

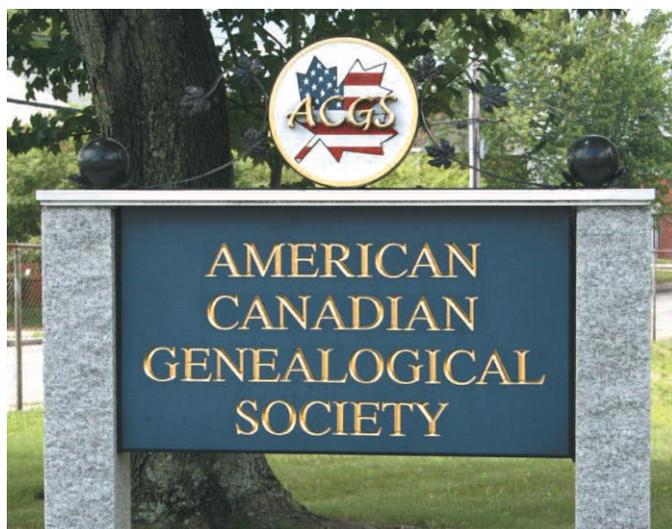
*AMERICAN-CANADIAN
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY*



*Leaders in French Canadian,
Franco American
and Acadian Genealogy*

4 Elm Street • Manchester, NH • 603-622-1554

**Fall Conference and Annual Meeting
Saturday, September 24th, 2016**



Puritan Restaurant – Pappas Room
Route 28 – Manchester, NH

Annual Meeting Reports

September 24, 2016

President's Report September 2016

As many of you may already know, I have announced my intention to the Board not to seek re-election today. In addition to the fact that my work requirements are taking more of my free time – as well as increased responsibilities in my other avocation as an umpire, I have been on the Board in some capacity for the past 12 years, and I simply need to take a much needed break. I can no longer devote the time and attention I believe the Society deserves from its President given these competing demands. But your Society will be in good hands, as the Nominating Committee has come up with a very good slate of seasoned Society volunteers, and will allow others to concentrate on one or two areas of responsibility. I am grateful for having had the opportunity to work with such dedicated Boards in my tenure as President and prior positions. I want to publicly thank all of our Board members, Officers and volunteers for everything they do for our Society.

I would like to use this forum to provide an overview of your Society's health and status. Financially, while I do not anticipate that we will be rolling in endowments, I am very pleased to report that we are sound financially. We have stabilized our maintenance expenses, continue to earn rental income (more on that later), are relatively stable with our membership and thanks to the re-formatting of our excellent Research Department, seeing increased revenues from this area. Of course, our Conference Chairs, Workshop Coordinators and Library Board volunteers always bring an excellent value to our workshops and conferences. At Pauline **Cusson**'s request with her stepping down as Treasurer after an extended tenure, an external audit of our financials was commissioned and I hope to see that letter or report available to you with the Treasurer's documents. My thanks to Norma **Boyce** for all of her work on this, and to Pauline **Cusson** for her many years of work as Treasurer getting grey when she had to worry about robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Our physical plant and fixtures are also sound. Herb **Boyce** does an excellent job coordinating services for our little enterprise at ACGS. Barring any catastrophes, the large masonry project should serve this building well for many years. Our newest tenant – our little builders with *Girls at Work* and Elaine **Hamel**, have made tremendous improvements to our ground floor spaces with outside volunteers, and have spruced up the W. Baker Street side of the building with a newly painted chain link fence and the addition of raised bed gardens for flowers and vegetables, as well as some fruit trees planted along the property line. The library itself is organized, clean and functional, and pleasant to do research in – which I believe is still a valuable and necessary function of a genealogical society in this online age of research.

Our on-line presence continues to grow. Our Webmaster Kevin **Grooms** has done a spectacular job of giving us a clean, functional website, and even assisted us with a recent migration from our former webhosting service after we suffered some significant malware attacks. My hope is that by the end of this calendar, year, we will have the

ability to have online membership application and payment – as well as renewals, as a trial run up to our long-sought after “Members Only” online portal. My thanks as well to Gerry Savard – who carried most of the Computer Committee responsibilities for the longest time and to Chris **Gonyea** – who volunteered to now coordinate these efforts. As often as I sometime get discouraged by the snail’s pace of progress, I still have to remind myself of the fact that this Society runs entirely on volunteers and put it all in perspective. I am certain that your new President will make this online presence a priority.

Last but certainly not least, I’d like to speak to the lifeblood of this organization. While we can never have enough, and I am relentless in asking for help, I do have to state this: we have – simply, the best volunteers. Some – we only see once a month for their three hour desk duty, but they are here religiously. Others are willing to help out whenever they can and take extra work on. Still others are wearing four or five different hats, have numerous irons in the proverbial fire, and all of them do so with a dedication and love for genealogical research and this Society, and for that I am eternally grateful. As President of this Society, it can never be said enough or loudly enough, but on behalf our members and patrons, THANK YOU for all that you do in big ways and small. And to our members and benefactors, I will repeat this (for the last time as President anyhow), THANK YOU for your continued support. We exist because of you and for you.

It has been my privilege to serve as President these past two and one half years. I have always been proud to be associated with the American Canadian Genealogical Society, and I leave strong in the knowledge that she is in capable hands. I plan to remain as a volunteer and will help out when and as I can, but it will be nice to be “just” the librarian on duty or a member coming in to do my own neglected research.

With that, I will close here. Like any good genealogist or historian, I hope that when people look back on my stewardship of this Society, it is done so gently and kindly, and that the Society was left a little better off. Unlike the current politics in government, our succession here is civilized, orderly and with no thought to party or politics...just the hope that at the end of the next President’s term(s), the Society had flourished and improved – even if a little at a time. My best wishes to the incoming Board for a successful year ahead.

ACGS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
September 26, 2015

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at the Puritan Back Room, Manchester, NH at 1:52 P.M. by President, James **Gaudet**. The President recognized a quorum of members present without objection.

IN ATTENDANCE were the following officers: James **Gaudet**, President; Bernadette **Meunier**, Vice-President; Pauline **Cusson**, Treasurer; and Cecile **Durocher**, Recording Secretary; and the following directors: Larry **Autotte**, Cecile **Durocher**, Gerry **Lalonde**, and Janine **Penfield**. Also in attendance were approximately 20 ACGS members.

SECRETARY’S MINUTES – September 27, 2014

President **Gaudet** went over the minutes by summarizing the minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Jackie **Watson**. Secretary **Watson** was unable to attend the meeting due to conflicting events.

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Larry Autotte and seconded by Constance Hebert. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Written report submitted.

Treasurer Pauline **Cusson** also reported to the membership what the primary income and expenses were for the period of September 1, 2014 to September 1, 2015. They were as follows:

PRIMARY INCOME

Membership Dues	39,500
Publications	10,100
Research Income	4,100
Conference Income	6,900
Total Income from all sources	90,676

PRIMARY EXPENSES

Publications	5,900
Genealogist	9,300
General Society Expenses	8,500
Building Maintenance Expenses	47,600
Total expenses	<u>77,000</u>
Actual Net Income was	13,100

Treasurer **Cusson** told the members in doing a comparison between the periods of September 1, 2014 to September 15 and September 1, 2013 to September 2014 she was surprised to find that with the substantial Marcia **Spears** bequest of \$12,000.00 the bottom comparison of net income was 13,100 to 11,600.

Member Jeannine **Levesque** asked when the bequest had been received. Treasurer Cusson responded the bequest was received in January of this year.

President **Gaudet** emphasized that the treasurer's report is reviewed every month by the board at its monthly meeting and he added the library is an old building and requires a lot of maintenance.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Jeannine Levesque and seconded by Constance Hebert. Motion unanimously carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President **Gaudet** told the membership he would again like this year to thank the board members, the volunteers staffing the library, the research volunteers, the genealogist preparers, and the conference committee. He noted that all the work done by the society is done by volunteers and thanked them for their services.

President Gaudet reported the society has a digitalized Website, Face Book and Newsletter. He added a new credit card machine has been acquired and the society is exploring on-line membership and renewals and also has a goal of having a member only section that members could access from home.

President Gaudet informed the members that new computers had been installed which are faster.

He noted membership is relatively stable although it is still declining with membership under 1,200 and stated the society had to find some way to get new members.

President Gaudet stated Roger **Lawrence's** book "Captives & Prisoners Remaining in New France" is a wonderful book.

President Gaudet told the attendees that Herb **Boyce** is still coordinating the maintenance of the building and he is doing a great job.

President Gaudet stated the society would try to get the bishops to release their grip on the church records so they could publish more repertoires.

PROPOSED BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS:

President Gaudet told the members that member and lawyer, Craig **Donais**, Mel **Montpelier**, he, Larry **Autotte** and Pauline **Cusson** had reviewed the by-laws which had not been reviewed in 10 years and they had proposed changes to the by-laws to reflect more what the society is today. A few copies of the amendments were available for attendees to read. President Gaudet noted the proposed amendments had appeared in the genealogist for everyone to read. He proceeded to review some of the changes, but stated that it would take too long to go over every change, but if anyone had questions they could inquire about any of the proposed changes.

There were no inquiries made from the floor on the proposed amendments.

A motion to adopt the proposed amendments was made by Ronald Blais and seconded by Donald Chaput. Motion unanimously carried.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Ronald **Blais** read the proposed slate of candidates that he and Jeanne **Boivert** had solicited to serve. Mr. Blais stated the candidates had all agreed to serve if elected. The proposed slate of candidates was as follows:

Officers:

President	Mr. James Gaudet
Vice-President	Ms. Bernadette Meunier
Treasurer	Ms. Pauline Cusson
Corresponding Secretary	Ms. Paula Schulz
Recording Secretary	Ms. Jeanne Boisvert

Directors:

Ms. Janine Penfield
 Ms. Cecile Durocher
 Mr. Mel Montpelier
 Mr. Denis Joyal

President Gaudet called for nominations from the floor. There were none and he closed the nominations. **The slate of candidates was approved unanimously as there were no dissenting votes.**

OTHER BUSINESS:

President **Gaudet** asked if anyone had any issue they wanted to bring up before the meeting.

Director Larry **Autotte** stated he had an editorial comment to make. Director Autotte stated President Gaudet had earlier expressed accolades to the volunteers but he himself deserved huge accolades for the work that he was doing. President Gaudet reiterated that he had enjoyed working with everybody on the board.

Director **Autotte** also editorialized that Roger **Lawrence's** book was exclusively put together by Pauline **Cusson** and he knew first hand that she had singlehandedly gotten the book ready for publication. President Gaudet noted the publisher "Bridgeport National Bindery" stated the book was the best job he had ever seen and the book was beautiful and easy to read. Pauline **Cusson** reported that Roger **Lawrence** had turned over his entire manuscript of the "Captives" book, his personal files and notes to the society and that Mary Jean **Chaput** was going through the material and the collection will eventually be made available to researchers.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Gerry Lalonde and seconded by Constance Hebert. Motion unanimously carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:26 P.M.

Cecile Durocher
 Recording Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2016

For the year September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2016:

<u>Primary Income Accounts</u>		Research Services	<u>7,770</u>
Membership	35,380	Subtotal	72,885
Publication	10,930		
Rental Income	10,300		
Building Fund	8,505		

Primary Expenses

Publications/Repertoires 5,307

Building 46,516
Membership/Genealogist 12,290
Society Expense 8,632

Subtotal 72,745

Actual Net Income/Loss for the year with all other income/expenses not included in this abbreviated report \$-574.10

ACGS LIBRARY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

2015-2016

This was an exciting year in our library. We have instituted several changes that we hoped would make the library more user-friendly. One of the first things we did was to remove several pieces of equipment that no longer worked or were outdated. By doing that we freed up a lot of space. The members of the Library Board discussed how to best utilize this space. What we came up with was first moving the computers to the other side of the room to eliminate the glare from the windows, and get away from the coldest part of the library. Then we moved the cabinets with the films and microfiche in the space vacated by the computers.

Secondly we added new shelving. Thanks to the NH State Library for providing the shelving and to Michael York who physically put up the shelves for us. We then proceeded to move all the Family Genealogies to the new shelving. This freed up space so we could distribute the books from our main collection, removing the books from the bottom shelves and leaving room for expansion. We also moved all the books from the North-West and Mid-West, from the bookcase to more permanent shelving, vacated by the Family Genealogies.

Thanks to our members, from all over the country, who were generous enough to send us their used books. Their generosity generated approximately \$1,000 in sales. We continue to have used books on the window sill for purchase.

One of our Library Board members, **Jeanne Lundell**, with the help of **Paula Schulz**, finished scanning all the Obits that are in binders. Now all the obits have been scanned and are waiting to be indexed for use on our website. Jeanne is also working with **Pauline Cusson** in Publications to convert, data from a DOS program to an Excel program.

Bob Maurier continues to be on the lookout for new acquisitions and helps us fill our shelves with new data of births, marriages and deaths. New books are listed in our Newsletter.

Jackie Watson, as co-director, has the daunting task of managing and scheduling all the volunteers for the Library. She does a great job for this difficult task. That is just one of the things she does.

Jeanne Boisvert, as co-director, catalogues all the new acquisitions, and readies newly purchased repertoires to be sent for hard binding and any other books that need rebinding or repairing.

Janine Penfield, manages our Facebook page and Newsletter. This addition to ACGS has greatly improved the awareness of the happenings at ACGS, especially for those who are not close.

Cécile Durocher has taken care of all the corrections submitted. Cécile and **Pauly L'Abbe** are now going through all the main collection books and labeling all the books that we feel can be taken out of the library for our patrons.

Paula Schulz has been printing and issuing new badges for our volunteers and continues to work on publicity for ACGS.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Boisvert

Research Services Report

We now have three active researchers on board; the good news is our income has increased substantially in both of the last 2 years: from \$2000 (2014) to \$4100 (2015) and \$7700 (2016).

With the tremendous increase in online sites such as Ancestry.com, the nature of our work has evolved from tracing simple lines back to the immigrant ancestor to correcting misinformation, verifications, assisting clients to become members of lineage societies (e.g. DAR, Catherine de Baillon Society, Order of the Crown of Charlemagne, Fille du Roi/Carignan Soldier Society and in one case this year, completing half of a 12 generation fan chart complete with baptisms, burials, marriages identifying Notable Ancestors, those involved in crimes and various other interesting facts, helping to put flesh on the bones.

We provide clients with pedigree and ancestor charts, a GEDCOM file and copies of all sources; most of our work is now sent via email rather than the USPS.

Translating documents has also become an important source of income and include the traditional church records, notarial contracts and other scholarly works.

We struggle with our current fixed price system as a translation can take 30 minutes or hours depending on the quality of the original; the charge to the client is the same. This is also true of a line back to France (\$35 for a member) which can be simple or complex.

We believe that we can better estimate costs for a client using time based pricing, discounted for members, and will soon bring a proposal to the board for review and approval.

My thanks to the research team: Ron **Blais** and Gerry **Savard**, who do most of the heavy lifting, Cecile **Durocher** who keeps our database in running order and Constance **Hebert**, who is always willing to dive in and give us a hand in spite of her "retirement" from research.

We look forward to another banner year.

Respectfully submitted

Muriel **Chabot Normand**, Chair

End of Reports

2016 Election of Officers and Four Directors

Slate of Officers and Directors for 2016/2017

President	Bernadette Meunier
Vice President	Muriel C. Normand
Corresponding Secretary	Paula Schulz
Recording Secretary	Jeanne Lundell
Treasurer	Ronald P, Blais

Directors:

Jeanne Boisvert
Constance Hebert
Stephen Lafoley
Jackie Watson

Conference Committee

Our gratitude to many people who made this conference happen.....

The entire Library Board staff under the direction of the co-directors, Jeanne **Boisvert** and Jackie **Watson** who secured the restaurant, chose the meal, met regarding the set up and A/V; collected and co-ordinated the raffle items; made the favors for the tables; local publicity; coordinated the advertising for our program brochure; and to our web master who got the program and registration up on our web site.

Muriel **Normand** who coordinated the speaker selection with Paula **Schulz**, Janine **Penfield**, and Gerry **Savard**.

Pauline **Cusson** for putting this brochure together and Ron **Blais** for coordinating with Lafayette Press for final details and the printing of the brochure.