ensure the survival of the Vermont French Canadian Genealogical Society and the Vermont Genealogy Library we are going to need more funding. The rent in the new location is over five times what we are paying now at Fort Ethan Allen. We are trying to raise more money in a variety of ways. For a fee, we will do genealogy research, which can be in the form of a quick look up, a short query, a longer research report, or a translation. We also offer one-on-one consultations. So please feel free to let people you know that we offer these services. Our funding also comes from the classes and webinars that we offer, the parish books that we publish, and most of all your memberships. Please encourage anyone who might be interested to join. We don't do only French-Canadian genealogy. We are also hoping to establish a fund-raising committee, so if you know anything about fund-raising, please consider helping out. Fund-raising is becoming an integral part of our continued survival.

Our fundraising effort of last fall to subscribe to MyHeritage Library Edition was a success. It is now added to our available databases at the library and best yet, members can access it remotely

though the Members section at www.vtgenlib.org. The other databases available by visiting the Vermont Genealogy Library are: American Ancestors; American Civil War Database; Ancestry Library Edition; FindMyPast; GenealogieQuebec; PRDH; and FamilySearch, for which we are an Affiliate Library. This is several thousand dollars of databases available to you for the cost of a membership.

This spring's roster of our Saturday morning classes, include some great topics thanks to Ed McGuire's organization. The subjects range from getting started, three genetic genealogy selections, using MyHeritage, research in New York State, Irish genealogy, French-Canadian genealogy, creating a genealogy book, and using online newspapers. We also offer a weekly webinar from professional genealogist Lisa Louise Cooke on Saturday afternoons. Topics of her webinars include using Evernote, Google Earth, Google Books, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, institutional records, tech tools, and using video. See our schedules for classes and webinars.

We continue to offer our Tuesday night Special Interest Groups (SIGs) for our members, with subjects on DNA, French-Canadian, and Irish genealogy. You can join the Special Interest Group remotely; just send an email to news@vtgenlib.org by noon on the day of the SIG.

John Fisher and his volunteers have published two new parish books: "Grand Isle County, VT Marriages, 1863-1940" and "St. Mary's, Springfield, VT, Marriages and Baptisms, 1901-1950." They are currently working on the marriages and baptisms of the now closed Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. I would once again like to thank all the volunteers who help with all the things that keep us running, including staffing the Vermont Genealogy Library, helping with the parish books and various events where we have a presence. Please contact us at library@vtgenlib.org if you might be interested in volunteering. You don't have to be an expert to volunteer, and you will be amazed at how much you learn.

Best Wishes and Successful Research!

Marcie Crocker, President
Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society
Marcie.Crocker@uvm.edu

New Members

Reginald Hamel
Pamela J Munsell
Joel Tilley
Carrie Chappelle
Edward J Allen
Marilyn Preston
Tracie Dixon
Colleen Bushway
Karen Brigham
Diana Moquin
Collette Sangster
David Sangster
Pam Bockes
Johanne Larson
Jim Martin
Christine Allard
Jeanette Weiland
Barbara King-Hall
L Beebe Potter
Frank Winkler
Janet Winkler
Fran Kinghorn
Sam Kinghorn
Peter & Tande Moreau
Muriel Normand
Sue Clark

Gene Clark
Judy Bickford
David Bickford
Kathy Heikel
Ron Marcotte
Judy Preiss
Katrina M Preiss
Erik Preiss
Pamela Cuneo
Michael Mellott
Roberta Overson Nadine Moran
Timothy Moran
Mary Martin-Layo
Clifton Barrette
Laurie Baron
Keith Baron
Jane Trevaskis
Carolyn K Hignite
Elizabeth McCormick
James Martin
Meg Baker
Debra Frisbie
Mary E Tetreault
Catherine Russis
Kathleen Glasserman
Kurt Preiss

Member Benefits

At the Library

Genealogy's Best Online Databases:

- *Ancestry*
- *FindMyPast*
- *MyHeritage*
- *AmericanAncestors*
- *GenealogieQuebec*
- *PRdH's Quebec Families*
- *America's Civil War Database*

\$750
Value

- Saturday: 10:30 classes & 1:30 webinars
- 28% discounts for 1-on-1 consultations
- 4,500 local genealogy & history books
- Tuesday evening Special Interest Groups

1st Tues: *DNA Testing Tips*
2nd Tues: *French-Canadian*
3rd Tues: *Irish Research*
4th Tues: *Genealogy Best Practices*

Available at Home

Over 60 recorded classes - with slides

- *Ancestry.com tips*
- *Using the census*
- *Beginning Genealogy*
- *Find records in newspapers*
- *Solving brick walls*
- *Intro to DNA Tests*
- *New York records*
- *Finding Quebec ancestors*
- *Vermont research tips*
- *Irish genealogy sources*

Home access to MyHeritage

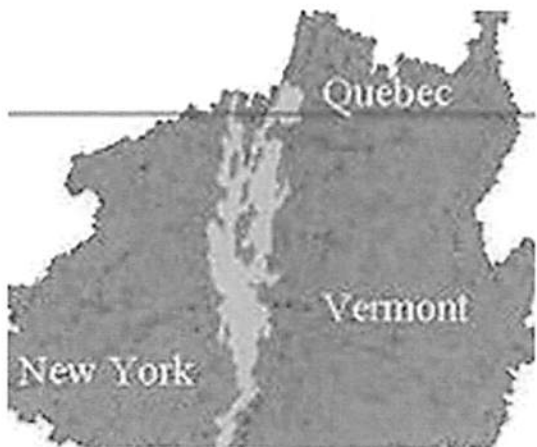
- *6 billion historical records*
- *3 billion family tree records*
- *Best European records anywhere*

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\$129

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- *biographies*
- *VT Catholic records*
- *family genealogies*
- *town vital records*



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- *Staying Organized*
- *Using online tools*

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All only \$35/hour (\$25/hour for members)

Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society

Minutes of the Conference & Annual Meeting on October 19, 2019

Board Members present: President: Marcie Crocker; Vice-President: Tom DeVarney; Past President: Ed McGuire standing in for Sheila Morris who is away; Treasurer: Elaine Riley; Secretary: Janet Zell; Janet Allard, Pamela Crosby, Peter Crosby, and Lynn Johnson. Absent: Sheila Morris

President's Award: Marcie presented Maureen O'Brien with the President's Award for outstanding service on behalf of the Society. Maureen is editor of our Facebook page, and publisher of events.

Business Meeting - Call to Order: Marcie called the meeting to order at 11:36 a.m. and completed the roll call of the Board of Directors.

President's Report: Marcie reviewed what we know about Dupont Hall and the need to relocate the Library. Supposedly the building has been sold or is under option to buy, with the sale contingent upon permits. The purchaser is unknown. Current rent is \$429/month (\$5,148/year) including heat and electricity. Our four-person Committee is still doing research, but it appears we may have to pay up to \$20,000/year, which is most of our present yearly budget. It may be six to nine months before we have to move. Our membership decreased from 634 to 584 this past year. Nationally, the trend is for decreasing membership. Marcie reviewed a presentation outlining the many benefits of our society membership.

Volunteer Opportunities: Lynn Johnson discussed the importance of and need for volunteers in our 100% volunteer-run organization. She reviewed a 2-page summary included in the conference packets which outlined the many ways people can become involved. Contact names were listed.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's year-end report (covering eleven months) was included in the conference packets. Elaine asked for questions or comments, and responded to a question, saying our three Institutional members are the Fletcher Free Library, UVM and the Wisconsin Historical Society. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Maureen O'Brien and seconded by Sue McGuire to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. The motion was approved.

Audit Report: Tom DeVarney reported that the annual audit of November 2017 - October 2018 was completed by himself, Peg Eddy and Judy LeMay. They checked receipts, deposits and petty cash, and no issues were found. Tom praised Treasurer Elaine Riley as very competent, accurate and devoted, making it very easy to complete the audit.

Nominations and Elections: Tom DeVarney stated that he had asked the serving Board members who were up for reelection, Marcie, himself, Elaine, Janet Z., Pam, and Peter, if they were willing to run for reelection. Since all were willing, he didn't look any

further. Past President Sheila Morris is away, and Ed McGuire is standing in for her. Tom went over the nominations and asked three times if there were further nominations from the floor; there were none. Barbara Baraw moved to approve the full slate of candidates. Lillian Robinson seconded this, and the motion carried. The following were elected:

President- Marcie Crocker
Vice President-Thomas
DeVamey Treasurer- Elaine
Riley

Secretary- Janet
Zell Member-
Pam Crosby
Member- Peter
Crosby

Past President Ed McGuire is standing in for Sheila Morris while she is away. Janet Allard and Lynn Johnson are finishing their current terms and were not elected because their terms were not up.

Fundraising Initiatives: Ed McGuire reported on revenue enhancement efforts, including the Webinar Series on Saturday afternoons and Go-to-Meeting teleconferencing for classes. Ed said we currently have 110 to 120 out-of-state members, and are looking for ways to retain members as well as attract more new ones. He noted that we have a strong collection of online databases used by both members and visitors at our library, but as members reach further back in time, European records become a greater need.

MyHeritage Library Edition meets that need and will be a great complement to our existing collection; and it will be available to members from home. A fundraising initiative is being launched to cover the cost (\$2,450) for the first year. If we can achieve a net gain of sixty-five members it will pay for itself going forward. People can donate by check, via mail, or online. We hope to complete fundraising and have MyHeritage on our computers and in members' homes by year-end.

Advertising: Lynn Johnson reported on organizing and downsizing efforts at the library. Issues of LINKS journals are available for members to read online. Bundles of six older LINKS were created and Lynn asked members to take some to libraries, historical societies, hospital waiting rooms, Town Clerk's offices, etc. Bookmarks and brochures are also available, and all would support our advertising efforts.

Fees for Services Offered: Marcie reviewed the new chart of Fees for Services Offered, included in the conference packets, which will be posted online, at the library and in the next LINKS. The chart was created to try to standardize fees and will be in effect beginning November 1.

The motion to adjourn was made by Ed McGuire and seconded by Barb Baraw. The motion carried. Respectfully submitted by Janet Zell



Vermont Genealogy Library
Home of the Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society
EVENTS & CLOSINGS FOR 2020

February 1	Saturday classes begin with “Getting Started on Your Family History”
March 10	Irish Genealogy Research (Burlington Irish Heritage Festival) – Last class before library move
Mar 14-Apr 12	LIBRARY MOVE AND SETUP – Closures to be announced
April 11	Library closed for Easter holiday
April 18	Classes resume
May 23	Library closed for Memorial Day weekend
June 28	French Heritage Day (Winooski)
July 4	Library closed for Fourth of July holiday
August 9	Ceal Moran’s Genealogy Day
September 5	Library closed for Labor Day weekend
September 12	Open House – free for everyone, bring a friend
September 19	Fall classes begin with “Getting Started on Your Family History”
October 17	VT-FCGS Annual Fall Conference (Library closed)
November 28	Library closed for Thanksgiving holiday
December 9	VT-FCGS annual Christmas Party-
December 26	Library closes for Christmas & New Year’s holidays

The above dates and places are subject to change
Visit www.vt-fcgs.org for updates



2020 SPRING CLASS SCHEDULE

Classes are normally held on Saturdays at 10:30 am and end at noon. Fee is \$10.00 for members and the public.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
01 Feb	Lynn Johnson	Getting Started on Your Family History
08 Feb	Ed McGuire	Introduction to DNA Testing
15 Feb	Marcie Crocker	Using MyHeritage Library Edition
22 Feb	Ed McGuire	Interpreting DNA Ethnicity Results
29 Feb	Anastasia Pratt	Genealogy Research in New York State
07 Mar	Michael Dwyer, FASG	An mtDNA Find Proves a Mayflower Line
10 Mar*	Ed McGuire	Researching Your Irish Ancestors*
18 Apr	Jane Whitmore	Efficiently Tracing Your Roots in Québec - LAFRANCE & PRDH
25 Apr	Pam Crosby	Building A Genealogy Book
02 May	Lillian Robinson/Marcie Crocker	Using Online Newspapers

*Tuesday, 7 pm (free) sponsored by Burlington Irish Heritage Festival & VT Genealogy Library

For Class descriptions please visit our website: vtgenlib.org

Class schedule subject to change – check our website or call 802-350-1333 for confirmation

2020 SPRING WEBINAR SCHEDULE

Webinars are held on Saturdays at 1:30 pm

Fee is \$5.00 for members and the public

<u>Date</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Topic</u>
01 Feb	50 minutes	Using Evernote for Genealogy (Introduction)
08 Feb	30 minutes	Finding & Using Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
15 Feb	40 minutes	Using Evernote to Create a Research Plan
22Feb	88 minutes	Time Travel with Google Earth (Intermediate)
29Feb	65 minutes	Evernote: 10 Projects You Can Do (Advanced)
07Mar	55 Minutes	Google Books for Genealogists
MOVE TO NEW QUARTERS		
18Apr	40 minutes	Researching Institutional Records
25Apr	73 minutes	10 Genealogy Tech Tools You Can't Live Without
02May	45 minutes	10 Ways to Use Video for Genealogy

Webinar schedule subject to change - check our website or 802-350-1333 for confirmation

(These video webinars are licensed from GenealogyGems.com)

The Desrochers' Letters
Lynn Landry Johnson member # 581

In our Fall 2019 LINKS I spoke of letters that I found while researching my grandmother's uncle, Felix Desrochers, the former General Librarian of the Parliamentary Library in Ottawa. The letters were in the collections at the Centre d'histoire de Saint-Hyacinthe (www.chsth.com). This regional archives is housed in the Seminaire de Saint-Hyacinthe, which in the late 1800s – early 1900s was the same school where Felix and his brother, Father Napoleon "Paul" did their classical studies. I learned that the boys started there at age 11 or 12, and each attended for eight years. According to the billing records they were at the Seminaire together for two years. Even though this overlap was brief it served to intensify their already strong brotherly ties.

After translating the letters we acquired during that visit we were hooked. Through the letters we had started to get to know the brothers and their siblings as real people and we found we just couldn't stop there. We wanted to know so much more. I contacted the archivist, Mr. Paul Foisy, and arranged to pay for more letters to be photocopied for us. This second batch of 91 letters (167 pages) covered 1940 and part of 1941. We chose this time period because we wanted to learn more about how their lives were changed by World War II. Sue was especially interested in knowing how they felt about conscription, i.e. the draft, which required French-Canadians to help fight Britain's war. I also thought this timeframe might provide details about their connections to my grandmother, Germaine, and her family in Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

Sue and I usually met weekly to work on this second batch. By the time you read this article we will have translated all of them. Here is just some of what we have learned from this work.

Education, theirs and ours

In addition to Mr. Foisy's research on their academic careers, the letters quickly made it obvious that Paul and Felix received excellent educations. Both men were well aware of the advantages their educations had given them and on more than one occasion they expressed gratitude to their father, Charles, and their older brothers, Azarie and Leon, for funding their educations. As you read I think you will agree with me that both were excellent writers. I consider myself to be a decent writer but summing up what they said would not do them justice. Instead I've chosen to add sections of their letters for your enjoyment.

"Yes, Saint-Charles, it is the Old Grey House where we knew momma's caresses, the devotion and the sacrifices of old papa. The grandeur of the role assumed by the two brothers who sacrificed themselves in order to procure this classical education of which both of us are so proud and which makes us who we are. Yes, Saint-Charles, it is all of that; it is the old attic where you made your first skits that would lead you to the altars where you officiate now; it is the old living room where so often the two violins of papa and mama united their melodies to the beating of their heart; it is the old boutique where we contemplated the rhythmic waves of our beautiful Richelieu; it is the school where we happily led ourselves in order to obtain the first human knowledge that would permit us to go deeply to explore the depths of the secrets of the mind; it is the old church where we served Mass; it is the elderly pastor who loved us like his children; it is the rocky hill; it is the "Domaine" (the manor), and it is the fields of 1837. It is all that; it is not only our life but it is the life of an entire race and of all of a people that we learned to know and to love. St-Charles is all that." (*Felix's letter of 20 November 1933*)

Through this work I have learned that translating is harder than I expected. Even with all of her experience Sue has encountered a number of words she's never seen before. A good reminder that languages evolve and words go out of favor, or even become obsolete.

We have had to look up many names that the brothers mention in the letters. Sometimes they are references to Greek gods, poets, or politicians. There have been quotes from classical French or French-Canadian literature. We have had to look up religious celebrations, laws and events that neither of us was familiar with. It has been quite the learning experience and one that I would not have sought out otherwise.

Nature

Almost without exception nature is mentioned in the letters of each brother and it is said in a way that lets you know this was an fundamental part of their lives, not just words to fill space on the paper.

"Since last night it is truly winter. There is an hateful west wind. Happily the falling snow is melting abundantly and there will be no need to sweep and she will remain without spoiling the roads for cars."
(*Paul's letter of 28 December 1938*)

"It is the battle of Old Man Winter, Taschereau, who would not want to leave but fatally will have to choose another retreat, Siberia for example. Your marvelous letter arrived to bring me the comfort that I was waiting for." (*Paul's letter of 7 March 19__*)

"Deficit", oh yes.. what makes life charming has been lowered - weather that had been ideal has disappeared - a week of cold weather and blustery winds - result... flowers and plants beaten down, dried up, enough dust to blind us. When the warm temperature gets to our liking our cousins, the mosquitos, eat us up. This year there are many and they're voracious. There are always difficulties just to remind us that we're on Earth. In this valley of misery in spite of everything we are not to be pitied and our belly is as full as that of a thrush." (*Paul's letter of 14 June 19__*)

"As far as the solemnity of St. Charles the sky is not generous with its light or its heat. It certainly is November, and we certainly cannot ask of him (the sky) what he does not have. If only it can go away a little bit sooner." (*Paul's letter of 8 November 1932?*)

"Ottawa has discovered the latest furor of the god Mars. During the night from Tuesday to Wednesday, a thick layer of snow covered our city in an incomparable white blanket. The scene, this morning, is a magnificent sight. The sun is overpowering with splendor and is playing on the small surfaces of snow that he renders as brilliant as diamonds. The trees covered with hoar frost extend their decorated limbs towards the sky and seem to bring us back to Christmastime. Last night, as I was exercising my muscles in cleaning up the snow around my house, I was able to contemplate completely at ease a ravishing spectacle. The moon was almost full and lit up the earth like in broad daylight. Eole was holding back his winds to such a point that one would have believed it to be summer, "if only it were" (an omen) the white surface that was spreading itself in front of my eyes. I felt like digging myself a bed in the snow in order to spend the night. Happily that Rita brought me back to reality by knocking at the window in order to warn me that the program S.V.P. was about to begin soon." (*Felix's letter of 13 March 1941*) (Note - Eole is another name for Aeolus, the ruler of the winds in Greek mythology).

"It is the last day of the most beautiful month of the year. It is not without a certain melancholy that I see disappearing in the past this month that for me has always been my favorite. In spite of its lack of

brilliance this year with its ups and downs in temperature it is nevertheless true that nature is in its splendor. Since Friday we have been blessed with a little rain that has been very good for the vegetation. It was time because everything was baked. The last peonies, alas, are ending perfuming our home and delighting our eyes. Happily the rose bushes are taking their revenge to compensate for the end of the peonies.

“Yesterday, delightful Sunday and moderate heat and an abundance of tourists. The swimmers wholeheartedly enjoyed themselves. As far as I’m concerned I am happy to bathe my feet in the river and my tub for the rest of my body.” (*Paul’s letter of 30 June 1941*)

The Richelieu River

Paul often mentions the Richelieu River that lay just across Route 133 from their parents’ house. We learned about rafts for swimmers being anchored in the river in the summer and of skating on the river in the winter. We’ve enjoyed mentions of the river being used as an “ice bridge” for people and even cars to get to the neighboring towns. We read about the ice being declared off limits as it softened in the spring sunshine and the great “debacle” as it slipped under the water in the spring sun.

Azarie’s wife Eva told my father that friends and family liked to spend winter evenings skating and sailing ice boats on the frozen river. Later, tired and cold, they would come in for *le dessert*. When asked Eva explained that *le dessert* was *oeufs et sirop*. To make this dish a quart of maple syrup would be brought to a low boil. Then one or two fresh eggs per person were cracked open and added to the boiling syrup. The mixture was stirred until the eggs and syrup were combined and completely cooked. This was then served along with several cookies and a cup of hot mulled cider. *Voilà! Le dessert!* Definitely not a dessert for diabetics!

On one of my two visits to St. Charles in the 1980s we took my grandmother, Germaine Landry, for her annual visit with Eva. I remember being a bit lost as Eva spoke no English, and I no French, but I was impressed when Eva showed me many small record books and my father translated as she told us that every year she and Azarie noted the date the ice formed on the river and when it went out. The conversation that day led me to believe that Azarie’s parents had also kept track of the river. If they did and they started when they bought the house in 1873 that is a lot of history.

Have the notebooks survived? Are they in a museum or with a family member? I only know that they are not at the Archives in St. Hyacinthe.

This photo from the 1970s shows the house on Route 133 with its tiny front yard. To the left is the *boutique* or shop where Azarie and Leon made and repaired sleighs and other vehicles. From the left is Paul Miller, Delvina’s son, my Grandmother Germaine, Eva Fontaine Desrochers and Paul’s wife. The Richelieu lies just yards in front of them.



At times the letters conveyed the danger the river could hold. “Yesterday morning, we had the funeral of one of the victims of the terrible drowning of eleven ice cutters. Henri Gauthier, brother of Joseph and Midas (Hormidas) Totomme was laid out here - his body was recovered and brought here. Big funerals.” (*Paul’s letter of 2 March 1941*)

Mysteries

The brothers usually wrote to each other every three days and we know that World War II had to have had a huge impact on their lives with Canada entering the war within days of the German invasion of Poland, but so far we have been disappointed to find very few mentions of the war. We certainly thought the letters of early December 1941 would mention the attack on Pearl Harbor but there were no references to it at all. We did find where Delvina was unable to go to Ottawa due to gas rationing, as well as several mentions of foods they could not find easily. The mentions we did find tended to be brief.

“April arrived with its smile and spruced up with sun. Really, upon looking at nature, one would not say that the world is at war. The elements appear to be so calm, so orderly, so harmonious, that one cannot imagine that they are evolving over a humanity so stupid, so wild and so rapacious.” (*Felix’s letter of 3 April 1941*)

“And now the wolves are devouring each other. Hitler at war with the bear (Stalin) — it was predictable and what will we not see?” (*Paul’s letter of 23 June 1941*)

One letter stood out when Paul wrote, “It is true that Saturday four lance torpedo launchers called *Moskitoes* went up the river at a dizzying speed, with an infernal noise at 35 m.p.h. It seems that they can go up to 55 m.p.h., but here the speed was moderate. You can understand that everyone was on the bank of the river — there certainly was enough to peak (sic) their curiosity.” (*Paul’s letter of 27 October 1941*)

It turns out that *mosquitos* was a nickname for PT boats. Several companies made these speedy, durable wooden boats during the war, especially Higgins in the U.S. and the Canadian Power Boat Company. But why would they be practicing on the Richelieu River less than an hour away from Montreal? In looking to find answers we learned the Canadians were wise to prepare for all eventualities as we found references to the Battle of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which neither of us had heard of previously.

The Canadian Encyclopedia states that, “Between 1942 and 1944 German submarines repeatedly penetrated the waters of the St. Lawrence River and Gulf, sinking 23 ships and costing hundreds of lives. It was the first time since the War of 1812 that naval battles were waged in Canada’s inland waters.”

Since the brothers talk of so many issues this lack of mention of the war continues to puzzle us.

Details bring people to life

The best part of this work has been all of the little things that have truly made Felix and Father Paul come alive in our hearts and minds. We knew from the first letters that the two were close. In Felix’s speech for Father Paul’s 50th anniversary of ordination he thanked his brother more than once for helping him through the loneliness of being at boarding school. These two truly loved each other. In one letter Felix wrote, “As far as you are concerned you know by which bonds I am attached to you: that is to tell you that I will never be able to do enough to prove to you all of my affection.” (*Felix’s letter of 24 August 1935*)

Both usually start their letters with “My dear _____” and closings were equally gushy. Sue and I still laugh at the very idea that our brothers might address each other that way.

The two also expressed great respect for each other. When Felix would share concerns about the music he and his choir were preparing for a special mass Paul would assure him that their efforts would pay off.

Paul was also quick to pass along praise he heard for speeches Felix gave around Quebec. And Felix expressed great respect for Paul as a teacher, priest and pastor.

Both adored their parents, Charles Desrochers and Hermine Geoffrion, and couldn't thank them enough for an upbringing dedicated to faith in God, hard work, music, and the importance of family.

Father Paul

I thought I knew a fair amount about Father Paul before reading his letters. I knew where he had served as a priest and in what capacity, and I had found a number of newspaper articles about him. While researching the family Mr. Foisy found an article that detailed the day Paul celebrated his first mass in St. Charles.

... "Thursday, the 26th of July, St. Charles was overjoyed, one of the children in the parish, M. Paul Desrochers, had achieved his goal and was celebrating for the first time the holy sacrifice of the mass. The parishioners inundated the church doors to attend the commemoration. The majestic sounds of the organ united themselves with the melodic sounds of the orchestra to glorify the mass.

"It was a solemn event not seen before. How the parents of this new chosen one must have shed tears because their son was now a priest. How on this beautiful day they must have found "light" the sacrifices imposed on them for the education (of their son) in comparison to the immense happiness of this day...

"After the mass we all went to M. Charles Desrochers' residence where a sumptuous banquet was served to relatives and friends of the new priest. All day the Desrochers Orchestra made up of Professor J.J. (Joseph) of Montreal; of Professor J.J. Paquet of Montreal, of the doctor R.A. (Armand) of St. Valerian and of Felix Desrochers, E.E.D. of St. Charles, and played the most beautiful pieces of its repertoire, among them compositions from Mendelsohn, Dubois, Rubinstein, Gounod, Godard, Haydn, etc. Among the musicians a special mention is reserved for Madame Doctor Desrochers, born Corinne Monty, of Montreal whose talent as singer and pianist is well known.

"In the afternoon M. Father Paul and his brother Felix spoke. In the evening lighting, music, and more speaking. After enjoying ourselves it was necessary to leave and everyone left while saying within ourselves, "And perhaps it will please (us) one day to remember these things."

One should note that the Desrochers Orchestra included three of Paul's brothers, Joseph on violin, Armand at the piano, and Felix on clarinet.

Also in Felix's speech for the 50th anniversary of Paul's ordination we learned that health issues forced Paul to retire from active ministry at the age of 55. But we didn't know what Paul did afterwards. The letters answered this question. Paul moved back to St. Charles where he had a small home in the village with a view of the river. His home was within walking distance of *the mother house*, formerly his parents' home, where his brothers Azarie and Leon now lived, along with Azarie's wife Eva. Paul helped out his pastor, as well as priests in neighboring parishes, during busy times. He also covered for them when they were ill or had to be away. Prayer, writing and visiting with friends occupied time as well.

Father Paul's letters always mention Holy Days and religious feasts. Some letters were full of religious or philosophical thought while others only give brief mention of his activities.

Father Paul could be quite humorous.

“This morning the pastor who has a cold celebrated a low mass without homily. I went to help him with confessions. Evil tongues are saying it’s an indigestion for last Sunday after having kept them there for an hour and a half.” (*Paul’s letter of 9 March 1941*)

“Yesterday afternoon the Millers came — Paul came with his father and mother and they left after four o’clock. Then, at my house your colleague l’abbe (Father) Anthime was waiting for me and he stayed until supper time. And just shortly before 7 o’clock came the gust of wind of *Grosse Marie*, followed by the two younger sisters Clarinde and Justine. Can you see me with my sermon unfinished plus my Brevaire not said and the three Graces remaining until past ten o’clock? It took me no time at all to go up (to bed).” (*Paul’s letter of 8 December 1941*)

Delvina

Felix and Paul were among the youngest of fifteen children born to Charles and Hermine. Of the fifteen, six boys made it to adulthood, although my great grandfather, Arthur, and Armand died in their forties. Only one of their sisters, Delvina, survived childhood. Delvina married Charles “Adélarde” Miller. The couple had two children Paul and Juliette. Juliette died suddenly in 1925 at the age of 21.



In a birthday letter from Felix to his sister we found this description of Delvina’s wedding day. “How the years go by! It seems to me that July 4th 1895 was yesterday when you were getting married in our old parish church. I still remember it: the sun was warming the air and our hearts, the sky was cloudless, and the Richelieu was as calm as a mirror. I can still see the procession walking slowly from the house to the church. I can still hear the melody of the violin accompanied by the organ greeting your arrival in church. I still can hear Mr. Miller, the father, playing a melody on the piccolo and to think that it has been forty years from the date of your marriage!” (*Felix’s letter of 10 April 1935*)

Delvina was on the receiving end of teasing from her brothers. She lived in Outremont, an upscale neighborhood in Montreal. We have some hints as to her character and to that of the teasing when the brothers quite often refer to her as “Lady Outremont.”

Identification of the men in the photo was done by Paul Landry, possibly with Eva’s help. On the lower step, left to right, Paul Miller, Felix Desrochers, Azarie Desrochers. Far left, alone on the step Dad wrote

“Ozzie Miller.” I presume this to be a nickname for Adélard. On the top step, left to right, Leon Desrochers, Jean, Felix’s son, and Father Paul in the beret.

“Nothing makes me laugh as much as the wailing and moaning of our dear brother Azarie. I believe that he was born under the same zodiac sign as our dear sister Lady Vertigo” ... “I wonder in which conditions they were carried by our dear mother. There is however a difference between Azarie and “Our Sister” “it is that, Azarie works while complaining whereas the other one complains without working. I understand that Azarie is not able to put forth an effort as considerable as in the past but he proceeds at a turtle like pace and he will achieve his goal with time.” (*Felix’s letter of 13 March 1941*)

While Father Paul was inevitably kind to those he wrote about we gather that Adélard Miller tested his patience greatly. In 1937 Adélard was the President of the *l’Action patriotique, Inc.* This group raised the money for the village of St. Charles-sur-Richelieu to create a park commemorating the *Patriotes* of 1836-37 who rebelled against the English. St. Charles was the scene of a major battle in this rebellion and the Desrochers family played a big role in the park’s development on land that had formerly belonged to their parents. There was a great deal in the letters about the planning.

“As far as the organization of which Miller is the President I admit to you that I am not ready to grant him a certificate of competence. What an indecisive and slow man. We don’t know yet if the Philharmonic has been hired. At St. Charles, Stanislas Lussier is in charge of the décor and setting up the platform: so we are waiting for the stands for the flags, the escutcheons, lanterns and so forth. There’s a lack of direction and so tomorrow if I can’t put through what I want done then I’m going to Montreal.

“At the moment Leon and Azarie are working to make escutcheons- those from the mother house are finished. Mine have not been finished. And here we are, everybody wants some and of course everything will be done at the last minute.

“Within the last hour we are learning that the tools and machinery for the road will arrive today and it is said that tomorrow they will begin the road so that they will finish by Sunday the street on the river... The quay is finished and the building next to the quay. The mill has been whitewashed and the cleaning is continuing. One has to hope that everyone will get to work in order to give to St. Charles at least the appearance of order and cleanliness...” (*Paul’s letter of 13 September 1937*)

This was a big event and on 20 September 1937 fully all of page 6 of the Montreal newspaper, *Le Devoir*, was about the dedication of the monument, including several paragraphs about the big speech Felix gave that day.



This pride in their *Patriotes* did not wear off. “The crowns and bouquets of flowers, in spite of being faded, are still there to witness the sublime gesture that accompanied the unveiling. You can believe that every day and even several times a day I go as close as I can to meditate and think. I don’t know what prevents me from bending my knees to pray for those glorious dead to give us a little of their national pride of which we have need of at this epoch when we have foolish notions and bad morals. I don’t doubt that I am the only one to think this way because every day the villagers come to make their short pilgrimage and they return proud and better people. I dare hope so... I have cut everything out to send to Germaine myself being happy with your text.” (*Paul’s letter of 27 September 1937*)

This pride of place even carried over into a critique of a monument honoring the rebels in nearby St. Eustache. "We have crossed to St. Eustache again and this refreshes in our minds the festivities of the previous day. After several detours we were able to perceive the miniature monument of the Brave (The *Patriotes* of 1837-1838), it doesn't compare to the one that we have in St. Charles. The difference between day and night. A monument in red granite with a bronze medallion that doesn't look well because it's too large for the monument." (Paul's letter of 17 October 1937)

We wondered if Father Paul confessed this sin of pride. Later in the year Father Paul paid for workers to clean up the park because he wasn't sure that Miller had planned that far ahead.

In another letter mentioning Delvina and her husband Paul writes, "The Millers left this morning without leaving any regrets." We've read similar remarks in a number of letters leaving us to want to know more.

Goodbye for now

I never suspected I would spend this much time on the Desrochers line, but it has been fun and I cannot say enough how much I have learned by immersing myself in their lives. My hat is off to Father Paul for his elegant writing and to Felix for saving everything. Thank you Sue for sharing your time and knowledge, I look forward to learning more.

Did I mention that we have a third box of letters? This new batch encompasses 1930 to 1934 and then 1950. Now all we have to do is decide where to start!

The Royal Descendants of 900 Immigrants by Gary Boyd Roberts 2 volumes, Baltimore 2018 Submitted by Lynn Landry Johnson member # 581

Many Americans with deep roots that include New England Yankee, mid-Atlantic Quaker, or Southern "planter" ancestry have medieval kings in their lineage – especially the kings of England, Scotland and France. This book describes how you may be descended from them, as well as from lesser nobility.

The two-volume set (over 1700 pages) supersedes two earlier editions which covered the royal descents of 500 and 600 immigrants, respectively. It represents over 50 years of effort to survey all serious resources on the subject. The New England Historic Genealogical Society observed that, "A survey of this size has never before been attempted...It summarizes all pertinent research published through 2017 and is by far the most comprehensive treatment of the subject in print."

In this work you can find the royal ancestry of Anne Hutchinson of Rhode Island, Thomas Yale of Connecticut or Maria von Trapp of Vermont. New to this volume are 45 Notable Immigrants to Quebec which link to millions of present-day descendants. That list includes Jean Huard & Anne-Marie Amiot, Jacques Miville & Catherine Baillon and Antoine Desrosiers & Anne du Herisson, among many others.

If you suspect some of your ancestors may have had European nobility or royalty in their lineage then this authoritative work should be your first stop.

QUERIES - Janet Allard, Member #48 and Tom DeVarney, Member #441

We encourage our members to submit free queries for publication as space permits. Queries should be brief and concise, typed or printed clearly. Queries from non-members should include a \$10.00 check for each query. Queries should be sent to VT FRENCH-CANADIAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, Attn: Query Editor, P.O. Box 65128, Burlington, VT 05406-

anc	ancestors	dau.	daughter	par.	parents
b.	born	desc.	descendant	poss.	possibly
bp.	baptized	d.s.p.	died without issue	ref.	reference
bro.	brother	d.y.	died young	rel.	related, relative
bur.	buried	div.	divorced	rem.	removed
ca.	circa	fam.	family	res.	resided, lived at
ch.	child, children	fl.	lived, flourished	sis.	sister
c.r.	church record	g.s.	gravestone	twp.	township
co.	county	info.	information	w.	wife
d.	died, death	marr.	married	wid.	widow

Query 470 BUCKLEY

Looking for any information on William Buckley b. ca. 1807, County Cork, Ireland - d. 1 Jan. 1889, Utica, Oneida, N.Y. he had a farm in Boonville, NY.

Inquiry from Carolee Reynolds VTFCGS member 58

Query 471 BUCKLEY

Looking for any information on Helen Buckley (dau. of William Buckley) b. ca. 1859, Cork County Ireland - d. 2 Oct. 1929 Utica, Oneida, NY. residing there 65 yrs. She came to America ca.1864-1870.

Inquire from Carolee Reynolds VTFCGS member 58

Query #472 DESROCHERS, dit LAROCK, dit PLANT

Looking for the birth of Marie Desrochers LaRock or Mary Plant b. ca 1833 in Vermont and the marriage of her parents Jean Baptiste Durocher and Catherine Francoeur before 1835.. Marie was marr. in 1850 Stukley-Nord, Shefford, Quebec, Canada to Pierre Plante (aka Peter Plant) b. 1827 St. Cesaire, Rouville, Quebec, Canada. In this record it is listed as Desrochers, her place of birth Virginie but believe to be Vergennes, Vermont. The Family appears in the 1850 census in Granville, Addison, VT and 1870 census in Putney, Windham, VT. Inquiry from Aundra Thompson #226.

MISSING!

Janet Allard, Librarian

We have found that several books are missing from our Library Book Room shelves. If you have found them among your possessions the Library would appreciate their return no questions asked. Remember, you are not the only one wanting to use them. The missing are as follows:

R-98A One Hundred French-Canadian Family Histories by P.J. Moore

R-US-35 Dictionary of the Ancestral Heads of New England Families
1620-1700 by F.R. Holmes

Q-History-35 Quebec During the American Invasion 1775-1776 Journal of
Baby & G. Tascherau

Books not signed out of the Lending Library:

LL-En-B-18 The Mohawk Indians of North America by Bonvillain

LL-En-E-3 The War of 1812 in the Champlain Valley by Everest

~~LL-En-L-1 Our French-Canadian Ancestors Vol 1 by LaForest~~
(Found)

~~LL-En-L-4 Our French-Canadian Ancestors Vol 4 by LaForest~~
(Found)

We certainly would appreciate having them back. Your participation at the Library is appreciated and thank you for looking.

NEW VT-FCGS Parish Book Completed in 2019

64 total volumes published since 1998!

Marriage Repertoire Grand Isle County Parishes Vermont Catholic Diocese \$40



*St Amadeus
Alburgh*



*St Benedict
North Hero*



*St Joseph
Isle LaMotte*



*St Joseph
Grand Isle*



*St Rose of Lima
South Hero*

Includes marriages from 5 parishes

Alburgh	St Amadeus	1868-1930
Isle LaMotte	St Joseph	1881-1930
North Hero	St Benedict	1912-1923
Grand Isle	St Joseph	1923-1940
South Hero	St Rose of Lima	1863-1940

**For a complete list of all 64 volumes and an order form see
http://www.vt-fcgs.org/publications_for_sale.html**

NEW VT-FCGS Parish Book Completed in 2020

65 total volumes published since 1998!

Springfield, VT

**St. Mary's Church - Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Marriage & Baptism Repertoire**

1901-1951

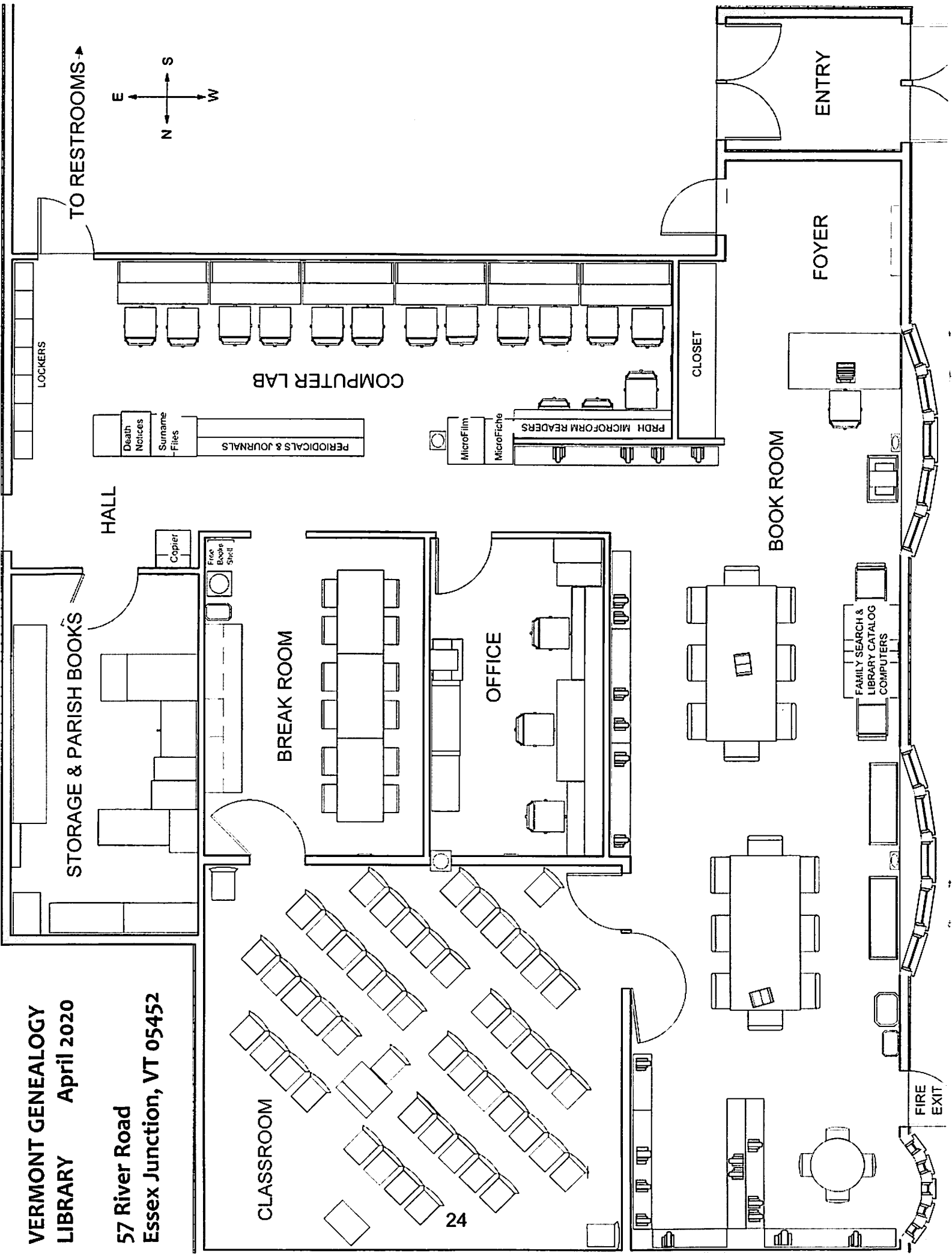
\$55



For a complete list of all 65 volumes and an order form see
http://www.vt-fcgs.org/publications_for_sale.html

VERMONT GENEALOGY
LIBRARY April 2020

57 River Road
Essex Junction, VT 05452



WE ARE MOVING!

Peter Crosby, member 1071

After many years at our present location in Dupont Hall at Saint Michaels College, we have lost our lease due to the sale of our building and are now forced to move. After a long search process the location of Pinewood Plaza, 57 River Road, Route 117, in Essex Junction was decided on. Reality has set in, our rent has increased fivefold! Fundraising will be necessary to keep us solvent and continue to offer our members the tools for their research and continued value for their membership fee.



Figure 1 A view looking West on River Road our new home. Photo by Peter Crosby

We will now have plenty of well-lit parking, no ramps and stairs to climb also air-conditioning for those sweltering summer months. The Board of directors has spent many hours working through a plan that will give everyone what they need but keeping the total square footage as little as possible. Our Bookroom space currently has forty-seven linear feet of shelf space, the

new space will increase to sixty-one feet giving us more room for our reference book collection. We will have a classroom that can accommodate about fifty people for those popular classes and special interest groups. Our new office and breakroom spaces will give a little more elbow room for the comfort of our staff and members. The new computer lab will now have space for the computers and the micro-film readers. All in all we will have a more efficient space and a Library that we can be proud of.



Figure 2: The entrance of our new Library. Photo by Peter Crosby.

As I am writing this construction of the fit-up of the space is underway. New carpets flooring and wall colors have been selected giving us a very fresh space to enjoy. Sometime in March we will be doing the electrical and the computer networking. We hope to be open for our members, research in early April, 2020. Watch Facebook, the website and your email for further word.

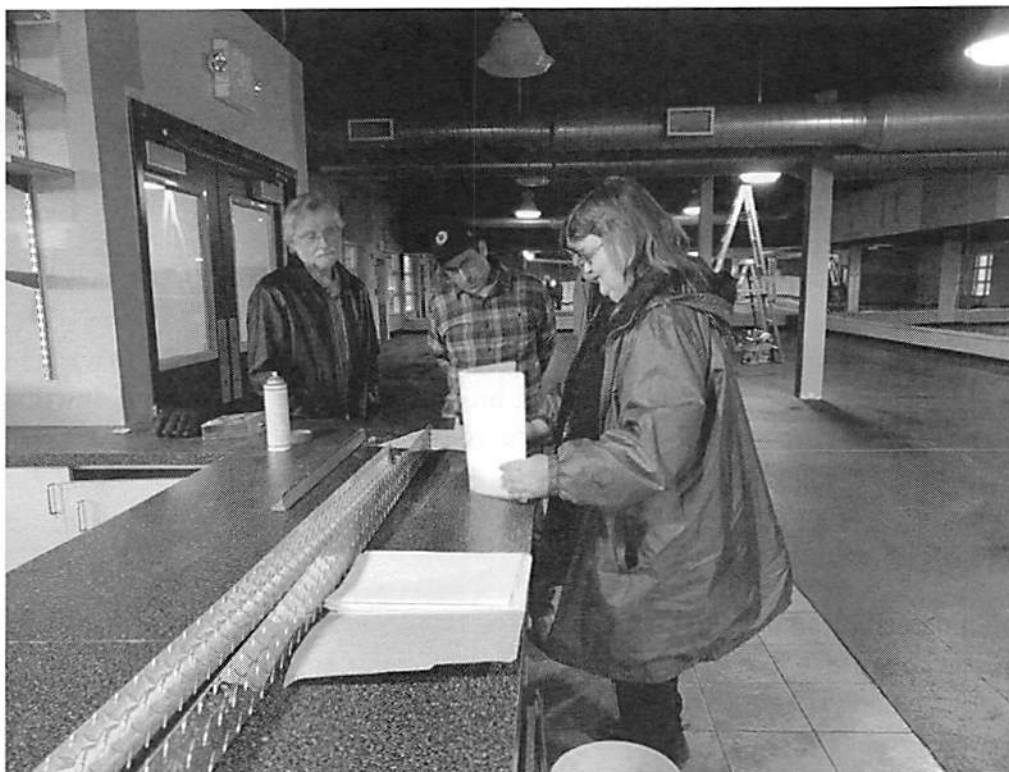
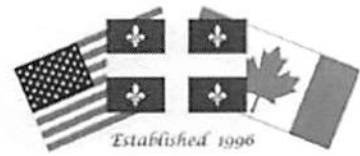


Figure 3: Signing the lease. Left to Right: Ed McGuire, Landlord Brian Marcotte, John Barrows and President Marcie Croker. Our new space is in the background. Photo by Peter Crosby.



Figure 4: The old Planet Fitness space soon to be the VT Genealogy Library. Photo by Peter Crosby.



GENEALOGY LIBRARY FUNDRAISER

The Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society is excited to be moving to our new space in Pinewood Plaza. The new space will be cleaner, brighter and more welcoming. It will afford us opportunities to grow, but moving will be expensive. We would like to raise \$30,000 to pay for fitting up the new space and moving expenses.

These funds are for:

- Building walls and placing doors
- Electrical work
- Moving expenses
- Signage
- New brochures, bookmarks, business cards, etc.
- Furniture - kitchen cabinets, under counter fridge, additional bookcases, tables, etc.

Donations can be made in a few ways:

- Online at <https://vtgenlib.org/store/donate/index.php>
- By check payable to VT-FCGS

Mail to: VT-FCGS
P.O. Box 65128
Burlington, VT 05406-5128

- In person at:

Before we move: Dupont Hall, Hegeman Avenue, Fort Ethan Allen, Colchester

After we move: Pinewood Plaza, 57 River Road (Rte. 117), Suite 1027,
Essex

Please let us know if your employer will match your donations.

The Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization. Donations to the VT-FCGS are generally considered to be tax deductible contributions.



HELP WANTED

Our society is looking for help with the following: (Contact library@vtgenlib.org if interested)

- **Member of the Board of Directors**

Do you want to be in on steering the Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society and the Vermont Genealogy Library to success? A vacancy has opened up on the VTFCGS Board of Directors. We usually meet the second Wednesday of the month from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

- **Fund Raising Committee**

We would like to create a fund raising committee in order to secure our future long term.

- **Research Coordinator**

We need someone to coordinate the queries and research requests that come in to the Vermont Genealogy Library. This person would keep track of these requests, logging them in, sending them to the appropriate researchers, making sure payments have been received, following up with the researchers and the requestors, and generally making sure the requests don't fall through the cracks. This person is not expected to do any of the research, but may if they choose.

- **Volunteer Coordinator**

We need someone to take over coordinating the volunteers, especially those who staff the Vermont Genealogy Library. Sending periodic requests to fill empty slots in the schedule usually only needs to happen once a week or so.

- **Advertising / Publicity**

We need a couple of volunteers to join our advertising team to help with publicity, especially designing and creating paid ads to put in local media. As we continue to grow, having a marketing director would be a real asset.

- **Grant Writing**

We are aware that there is grant money that may be available to us, but we need help finding and writing these grants. We have the beginnings of a committee, but would like to add a few more people.

- **Conference Speaker Organizer**

We need someone to assist the conference organizer and recommend conference speakers, check on availability, and book them for our Annual Conference.

- **Website Maintenance**

We are looking for someone to help with basic website maintenance for the Vermont Genealogy Library

- **Other Volunteers**

We are always in need of more volunteers, especially staffing the library. Whether you think you know a lot about genealogy or not, we could use more help with the following:

- Transcribing parish books or translating foreign languages
- Presenting information about your research on other nationalities and ethnic groups
- Greeting people at the front door, collecting daily research fees from non-members, and giving directions
- Collecting fees, keeping statistics, and giving out handouts at our classes and webinars
- Helping set up A/V equipment for classes, webinars and special interest groups
- General library help - shelving books, relabeling, etc.
- Yes, you can also help with some of our research projects and queries from members and visitors
- Writing articles for LINKS - Contact Peter Crosby with submissions

LIBRARY WISH LIST

The Vermont Genealogy Library is looking for a few things for our new library. They can be either new or used, but clean and in good shape:

- Small Round or Square 36-inch table
- One 60" x 36" table or two small 30" x 36" tables

Are you remodeling your kitchen? We could use the following:

- Under Counter Refrigerator – 24" x 24" x 36"
- Kitchen Cabinets – No need to worry about a sink
 - 9' Wall Cabinets
 - 7' Base Cabiness
- 9' Kitchen Countertop

Please contact library@vtgenlib.org or Marcie.Crocker@uvm.edu if you can supply any of these items.

When Linear Genealogy Research is Not Sufficient

Irish Brick Wall Breached or Bypassed.

By Peter Crosby member 1071

My 2nd great grandmother who was born somewhere in Ireland, then immigrated to Vermont, married, became a farm wife, bore fifteen children and died in Richmond, Vermont. Mary C. Doyle married John McGovern in May of 1865 at the Holy Rosary Church in Richmond. They owned and operated a farm on Hillview Road and partnered with John's younger brother Patrick.

Genealogy information for Civil War veteran John McGovern is somewhat clear, as he was born in County Mayo and his mother Katherine Lavell lived with them, probably until her death sometime after 1880. His wife Mary C. Doyle's background, until recently, was a mystery. It was unknown where in Ireland she was born and what her parents' names really were. My investigative searches for over forty years using the standard available research assets were not very helpful in answering these questions. Ireland is a big place, and there are many women named Mary Doyle.

My Research

US Census 1870-1910: Information from these reports: I learned that Mary Doyle could not read and write, was born in Ireland and immigrated to Vermont in 1865; additionally, that both of her parents were born in Ireland.

Vermont Vital Records: Mary Doyle's Vermont death index card from 1913 listed her mother as Cecilia () and had John Doyle as her father. I never did find a marriage index card specifically for her as the bride and her family; however, there is one card available recording John McGovern and his family, with Mary as the bride.

Newspapers.com: Burlington Free Press has a 1913 funeral held announcement article but it does not mention her parents' identity.

Ancestry.com, Family Search.org, Find my Past.com: All were more or less no help at this point. Other people's family trees were not helpful and all seemed to be emulating my scant information and limited vital records.

Vermont French Canadian Genealogy Society Parish Book Collection: An interesting clue was from our Diocese of Burlington parish books. There was an entry for the marriage of John McGovern and Mary Doyle on May 7, 1865 at Holy Rosary Church in Richmond, Vermont. It listed the parents' names as Patrick McGovern and Catherine Lavell for him and John Doyle and

Cecilia Coing for her. This is the only source of a last name for Mary's mother in any record I have ever encountered.

Richmond, VT		
Mr. & Mrs. Howard McGuire		
McGoven, John Joseph	7 May 1865	Doyle, Mary
McGoven, Patrick & Lavale, Catherine		Doyle, John & Coing, Cecilia
Richmond, VT, age 22		Richmond, VT, age 18
Patrick Downs & Mary Hobin		
Groom and bride born in Ireland; Marriage date could be 1 May		
McGovern, Charles	3 Aug 1920	Butler, Abbie Marie

John Doyle, as it turns out, is a very common name from all over Ireland, so that name did not lead to any breakthroughs as to what area of Ireland I needed to look; however, Cecilia Coing is not common at all and may be a source for a good lead. The name Coing did not seem to compute as a searchable Irish name. It occurred to me that the surname might be a mistake. I modified it to Coyne. Research into Coyne did not bear any fruit, as that is also an uncommon name in Ireland.

Brick Wall

Here is where linear genealogy does not get you what you want. Where do I go from here? I need to get really creative as Doyle is a very common surname from all parts of Ireland and successfully finding Coing or Coyne was not going to work either. Genealogy brick walls are solid and the best way to get where you want is to go is around it over it or under it. I turned my attention to go sideways in my research. I thought that there must be some of Mary's family in the area at that period of time. After all there is a reason why she came to Vermont. Being saddled with the very common Irish last name of Doyle to research, I am now looking for a possible family connection in northern Vermont.

Latest New Research

Ancestry.com: A search for people named Doyle under the "Search" tab; "Card Catalog"; "US Census for Vermont" led to a few possible leads of Doyle families in the northern Vermont area. The first one that stood out was a man John Doyle from the 1840 US Census from Essex, Vermont. Generally the 1840 Census is not very helpful as they only list the name of the head of the family and not many other useful tidbits. The next one that stood out was Edward Doyle from Saint Albans, Vermont, listed in the 1860 US Census. This entry caught my attention because his oldest daughter's name was Cecilia. What are the chances of that? This has to be a relative. There was a small problem with my theory. Edward Doyle was born in 1828 and Mary Doyle was born about 1848. A twenty year spread is a big difference for siblings but not impossible. My theory is Edward must have been the oldest brother who came to America in 1850 and Mary was possibly the baby of the family coming here in 1865. My brother and sister theory can still

hold water. There is one more person of interest from the Saint Albans 1870 US Census, a Joseph Doyle which could be another relative.

DEATH-FEMALE					
Full Name of Deceased	Mary McGovern				
Usual Residence	Richmond				
If in Hospital or Institution, its Name					
Color	White	Age	64 Yrs. 9 Mos.	Days	Single Married Widowed Divorced
Occupation	Housewife				
Birthplace	Ireland				
Father's Name	John Doyle				
Father's Birthplace	Ireland				
Mother's Maiden Name	Cecilia				
Mother's Birthplace	Ireland				
Date of Death	April	Month	25 th	Day	AD. 1913
Disease Causing Death	Pulmonary Tuberculosis				
Contributing Disease	W. H. Black. M.D.				
Medical Attendant	28				
Town	Richmond				
	Certified Copy Salmon Green Town Clerk				

I looked into Edward Doyle; he entered the United States in 1850 possibly in the Port of New York. Edward ended up living in Baltimore, Maryland where he got married to Ann Mullen in 1853. Edward and Ann had three children in Baltimore. Sometime about 1860 Edward moved to Saint Albans, Vermont. The move might have been prompted due to saber rattling as a prelude to the Civil War. Maryland was a slave state that did eventually side with the Northern States after some internal conflicts and bickering. A move from harm's way at the time must have been prudent.

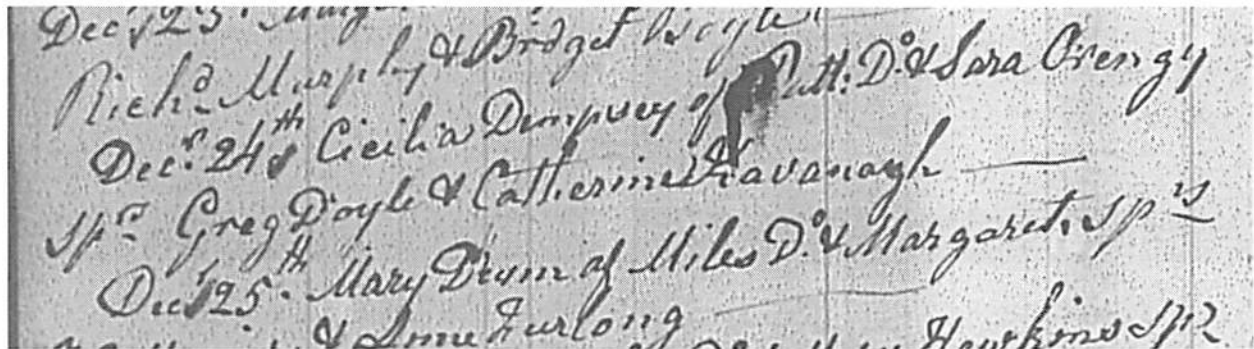
More follow-up with Ancestry research turned up a naturalization certificate for John of Essex and Edward of Saint Albans. The results from Ancestry about Edward Doyle's naturalization finally popped up near the top of the list after many searches with the same parameters. I swear that the AI algorithms at Ancestry.com purposely hold up results as a technique to keep you coming back and subscribing. The naturalization results gave the birth location for John Doyle as County Westmeath, Ireland, and the birth place of Edward was County Wexford. Being from different counties Edward and John did not seem to be closely related if at all. At this point I thought Edward was still the best bet to look further as he was the one who had a daughter named Cecilia and now we have location in Ireland to search.

Find My Past.com: The name Cecilia is not that common in 19th century Ireland, certainly not like Mary, Catherine, Bridget or Ann. I performed a search for only the first name "Cecilia," allowing spelling variances for all of Ireland with the birth dates ranging from 1795 to 1810. The

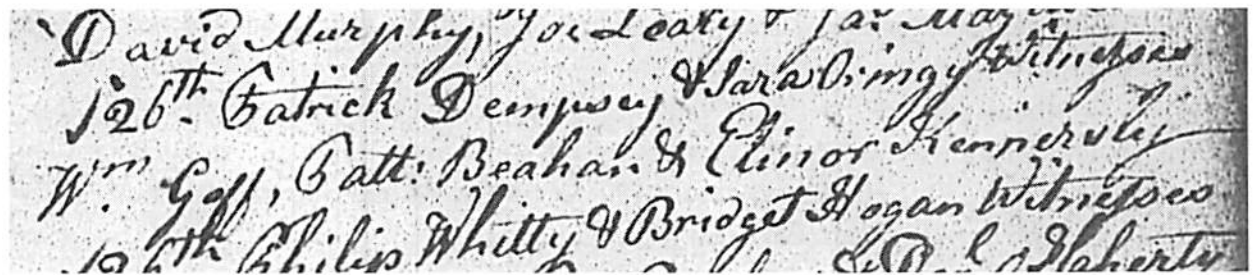
results rendered a list of sixty-nine different women, all with different last names from all over Ireland. This rendered list contained only two Cecilia named women from County Wexford. Their names were: Cecilia Dempsey from Enniscorthy, and Cecilia Murphy from Litter.

The French Connection

National Library of Ireland, Catholic parish records: I started my research with Cecilia Dempsey looking for her baptism in Enniscorthy. I found the record without too much trouble and the December 24, 1803 baptism listed her parents as Patrick Dempsey and Sara Orengy, with the recorded sponsors listed; Greg Doyle and Catherine Kavanagh. Greg Doyle! I do see a pattern developing here. The Dempsey family was defiantly friends with members of the Doyle family in County Wexford. What a small world! I also found the marriage record for Patrick Dempsey and Sara Orengy (possibly spelled in French d'Orengy. They were married on March 26, 1797 in the same parish of Enniscorthy.



Sara Orengy and her parents were French and were no doubt refugees of the French Revolution where there was an ongoing mass exodus out of France due to the terror that took place in the 1790s. What was called the "French emigration of (1789-1815)" middle class and elite French families were forced to run for their lives in great numbers to neighboring countries (Ireland too) to avoid getting caught up in the bloodshed. When the people exited they abandoned their property and were never allowed back, as they faced the death penalty if they did so. They all found in order to survive they needed to quickly assimilate into their adopted country. Parts of Ireland being mostly Catholic made the assimilation that much easier.



The name Orengy seems to be from a family of one of the Lords of Paris, in which there was a Lord Gillaume d'Orengy who at one time was the Lord of the County of Orange in southern

France. Sara's family was in all likelihood related or descended from that elite French family and they would have certainly been a target of public retribution. This interesting French connection was a twist in my family story that I was not expecting.

The Irish Connection

The next task is how I can possibly link these people in Ireland to my people of interest in Vermont. Review of the names led me to the answer. Edward's oldest three children, from again the 1860 US Census, are Cecilia, Patrick and Sarah. Cecilia Dempsey from County Wexford has to be the mother of Edward Doyle we are looking for. He had named his children after his mother and the maternal grandparents. That piece of the puzzle fits perfectly. Mary Doyle McGovern also named her first born and oldest daughter Cecilia showing strong evidence that they are indeed related.

The preponderance of the evidence is overwhelming that Edward Doyle is a son of Cecilia Dempsey. Even though I do not have a marriage record to prove it, I have no doubt Cecilia Dempsey married a John Doyle but, was this man the same John Doyle who is Mary's father? The trick is can I establish enough evidence to connect Edward and Mary as siblings. Theoretically Edward Doyle must have been the anchor person for the Doyles to come to the area, as was commonly done. Let us look more into the Doyles and the Saint Albans connection.

Evidence of Relationship by Disassociation

Relationship and Disassociation in a way seems contradictory but in this case shows these people did not seem to interact much. Reviewing the Vermont French Canadian Genealogy Society Parish Book Collection of the Doyle families in Saint Albans, Saint Mary's Church records yielded several Doyle families. An examination of an 1866 baptism gave me an impression that Edward was indeed related to Joseph Doyle who was recorded as a godfather of one of Edward's children showing they were close. Review of the book from the Holy Rosary Church in Richmond did not list any Doyle family members as witnesses or sponsors for the McGovern children. Apparently the McGovern and Doyle families did not mix. Had the Doyle family members showed up as godparents in the McGovern family baptism entries that would have clearly tied the relationships into a nice little knot. That does not seem to be the case. Possibly the distance of about fifty miles was a reason but in the 1870s there was a very good train service directly serving Richmond and Saint Albans.

Another little bit of evidence showing that the Doyle members did not associate much with the McGoverns is that Mary Doyle's obituary did not mention any Doyles attending from "out of town." From the evidence of the church records and newspaper clipping it looks as if the Doyle and McGovern families were related they did not get along as well as one might think.

The fact is that Mary Doyle immigrated to Vermont in 1865, which is coincidentally about the same time Joseph Doyle becomes a resident in Saint Albans. It makes sense that eighteen year old

Mary needed to travel with someone, and I think it was Joseph, who was four years older. There might have been some brewing tensions between Edward (the oldest) and Mary (the youngest). Mary might have resented that Edward emigrated in 1850, leaving her and her siblings to take care of the old folks until they passed away.

Additionally I think the Doyle family in Ireland might have been a little dysfunctional, as no one seemed to have passed down the name of John as a tribute to their father John Doyle, but did lovingly pass down the name of their mother Cecilia Dempsey and her parents.

Summary of Facts

- Mary and Edward Doyle were born in Ireland.
- Edward was born in County Wexford per his naturalization papers.
- Edward, Joseph and Mary Doyle all settled in Vermont.
- Both Mary and Edward named their oldest daughters Cecilia.
- The name Cecilia was a relatively rare name in 19th century Ireland.
- Cecilia Dempsey was born and baptized in Enniscorthy, County Wexford, daughter of Patrick and Sara.
- Edward's three oldest children must have been named after his maternal side of the family.
- Joseph Doyle entered the Vermont scene about 1865 around the same time as Mary.
- Joseph was naturalized in Vermont in 1872. County Wexford was also listed as his birthplace.
- Joseph lived in Saint Albans in the same town as Edward.
- Joseph was a godparent for Edward's daughter Mary Ellen in 1866.
- Mary C. Doyle's middle name was possibly Cecilia.

I believe I now have enough circumstantial evidence to call Mary C. Doyle McGovern and Edward and Joseph Doyle of Saint Albans siblings. Although there is no clear cut linear path to prove it. I think looking around the brick wall answers some questions and begs answers to others.

Without the Parish book collection at the Vermont Genealogy Library I would have not been able to associate Edward and Joseph Doyle as brothers. It also gave me confirmation that Mary's mother was indeed Cecilia. Also I would like to thank my cousin and fellow VT-FCGS member Nancy L'Ecuyer for her input and encouragement.

**Additions to the collections
Lynn Johnson # 581**

Maine

Ten additional volumes of the *200 Family Trees from France to Canada* series were purchased this year bringing our collection to 65 of the 82 volumes available. The family trees included in these volumes are French-Canadian family surname lines. The author, Father Youville Labonte, started with obituaries printed in newspapers in Auburn, Lewiston, Farmington, Sanford, Biddeford, Brunswick, and other towns in Maine; as well as Lowell, Fall River, MA; Berlin, Portsmouth, NH; and Woonsocket, RI, to name a few. Using these starting points he then traced each ancestral line back as far as he could. The results are worth a look if you have New England ancestors whose obituaries would have been printed in the 1980s through the early 2000s. These 10 newest volumes will be added to the shelves when we move into our new home.

We also purchased *The Repertoire of Marriages of St. Hyacinthe & St. Mary, Westbrook, Maine* to help you with your searches.

New York State

New York State is a difficult area to research so hopefully the addition of more publications by the American Canadian Genealogical Society will prove helpful.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Albany, NY, Baptisms 1874-2010

Established in 1875, the church was created to serve the growing population settling north of Tivoli Street which had previously been served by St. Joseph Parish. The area included the portion of Albany known as North Albany or Limerick, as it came to be known because of its significant Irish immigrant population. 5,906 baptisms are noted.

St. Jean Baptiste, Troy, NY, Baptisms 1852-1970

This book starts with a brief history of this predominantly French church, and, as is also true of the baptismal book for Sacred Heart the baptismal records sometimes include notes providing information as to the child's future spouse and where their marriage took place. There are 5,961 baptismal records.

St. Patrick, Albany, NY Marriages 1859-2006

Created as an Irish parish St. Patrick's covered territory taken from part of the oldest church in the Albany Diocese, St. Mary's, which was founded in 1797. In later years the parish was populated by Italian, French and others. Baptismal information, residence or the ages of the bride and groom are sometimes included in the 4,379 records.

Quebec

St. Édouard de Napierville 1833-1966, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials is a thorough and well organized two-volume set by the Société d'histoire du Haut-Richelieu in St. Jean, Quebec.

Miscellaneous

The *Dictionary of Americanized French-Canadian Names* was added to our collection of books designed to help you with those name changes that can make genealogy searches frustrating.

Books to help you find your ancestors in nine of the counties of Ireland were also added.

Donations

A huge family research project by Arlene Martell was organized into books for various family lines and added into the Family History section.

Books on various aspects of the Revolutionary War were also donated to us and added in.

All of these donations were received before our pending move was announced. As mentioned previously we would appreciate it if further donations waited until we are settled in the new space.

Happy reading and researching!



Have you made multiple backup copies of your family tree files and associated media?

Genetic Genealogy: 2019 in Review

By Ed McGuire

Introduction

In the past two years the DNA testing community has seen rapid change. In 2019, the DNA databases at the four major companies grew by over 10 million kits. This growth has provided those researchers who have connected to DNA cousin with the potential to breach many stubborn brick walls. Much like 2018, new third-party tools have been developed to more effectively utilize these connections to DNA cousins and significantly reduce the work involved. In this article we'll discuss the major changes and how they assist genetic genealogists with the analysis of their results. All forms of online activity generate the potential for a loss of privacy and we'll also cover that issue as it relates to one's DNA results.

New DNA Analysis Tools

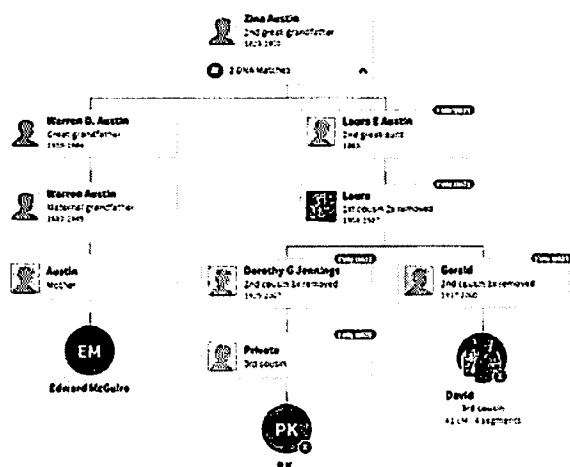
The four major DNA testing companies (FamilyTreeDNA, 23andMe, Ancestry and MyHeritage) have each developed tools to help us analyze our DNA results. Each company provides ethnicity maps that indicate possible location where our ancestors lived. And each company also provides a list of other testers who have various sized regions of DNA that are identical to ours. The more of this shared DNA – the closer these other testers are to us. These lists often include the testers' location, surnames, family trees and contact information. It is here that the companies' tools diverge from each other.

AncestryDNA

The company with the weakest tool set is AncestryDNA, and it was good to see a couple of improvements in 2019. The first announcement was a replacement for their much-maligned tool called "DNA Circles." It attempted to combine a DNA connection between multiple testers with any existing family trees they shared. In February, Ancestry announced a new program called

"ThruLines" which is both more intuitive and more effective in identifying a possible common ancestor who provided the shared DNA for a group of matches. ThruLines is getting a much better reception from the genetic genealogy community.

One inherent weakness in the tool is a dependence on the accuracy of user-supplied family trees (a problem at all DNA testing companies). Researchers must remember to verify the information in any trees they use

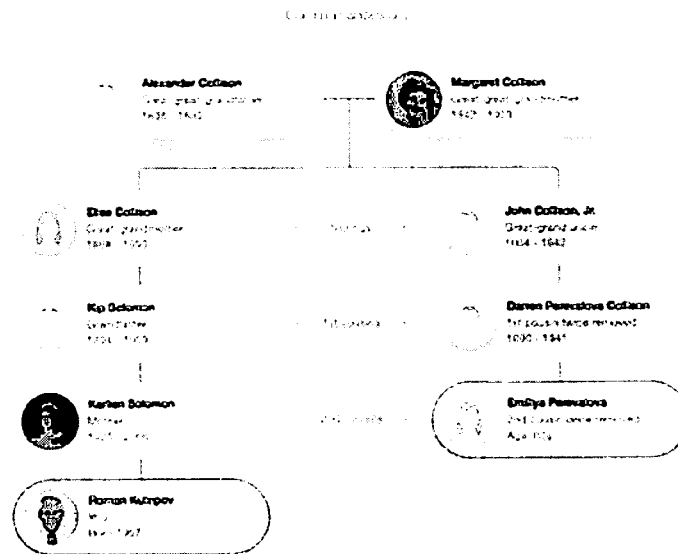


to determine a relationship to a common ancestor.

Later in the year, AncestryDNA introduced a major change to the interface that testers use to sort, search and label the connections to their matches. While this doesn't add any new functionality, the new interface is a much more efficient and productive environment and received rave reviews.

MyHeritageDNA

Not to be outdone, AncestryDNA's main competitor in this market, MyHeritage, introduced its own version of "Thurlines" in February called "The Theory of Family Relativity." It attempts to do the same thing and uses the same two building blocks – shared DNA segments between multiple testers and family trees which collectively suggest a common ancestor.



MyHeritage has a smaller database of individual family trees but they have overcome this by linking to a couple of massive “one-world-trees” at FamilySearch.org and at Geni.com. The advantage of these single instance trees is that genealogists collaborate and build the tree using identified sources. In general, these trees are considerably more accurate than a vast collection of individual online trees submitted by researchers of widely varying levels of experience.

In addition to connections within these trees, The Theory of Family Relativity also analyzes historical records within MyHeritage's large collections using its Smart Match technology to help verify connections between the ancestors of various matches. The results are less dependent on the accuracy of individual family trees and this tool has received equal acceptance from MyHeritage's customers.

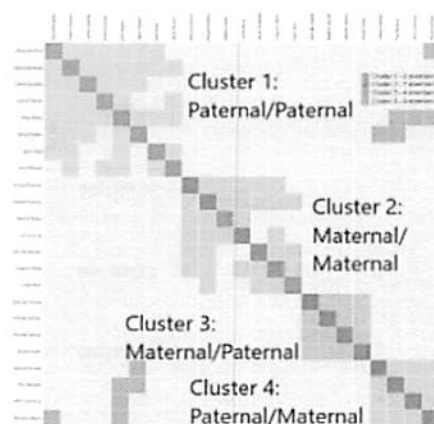
Auto Clustering Tools

Genetic Genealogists are not limited to the tools and interfaces provided by the major testing companies. From its start, this field has benefitted from the technical skills of enterprising researchers. Third-party sites like GEDmatch, DNAGedcom and DNA Painter have provided missing functionality and developed entirely new analysis tools. 2019 was the year we were introduced to “AutoClustering” of all those DNA matches.

This tool was developed by a company called Genetic Affairs. It takes a list of your DNA matches at a given company and searches for other testers who share DNA with both of you. These collections of several people who all share DNA with each other are likely places to look for DNA cousins who have a common ancestor in their trees and yours.

By looking for these relationships Genetic Affairs’ software can sort your matches into color-coded blocks that are all related and, in a matter of seconds, generate a chart. This community of matches who all share DNA with each other can jointly search for that common ancestor.

“AutoClustering” has taken the genetic community by storm in 2019. It is so efficient and productive that both MyHeritage and GEDmatch have incorporated it directly into their suites of tools.



Privacy & Security Concerns Affect Sales

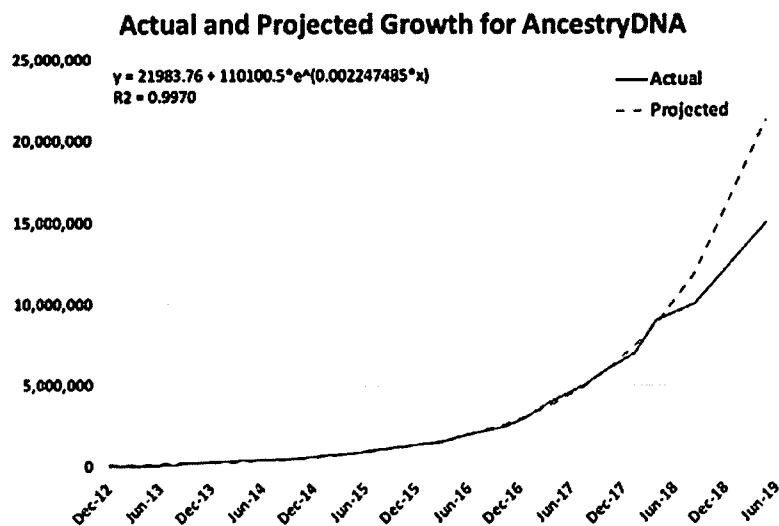
Perhaps no group of researchers has more enthusiastically employed DNA testing than adoptees. With access to birth records having been blocked for decades there were few avenues available to them. DNA tests provided a potential end-run around state authorities. Innovative tools were developed to assist adoptees and a group of dedicated volunteer genealogists coalesced into “DNA Adoption Angels” who invest hundreds of hours in each case. Once an adoptee’s DNA match results point to a common ancestor the researchers perform “reverse genealogy” to trace that ancestor’s descendants back to living people and, hopefully, birth parents.

However, in 2018 this same technique was employed to identify the “Golden State Killer.” Very quickly other law enforcement agencies were rushing to use DNA evidence from unsolved crimes to solve hundreds of “cold cases.” Although the three largest companies refused to provide access to their databases one database existed at a 3rd party site, GEDmatch, which could easily be accessed if test results could be provided from a DNA sample.

GEDmatch is an extremely useful database with a cult-like following among genetic genealogists and over 1.5 million kits have been uploaded for analysis. It allows testers from any company to

compare their results with potential matches at any other company - if both kits are uploaded to this database. Based on the fundamentally open nature of the upload process the owners of GEDmatch didn't have a good way to keep police samples out of this database. They appeared to view the first few cases as an example of a public service but have since put all kits in an "opt-in" only status. Users will have to actively select their kits to make them available for this forensic analysis by police departments. FamilyTreeDNA, the smallest testing company, has followed a similar strategy, while AncestryDNA and 23andMe have refused police requests. MyHeritage, based in Israel, is also not participating.

All of this appears to have had an impact on individuals' willingness to submit a DNA test. Beginning in April 2018 and continuing throughout this past year, the pace of sales has flattened noticeably.



Source: Dr. Leah Larkin (thednageek.com/genealogical-database-growth-slows/)

Sales had been increasing exponentially quarter after quarter since 2016. Had that continued AncestryDNA would have gone from 9 million kits to 21 million. In fact, it grew at half that rate. Other factors could have influenced kit sales such as market saturation, but the sudden moderation in growth at all four companies in April of 2018 is quite the coincidence.

All eyes will be on the kit market in 2020 to observe whether this shift is permanent. However, we should keep in mind that each company's sales continued to grow, and 6 million kits in just over a year at AncestryDNA is still quite impressive.

Hopefully 2020 will be a year of less controversy yet just as much innovation and new analysis tools.

Calendars Explained

From Eastman's Genealogy Newsletter

What could be simpler than a calendar? The printed one from the local real estate office shows twelve months, each with 28 to 31 days. Simple, right?

Well, it hasn't always been so simple. After all, I keep stumbling upon genealogy records that are logged with "double dates." That is, a birth record might state "22 February 1732/3." Which was it: 1732 or 1733? Well, it actually was both. Just to make things more complex, back in those days, most of our ancestors didn't know what day it was. You see, most people in the early 1700s and earlier were illiterate. They couldn't read a book, much less a calendar. Most people did not know what day it was or even how old they were. Very few remembered their own birthdays.

Throughout history, learned men kept track of the days, months, and years in a variety of ways. The ancient Egyptians began numbering their years when the star Sirius rose at the same place as the Sun. The Egyptian calendar was the first solar calendar and contained 365 days. These were divided into twelve 30-day months and five days of religious festival.

The calendar used by the ancient Greeks was based on the Moon and is known as the Metonic calendar. This calendar was based on 235 lunar months that made up almost exactly 19 solar years. This 19-year cycle became known as the Metonic cycle. However, given a nominal twelve-month year, an additional lunar month was needed to synchronize the cycle. These were added in years 3, 5, 8, 11, 13, 16, and 19 of the cycle. The Greek calendar was modified several times over the years to compensate for its inaccuracies.

The original Roman calendar was a mess. It originally started the year with the vernal equinox and consisted of 10 months (Martius, Aprilis, Maius, Junius, Quntilis, Sextilis, September, October, November, and December) for a total of 304 days. The 304 days were followed by an unnamed, unnumbered period, simply called "winter." The Roman emperor Numa Pompilius (715-673 BC) introduced February and January between December and March, increasing the length of the year to 354 or 355 days.

In the year 46 BC, Julius Caesar reformed the calendar to a more manageable form. The Julian Calendar consisted of cycles of three 365-day years followed by a 366-day leap year. New Year's Day was celebrated on March 21, the vernal equinox (first day of spring). The calendar was called the Julian Calendar, named after Julius Caesar.

The Venerable Bede, an English scholar who lived from 673-735, noted that the vernal equinox had slipped three days earlier than the traditional March 21. He proposed changes to the calendar, but the changes were not adopted for another 850 years.

By the year 1582, the calendar had slipped to become eleven days off. To make up the difference, Pope Gregory XIII decreed that the day after October 4, 1582, would be October 15, 1582. In other words, everyone lost eleven days. Because of Pope Gregory XIII's decree, the new calendar came to be known as the Gregorian Calendar.

The Catholic countries of France, Spain, Portugal, and Italy followed this decree immediately. Various Catholic German countries (Germany was not yet a unified nation), Belgium, the Netherlands, and Switzerland followed within a year or two, and Hungary followed in 1587.

The Protestant German countries adopted the Gregorian reform in 1700. By this time, the calendar trailed the seasons by twelve days. England finally adopted the Gregorian Calendar in 1752, declaring that Wednesday, September 2, 1752, was immediately followed by Thursday, September 14, 1752. America was a part of England at the time, so the Americans adopted the new calendar on the same date. Their neighbors in Canada had always used the Gregorian Calendar because the land had been settled by the French, who had used the new calendar since 1582. In the 1600s and early 1700s, crossing the border from the British Colonies to the French Colonies meant a change of eleven or twelve days on the calendar!

Turkey and Russia did not change to the new calendar until the early twentieth century. In Greece, 9 March 1924 was followed by 23 March 1924.

Sweden decided to make a gradual change from the Julian to the Gregorian Calendar. By dropping every leap year from 1700 through 1740, they gradually omitted the eleven superfluous days.

The year 1700 (which should have been a leap year in the Julian Calendar) was not a leap year in Sweden. However, by mistake, the Swedish government listed 1704 and 1708 as leap years. This left Sweden out of synchronization with both the Julian and the Gregorian world, so they decided to go "back" to the Julian Calendar. In order to do this, they inserted an extra day in 1712, making that year a double leap year! So in 1712, February had 30 days in Sweden. Babies born the last day of that month had a very unique birthday!

Some religious sects still use a lunar-based calendar to determine holidays. Easter, for instance, generally occurs on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox, although the actual scheme is a bit more complicated.

To summarize, the Julian Calendar was slightly too long, causing the vernal equinox to slowly drift backwards in the calendar year. The Gregorian Calendar system dealt with these problems

by dropping a certain number of days to bring the calendar back into synchronization with the seasons, and then slightly shortening the average number of days in a calendar year by omitting three Julian leap-days every 400 years. Even the Gregorian Calendar we use today is not perfect: astronomers and mathematicians tell us that it is off by one day every 4,000 years.

Under the older Julian Calendar system, while New Year's was celebrated on March 21, the calendar actually began with January. Therefore, any date between January 1 and March 21 was written as a combination of two years. A child born in what is now the United States on February 3 in what we now call 1726 would have a birth date of 3 February 1725/6. Even more confusing, dates between January 1 and March 21 in a year ending in a nine would have a "/0" added, as in 3 February 1729/0. The dates written with a slash followed by another digit are referred to as "Old Style" dates.

Of course, the loss of eleven or twelve days on the calendar certainly confused the calculations often found on tombstones proclaiming that someone died at the age of 76 years, 4 months and 12 days!

When researching old records, the genealogist may often encounter "Old Style" dates such as 3 February 1727/8. Recording such dates on paper is usually simple. However, computer programs may have difficulties.

All of the better genealogy programs of today can accept Old Style dates such as 3 February 1727/8. They will even properly calculate ages from tombstone information listed as "3 February 1729/0." In fact, most genealogy programs written in English will assume that any date entered prior to September 14, 1752 is a double date year. At least one genealogy program allows the user to specify a different year as the date of conversion from the Julian Calendar to the Gregorian. The problem is that all the dates stored in that program get converted!. This is fine for anyone who has all ancestors living in any one country, but it creates a problem for those of us with ancestors from two, three, or more countries.

For instance, my English-speaking ancestors all converted from Julian to Gregorian on September 14, 1752. However, my French-speaking ancestors converted their calendars about one hundred seventy years earlier, on October 15, 1582. If I had Russian ancestry, they would not have converted until 1917. Then there are the Swedes... . What is a person of international ancestry to do?

You can convert Julian dates to Gregorian and vice-versa at <http://pdc.ro.nu/mjd.cgi>. Since this is a web site in English, it seems to use the English date of September 14, 1752, as the date of conversion.

The Royal Descents of 900 Immigrants

by Gary Boyd Roberts

2 volumes, Baltimore 2018

Many Americans with deep roots that include New England Yankee, mid-Atlantic Quaker, or Southern "planter" ancestry have medieval kings in their lineage – especially the kings of England, Scotland and France. This book describes how you may be descended from them, as well as from lesser nobility.

The two-volume set (over 1700 pages) supersedes two earlier editions which covered the royal descents of 500 and 600 immigrants, respectively. It represents over 50 years of effort to survey all serious resources on the subject. The New England Historic Genealogical Society observed that, "A survey of this size has never before been attempted...It summarizes all pertinent research published through 2017 and is by far the most comprehensive treatment of the subject in print."

In this work you can find the royal ancestry of Anne Hutchinson of Rhode Island, Thomas Yale of Connecticut or Maria von Trapp of Vermont. New to this volume are 45 Notable Immigrants to Quebec which link to millions of present-day descendants. That list includes Jean Huard & Anne-Marie Amiot, Jacques Miville & Catherine Baillon and Antoine Desrosiers & Anne du Herisson, among many others.

If you suspect some of your ancestors may have had European nobility or royalty in their lineage then this authoritative work should be your first stop.

HAPPY HOGMANAY!

Submitted by Sheila Morris

Hogmanay is steeped in tradition and ritual. Many Scots will take the time during the day on December 31 to clean the house and pay off all debts prior to the “ringing of the bells” at midnight. This ritual is known as “redding” (getting ready for the New Year). The reason for this is to clear out the remnants of the old year and welcome in a young, New Year with a clean slate.

A few branches of the Rowan tree should be put above the door to bring luck. Inside, Mistletoe is hung to prevent illness to those who live within. Pieces of holly are placed around the house to keep out mischievous fairies. And finally, pieces of hazel are gathered and placed around the home to protect the house and all who live within it. Then all the doors of the home are to be opened to bring in fresh air. Once this final piece of the ritual is completed, the house is then considered to be ready for the New Year. Immediately after midnight, it is traditional to sing "For Auld Lang Syne", in a circle of friends whose linked arms are crossed over one another as the clock strikes midnight for New Year's Day.

Perhaps the most important and revered Hogmanay custom is the practice of 'first-footing' which dates back to the Viking days. This involves the first person to cross the threshold once the New Year bells have been rung. Superstition states that the “first footer” should be a tall male with dark hair. The darker the man's complexion the better, since no one wanted a Viking (raider) turning up on their doorstep - that could only mean trouble! A dark skin tone man represented luck for the rest of the year. In our celebration, this job was always given to our next door neighbor. After midnight was rung in and following the singing of Auld Lang Syne, Alex would gather up whiskey, shortbread, salt and a coin and head out the back door. A few moments later, the front doorbell would ring and in would walk Alex. His gifts represented goodness and abundance for the New Year. The coin represented financial prosperity, salt represented flavor and variety (the spice of life), shortbread represented an abundance of food, and whiskey represented good cheer. These gifts were then shared with the other guests so that the wishes for a good and prosperous year could be spread around.

The most important part of any Hogmanay celebration is that the New Year is rung in with good old-fashioned Scots hospitality. Once the traditional festivities were over, my mum would bring out the food: sausage rolls, meat pies, tattie scones, rolls. The food was shared, the memories built and the friendships strengthened. The party would resume and go on long into the night. As each person left the house, they would be sent off into the early morning with a chorus of “A guid New Year to ane an` a` and mony may ye see!”



Program Rules

1. This program is intended for "Revolutionary War" descendants to become aware of, appreciate, and experience pride in their ancestor's historical participation.
2. Participation is for those who are able to trace a direct blood-line to someone who served in the "Revolutionary War." Only those ancestors who served in the "Revolutionary War" as **PATRIOTS** are eligible.
3. The VT-FCGS "Revolutionary War" Pin Program begins on July 4, 2019.
4. **A \$9.00 application fee** (includes 1 pin) must be submitted along with a completed Chart. The Chart must show the applicant's connection to a "Revolutionary War" Participant (Veteran, Nurse, Spy, etc.) and must be accompanied by proof of the participant's* involvement (a copy of information found on an online database or from a local war registry publication. The application, how-to and blank chart template are available at http://www.vt-fcgs.org/new_Project_Programs.html for you to print out and complete.
Add \$6.00 if the pin has to be mailed (anywhere in the USA).
5. Upon receipt of the application and fee, one 1 " round specially designed pin will be awarded to each successful applicant. Additional pins can be purchased for \$9.00 each.
6. The Application, Chart and proof of participation* in the Revolutionary War should be brought to the VT-FCGS library in Colchester, VT or mailed to VT-FCGS, Revolutionary War Pin Program, P. O. Box 65128, Burlington, VT 05406-5128. *Printed page from any registry, in book form or online image. While only 1 proven chart is required for this program, you can submit as many charts as you like.
7. Revolutionary War Charts will be stored in a 3-ring binder and available for viewing at the VT-FCGS library.



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Application Form - If Member please write in your Member# _____

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Town/City/State _____

Zip Code _____ E-mail address _____

Please include check made out to VT-FCGS or cash with Revolutionary War Pin Program application, chart & proof of participation*

YOUR BIRTH YEAR ==>	BIRTH YEAR	NUMBER OF ANCESTORS
	1950	
1 generation back: parents	1925	2
2 generations back: grandparents	1900	4
3 generations back: great-grandparents	1875	8
4 generations back	1850	16
5 generations back	1825	32
6 generations back	1800	64
7 generations back	1775	128
8 generations back	1750	256
9 generations back	1725	512
10 generations back	1700	1024
11 generations back	1675	2048
12 generations back	1650	4096
13 generations back	1625	8192
14 generations back	1600	16384
15 generations back	1575	32768
16 generations back	1550	65536
17 generations back	1525	131072
18 generations back	1500	262144

*Vermont French-Canadian
Genealogical Society*
P.O. Box 65128
Burlington, VT 05406-5128

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03/10/2020