



The Maple Leaflet

Vol. 27, No. 2

The French-Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut

March 2009

Help!

Time is getting short.

Our faithful mailing director for the last seven years, Richard Blais, is retiring from the job in June.

We desperately need someone to take over.

If you have some spare time at all, please consider it.

The job is of indispensable value to the society and its 500 or so members. Without the mailing director, no one would get their Connecticut Maple Leafs or Leaflets. Or their reminders to renew their membership.

Duties involve mailing out the CML twice a year, the Leaflet four times a year, and about 100 to 150 renewal notices every three months.

That means affixing mailing labels, filling out Post Office form and taking the mailings to the Tolland Post Office. If necessary, help can be arranged with any of these steps.

Richard is ready to offer training and advice.

Please say you'll step in. Call President Sue Paquette at (860) 928-9125. Or leave a message on our phone at the library at (860) 872-2597.

Speaker at May 16 Meeting to Offer Insights How To Research Conn. Town Records

Puzzled about doing research in town records in Connecticut?

You'll have a chance to learn how at the society's spring membership meeting at 1 p.m., Saturday, May 16, at the United Congregational Church in Tolland.

The speaker will be Christine French, a certified Connecticut town clerk since 1998 and full-time assistant town clerk of Woodstock since 2002.

Ms. French will talk about vital records, land records, probate records and other materials found in town clerks' offices throughout Connecticut.

She will also discuss some of the new laws concerning vital records. One, for instance, relates to the fact that recent

records contain Social Security numbers. Another increases fees.

Her talk will also include stories of helping people trace their family histories, both good ones and bad.

"I enjoy helping people trace their family history," she says, "and trace the history of their homes. It's a job with many duties that keep me busy all the time. I rarely ever get bored."

Ms. French has a Canadian background.

One grandfather was Lucien Garceau, a native of Sorel, Quebec, who immigrated to Putnam in the 1920s with his family to work in the mills. He married Germaine Gobin, who was born in Woodstock.

Her other grandfather, of German descent, came from Nova Scotia and ended up marrying a Yankee from Vermont.

Ms. French grew up in Woodstock and attended the Woodstock Public School and Woodstock Academy. She received her bachelor's degree in English with a minor in history from Ohio Wesleyan University.

After college, she taught nursery school in the mornings and worked in the Woodstock tax collector's office in the afternoons. In 1995, she left the nursery school and worked full-time for the town, in both the tax collector's and the town clerk's offices, until becoming assistant town clerk seven years later.

Trip to Quebec, Trois Rivieres Planned for August

Plans are about complete for the annual group trip to Canada, which will be from Sunday, Aug. 2, through Saturday, Aug. 8.

Destinations will be Trois Rivieres for its 375th anniversary celebrations, the National Archives at Laval University in Ste-Foy for genealogical research, Ile d'Orleans to visit some of the parishes, Quebec City for the annual New France Festival, and possibly Beauport

to visit Montmorency Falls.

Travel will be in leased vans or a coach, depending on how many contact tour orga-

nizer Barbara "Bobbie" Paradis by April 1. She can be reached at (203) 393-1272 or by e-mail

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Important Notice

The membership meeting on May 16 will include a vote on whether to increase the annual dues to \$30. The dues have been \$25 for the past eight years. The increase is considered necessary because of rising operating costs and dwindling revenues.

Other business will include the choosing of a nominating committee to bring in a slate for the annual election in October. All six officers and five directors are up for election.

From the Library Director's Desk

By Germaine Allard Hoffman

New Volunteers Always Welcome

We are so fortunate to have many long-term volunteers and welcome those that have joined in the past year. With spring and summer in the very near future we ask that you consider becoming a volunteer librarian. We need you!

On that note, it has come to my attention that we need a volunteer to help in processing a new cataloging system which in the end will improve your research results. Please call me at (860) 623-8721 or leave a message with the librarian if you can help.

Combining Travel with Helpfulness

We believe that each FCGSC member has a right to continued and expanded opportunities for research through our services. So we continue to obtain new collections, and improve our capacity to serve you. The society is thankful to one of our members who recently visited Canada with a list of available repertoires for sale there. Our member was able to purchase a good number of books for the society with a considerable saving in postage, currency exchange and a discount which saved us about \$150.

If you are planning a trip to Canada and are willing to buy repertoires that we might want for our collection, please let me know and I will gladly give you a list of available published repertoires in the area of your travel. You will be promptly reimbursed.

Not Getting Our Publications?

Some members may be wondering why they haven't heard from the society lately. Copies of our last issue of the Connecticut Maple Leaf, as well as the Leaflet, have been returned to us by the Postal Service as undeliverable. This seems to be a problem of incorrect addresses. It is very important that you notify the society of any change of address.

Pass on Your Memories to Others

And lastly, make yourself a promise this year. Invest some time in saving memories. Write in a journal your memories of childhood, of your parents' accomplishments and endeavors, of your family members and their history and stories. It doesn't cost much to make a memory and it's a wonderful legacy to pass on.

The Maple Leaflet

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FOR SALE

(B=Baptisms M=Marriages S=Sepultures A=Annotations)

Duplicate Repertoires (Used, some slightly worn)

Beauharnois County

St-Clement (M) 1818-1968, \$13.50

Brome County (parishes shown with date of founding)

Marriages: Cantons de l'Est (1831), St-Etienne, Bolton (1851), Sutton (1866), Knowlton (1871), Adamsville (1873), Mansonville (1881), Eastman (1894), St-Benoit-du-Lac (1914), Brigham (1925), Abercorn (1941), \$20

L'Île Jesus

Ste-Rose (M) 1740-1970, \$20

Nicolet County

Becancour (M) 1716-1914, \$10

St-Celestin (M) 1851-1964, \$10

Duplicate Repertoires (New)

Berthier County

St-Ignace-de-Loyola (B,M,S,A) 1895-1994, \$40

St-Joseph-de-Lanoraie (B,S,A) 1900-1989, \$40

Champlain County

Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Ste-Madeleine (M) 1673-1920, \$25

Deux Montagnes County

St-Joseph-du-Lac (M) 1855-1984; St-Placide, (M) 1848-1984, \$16

Johnson County

St-Hugues (B,S) 1827-1853, \$60

Other Publications

Dauphinois Dictionary, \$25

Echoes of Old Thompson, Volume I, \$25

Echoes of Old Thompson, Volume II, \$25

Rochambeau in Connecticut: Tracing His Journey, Historic & Architectural Survey, \$20

Rochambeau's Cavalry: Lauzun's Legion in Connecticut, 1780-1781, \$10

En Avant with our French Allies, \$15

Vital Records of Croydon, NH, to the end of 1900, \$55

Vital Records of Hampton, NH, to the end of 1900, \$55

Gleanings from Gravestone Inscriptions, etc., of Brookline, VT, 1737-1987, \$85

Connecticut Maple Leaf Pedigree Charts 1991, \$10

Miscellaneous

Dark blue with attractive FCGSC logos:

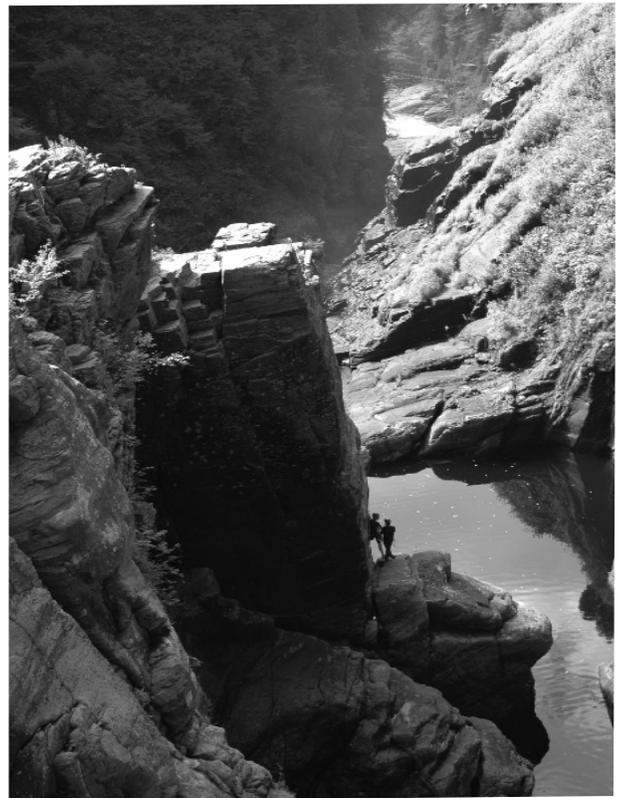
Polo Shirts: Medium, Large, XLarge, XXLLarge, \$22

Tee Shirts: Medium, Large, XLarge, XXLLarge, \$15

Sweat shirts: Medium, Large, XXLLarge, \$20

Hats: (one size fits all), \$12

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SPECTACULAR VIEWS include a 180-foot waterfall, heart-stopping moments from lookouts and rock climbers on a cliff high over the gorge.

Overlooked Canyon Ste-Anne: A Sight to Behold

**Story and Photos
By Ivan Robinson**

Montmorency Falls in Beauport gets all the attention from visitors to the Quebec City area — and deservedly so.

With a drop of 272 feet, it is about 100 feet taller than Niagara Falls, which the locals

will be happy to tell you. It is quickly reached, located only seven miles from Quebec City.

But for my money, it takes a back seat to the spectacular Canyon Ste-Anne, less than 30 minutes farther up the road in Beauport.

Montmorency Falls can

disappoint because it's just off the Avenue Royale (Route 360) — you can see it from your car if you decide just to drive by — and that means you are never out of sight of urban development and its woeful eyesores.

Canyon Ste-Anne, on the other hand, is deep in sylvan

isolation. You reach it in a shuttle from a main building off the main road. When you get there, you're in a natural paradise, overcome by the heart-stopping views into the deep gorge and by the roar of rushing waters and a 180-foot waterfall.

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Canyon

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A confession here: Like many other tourists, I had never heard of the Canyon. In 2007, I drove up into Quebec with my brother and adult nephew on a trip that eventually took us all the way up to the Saguenay River and Lac St-Jean and included some whale watching off Tadoussac. In short, we were being typical tourists.

It was at the Basilica of Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré that, in a peculiar (perhaps miraculous?) way, fortune smiled. I wanted a photo of the front of the Basilica but it was in deep shadow. It would take a couple of hours before the sun would shine on it. So we decided to get back in the car and explore.

We headed east. And that's how we came upon the Canyon Ste-Anne, under four miles from the Basilica. We saw the road signs marking its presence, so we turned in to the big parking lot to check it out.

Footpaths and lookouts along the brink and three suspension bridges spanning the torrent at the top of the water-

fall, in the middle of the canyon and at the bottom give you a close and personal experience.

One bridge is about 200 feet long. It's a walk you won't forget. For the brave, there are zip lines that allow you to swoop in a harness from one side of the gorge to the other.

The place is also a favorite with rock climbers, not to mention photographers.

Canyon Ste-Anne opened to the public in 1973. According to its web site (www.canyonsteanne.qc.ca) it draws 100,000 visitors a year from all over the world. Interpretation panels are in French, English, Spanish, German, Japanese and Mandarin.

The admission fee is \$11 Canadian, and less for children under 18. It includes the round-trip shuttle ride.

The main building has a restaurant of sorts and a picnic area. The canyon is open to the public from May 1 to the third week of October.

(P.S. We returned to the Basilica after our adventure and I ended up by getting great photos of that splendid holy place in full sun, as I wanted.)

FOR SALE

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- Canvas Bags: \$15
- Mugs: \$5
- Canada Flag decal: \$1 each plus 42 cents postage
- Quebec Flag decal: \$1 each plus 42 cents postage
- Connecticut Maple Leaf, Vols. 1 through 9, \$1 each
- Connecticut Maple Leaf, Vols. 10 through 13, \$5 each

(All amounts payable in U.S. funds. Check should be made out to FCGSC. Shipping and handling charges (U.S. only), unless otherwise stated, are \$3 for first item, \$1.50 each additional item except for CMLs, which are \$1.50 per issue. Please contact our office at (860) 872-2597 to be sure what you're interested in is available.)

Quebec Trip

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at baparadis@hotmail.com. A \$100 deposit to her will be required by May 1, with the balance due June 15.

Pickup points for the trip north will be in Watertown and West Hartford, Conn., Springfield, Mass., and Springfield, Vt.

The cost of the tour has yet to be determined. Hotel costs will be separate. This year, for the first time, travelers will have to reserve rooms on their own at the tour's home base, the Hotel Delta in Quebec City.

Bobbie has had a block of 10 double-occupancy rooms set aside for the tour. Check with her for the contact information.

The Case of the Found Marriage Certificate

We're still looking for the owner of a certified copy of a certificate of marriage that was discovered in a box in our basement. It is from St. Joseph Church in Springfield, Mass. The marriage took place Jan. 23, 1893, between Ferdinand Berube and Genevieve Gour. If the certificate belongs to you, please contact Library Director Germaine Hoffman at (860) 623-8721.

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French-Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut P.O. Box 928 Tolland, CT 06084-0928 CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED MARCH 2009

Library Hours

Monday 1-5

Wednesday 1-5

Saturday 9-4

Sunday 1-4