

*AMERICAN-CANADIAN  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY*



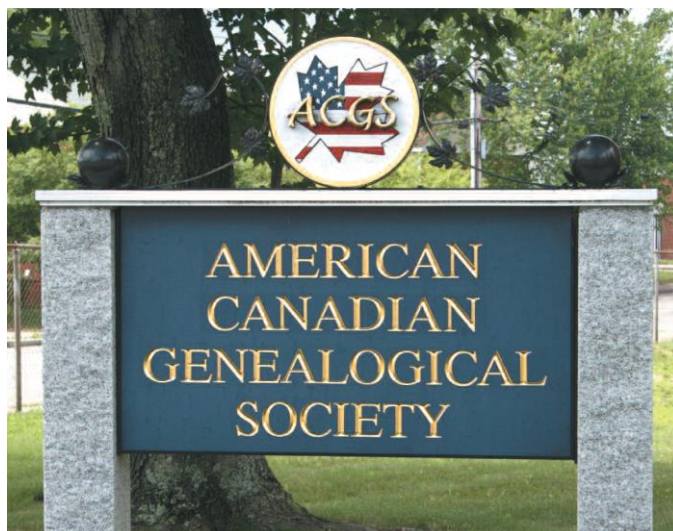
*Leaders in French Canadian,  
Franco American  
and Acadian Genealogy*

1 Sundial Ave, Suite 317 • Manchester, NH • 603-622-1554

Virtual Fall Conference and Annual Meeting  
**October 26, 2024** - 10:30 A.M. – 3:15 P.M.

*Conference Speakers:*

**Robert Cameron Weir**  
**Seema Kenney**  
**Michael J. Leclerc, CG®**



\$55 Members and \$70 Non-Members

***Virtual via Zoom***



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**AMERICAN-CANADIAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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

## **Schedule of Events**

**Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

### **Program**

- 10:30 A.M. Welcome & President's Report, **Jo Zurwell**  
Treasurer Report – **Rob Foshier**  
Election Results for Board of Directors for the 2024 year - **Ed Lamarine**  
Annual Meeting and Reports listed in the provided program
- 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. **Robert Cameron Weir**  
*Genealogical Gold in New England Town Books and Reports*
- 12:45 P.M. – 1:45 P.M. **Seema Kenney**  
*Understanding the Naturalization Process in the United States*
- 2:00 P.M. – 2:15 P.M. **Raffle Drawing**
- 2:15 P.M. – 3:15 P.M. **Michael J. Leclerc, CG®**  
*Finding the Most of Your Family Story*

**American-Canadian Genealogical Society**  
**2024 Virtual Fall Conference**  
**Speaker Biographies and Presentation Summary**



**Robert Cameron Weir** is a genealogical researcher, lecturer, and author who lives in Dover, New Hampshire. He specializes in hard problems related to New England genealogy, from 1620 to the present. He is a member of the Association for Professional Genealogy and is the Publications Director for the New Hampshire Society of Genealogists.

***Genealogical Gold in New England Town Books and Reports***

In this presentation we examine two important, but underused, town-level resources. Old town books, as maintained by town clerks since colonial times, and town annual reports, published from the mid-19th century to the present, can provide the breakthrough clues needed to demolish your genealogical brick wall. Where census and compiled vital records fail us, these resources can save the day. We will cover where to find these resources, how to interpret them, and how to use them to solve your genealogical conundrums.

**Seema Kenney** is a wife, mother of 3, and entrepreneur. Seema is an experienced software instructor and a professional genealogist. Based on over 20 years of research, her known roots are deep in New England as well as England, Germany, and Sweden. Her DNA research has now added The Netherlands to that list. Seema has a certificate in Genealogical Research from BU, completed ProGen and is an active member of several societies and part of the NERGC planning committee.



***Understanding the Naturalization Process in the United States*** There are six ways to become a U.S. citizen. We will review each, concentrating on the court option which produced a paper trail and can help with your family genealogical research. This presentation also covers ways in which citizenship was lost & perhaps regained at a later date.

**Michael J. Leclerc, CG®**, is a well-known professional genealogist who teaches around the world. He worked in various capacities at New England Historic Genealogical Society for seventeen years and spent four years at Mocavo and FindMyPast before founding Genealogy Professor. He has been a member of the teaching team in Boston University's genealogy courses for more than a decade. He is currently the managing editor of the *Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly*.



***Finding the Most of Your Family Story*** Too often we limit ourselves to the bare-bones facts of birth/baptism, marriage, and death/burial. There is much more to their story. Learn how to add historical context and vivid imagery to your ancestors' stories. Discover where and how to find these materials to add to your family story.



## **Annual Meeting Reports October 26, 2024 President's Report**

The last year has not been as crazy busy with webinars every month and something going on all the time for our anniversary celebration, but we have still been busy doing a variety of things for the Society and for our members.

In the year since my last report, we have continued many of the prior projects. We have continued our efforts to transcribe more parish records from various states and prepare them to be added to our website. We have also continued the process of sending out repertories to the scanning company, we have found a new vendor to do this right in our building, so we no longer have to pay for freight costs to and from our former vendor. We currently have over 1200 titles with a PDF in the Holdings catalog on our website. It is our hope that this resource is useful to all members distant and close by, when a trip to the library is not possible. We will continue to add to this database as we finish scanning each group of our collection, currently we are working on Family Genealogies, and then will be moving onto our Quebec repertoires.

After our Fall Conference in 2023 we finished out the year with another three months of webinars to round out our year of celebration for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Starting in 2024 we are back to our normal schedule of webinars and conferences. We started with a webinar in March with Sabrina Gamache Mercurio, then moved onto a Spring Conference on May 18<sup>th</sup> with three great speakers on DNA topics: Sara Cochran, Paula Williams, and Debbie Wilson Smyth. We continued in August with a webinar with Paula Grandpre Wood and now our Fall Conference on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

The reinstated Outreach committee has been doing a lot of great work this year updating some of our prior presentations and creating some new ones. The goal of this committee is to go out into the community at libraries and other societies and introduce ourselves and share who we are and what we have to offer as a society and library. We are looking to not only make in person presentations in our local area, but to do virtual presentations in communities across the country where our members live to expand our reach and our membership base. If you know of a library or group in your community that you think would benefit from us having a presentation, please let us know via the [outreach@acgs.org](mailto:outreach@acgs.org) email address.

Thank you all for your continued support of ACGS and we look forward to a great year ahead!

Respectfully submitted; Jo Zurwell, President, #10349

# AMERICAN-CANADIAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY TREASURER'S REPORT ANNUAL MEETING 2024 (10/26/2024)

Review periods: FY 2023 & Year-To-Date (YTD) 2024 as of 08/31/2024

## FY 2023

### Income for FY 2023

(Membership Dues, Publication Sales, Event/Research Fees, Donations, Misc. Income):  
\$92,913

*Income for FY 2023 was 19% higher than FY 2022, primarily due to increased donations received by the organization.*

### Expenses for FY 2023

(Excluding Digitization Expenses)  
\$106,436

*Expenses for FY 2023 were 21% higher than FY 2022, driven mostly by increases in building related expenses, notably rent and tax charges.*

## Year-To-Date 2024 (through 08/31/2024)

### Income for YTD 2024

(Membership Dues, Publication Sales, Event/Research Fees, Donations, Misc. Income):  
\$44,239

*Income for YTD 2024 is currently running 13% ahead of plan (budget), driven by higher-than-expected income generated through publication sales, event dues and research fees.*

### Expenses for YTD 2024

(Excluding Digitization Expenses)  
\$54,522

*Expenses for YTD are currently running 4% higher than projections, driven by a one-time expense associated with the buy-out of a printer lease and various technology investments.*

## Digitization Expenses

Digitization Expenses for FY 2023: \$16,439 (budgeted: \$24,074)

Digitization Expenses for YTD 2024: \$ 8,851 (budgeted: \$12,000)

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Foshier, Treasurer ACGS

09/22/24

**American-Canadian Genealogical Society**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of August 31, 2024

	Aug 31, 24
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1000 · BANK ACCOUNTS	
1001 · TD Bank Operating Account	13,808.51
1004 · St. Mary's Bank Checking Accoun	2,464.56
1005 · CASH ON HAND-CASH REG	150.00
Total 1000 · BANK ACCOUNTS	16,423.07
Total Checking/Savings	16,423.07
Other Current Assets	
1300 · INVENTORY-RESALE	2,173.00
1315 · Prepaid Rent	5,940.48
1350 · Investments - Fidelity	385,090.07
Total Other Current Assets	393,203.55
Total Current Assets	409,626.62
Fixed Assets	
1500 · Fixed Assets	
1520 · FURNITURE, FIXTURES & EQUIPMENT	
1521 · Furniture & Equipment	56,188.53
1522 · Accu. Deprc. Fur. & Fixt.	-36,010.03
1520 · FURNITURE, FIXTURES & EQUIPMENT - Other	1,099.98
Total 1520 · FURNITURE, FIXTURES & EQUIPMENT	21,278.48
1530 · ACGS HOLDINGS	245,223.05
1540 · LEASEHOL IMPROVEMENT - SUNDIAL	
1541 · Leasehold Improvements - Sundia	23,218.61
1542 · Amortization of Leasehold Impro	-11,595.71
Total 1540 · LEASEHOL IMPROVEMENT - SUNDIAL	11,622.90
Total 1500 · Fixed Assets	278,124.43
Total Fixed Assets	278,124.43
Other Assets	
1600 · St. Mary's Bank Share	5.00
Total Other Assets	5.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>687,756.05</b>

09/22/24

**American-Canadian Genealogical Society**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of August 31, 2024

	Aug 31, 24
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Equity	
3000 · OPENING BALANCE EQUITY	517,215.01
3900 · RETAINED EARNINGS	189,675.66
Net Income	-19,134.62
Total Equity	687,756.05
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>687,756.05</b>



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09/22/24

Cash Basis

**American-Canadian Genealogical Society**  
**Profit & Loss**  
January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4100 · MEMBERSHIP	
4101 · Dues	35,175.00
Total 4100 · MEMBERSHIP	35,175.00
4200 · PUBLICATIONS	
4202 · Website Book Download	1,223.00
4205 · Jette & White	90.00
4206 · CD Roms	5.00
4209 · Captives Download Books	160.00
Total 4200 · PUBLICATIONS	1,478.00
4300 · GENEALOGIST	
4301 · Back Issues	6.00
Total 4300 · GENEALOGIST	6.00
4400 · LIBRARY	
4401 · All Copies	108.90
4402 · Maps & Charts	416.28
4403 · Guest Fees	125.10
4405 · Beverages/Candy/Snacks	203.00
4409 · Used Books	1,787.15
Total 4400 · LIBRARY	2,640.43
4500 · RESEARCH	
4501 · Research Income	791.00
Total 4500 · RESEARCH	791.00
4600 · CONFERENCES & WEBINARS	
4601 · Conference Attendance Fees	2,965.00
4602 · Raffle	307.00
4603 · Advertising	450.00
4607 · Used Books Sales	0.00
4608 · Webinars Attendance Fees	4,230.00
Total 4600 · CONFERENCES & WEBINARS	7,952.00
4700 · SOCIETY	
4702 · General Donations	27,592.57
4705 · Cash Over & Short	28.00
4706 · Ckg Act Int	8.91
4708 · Sav Act Int	1.08
4709 · Other Income/Loss	800.00
4712 · Investment Interest	0.00
4713 · Dividends	16,440.92
Total 4700 · SOCIETY	44,871.48
Total Income	92,913.91
Gross Profit	92,913.91
Expense	
6100 · MEMBERSHIP EXP	
6101 · Postage	1,341.90
6102 · Supplies	1,543.12
Total 6100 · MEMBERSHIP EXP	2,885.02
6200 · PUBLICATIONS EXP	
6201 · Postage	44.90
Total 6200 · PUBLICATIONS EXP	44.90

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09/22/24

Cash Basis

**American-Canadian Genealogical Society**  
**Profit & Loss**  
January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23
<b>6300 · GENEALOGIST EXP</b>	
6301 · Postage	47.82
<b>Total 6300 · GENEALOGIST EXP</b>	47.82
<b>6400 · LIBRARY EXP</b>	
6411 · Cost of Books Sold	1,242.00
6401 · Postage	19.60
6402 · Supplies	497.74
6405 · Beverages/Candy/Snacks	91.51
6407 · Acquisitions - New Books	150.00
6408 · Copier Rental	1,610.20
<b>Total 6400 · LIBRARY EXP</b>	3,611.05
<b>6500 · RESEARCH EXP</b>	
6501 · Postage	5.25
<b>Total 6500 · RESEARCH EXP</b>	5.25
<b>6600 · CONFERENCE AND WEBINAR EXP</b>	
6602 · Raffle Prizes	171.95
6604 · Speakers	3,845.00
6608 · NERGC Expenses	50.00
6609 · Other (Zoom)	629.90
<b>Total 6600 · CONFERENCE AND WEBINAR EXP</b>	4,696.85
<b>6700 · SOCIETY EXP</b>	
6701 · Postage	156.09
6702 · Supplies	258.67
6703 · Telephone	678.27
6704 · D&O Insurance and Bond	979.00
6705 · Subscriptions	0.00
6707 · Bank Charges	18.65
6709 · Computer Expenses	1,252.23
6712 · Internet Services	1,912.68
6714 · PayPal Fees	732.82
6715 · Bank Debit Charges	-30.00
6717 · Misc Society Expenses	1,435.92
6718 · Website Expenses	4,680.00
6719 · Computer Maintenance	6,613.75
6720 · Computer Genealogy Fees	6,698.97
6722 · Library Security	804.08
6730 · Depreciation - Fur & Fix	6,257.00
6740 · Amortization-Lease Hold Improv	3,368.00
<b>Total 6700 · SOCIETY EXP</b>	35,816.13
<b>6800 · BUILDING EXP</b>	
6801 · Heat	427.73
6802 · Electricity	3,229.95
6804 · Insurance - Bldg. & Liab.	1,931.00
6808 · Office Cleaning	1,015.00
6811 · Sundial Rent	24,280.06
6812 · Common Area Charge and RE Tax	22,688.70
6813 · Library Improvements	5,756.52
<b>Total 6800 · BUILDING EXP</b>	59,328.96
<b>Total Expense</b>	106,435.98
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	-13,522.07

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09/22/24  
Cash Basis

**American-Canadian Genealogical Society**  
**Profit & Loss**  
January through December 2023

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	Jan - Dec 23
Other Income/Expense	
Other Expense	
6750 - Digitization	16,438.93
Total Other Expense	16,438.93
Net Other Income	-16,438.93
Net Income	-29,961.00

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09/22/24  
Cash Basis

**American-Canadian Genealogical Society**  
**Profit & Loss**  
January through August 2024

	Jan - Aug 24
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4100 · MEMBERSHIP	
4101 · Dues	21,506.00
Total 4100 · MEMBERSHIP	21,506.00
4200 · PUBLICATIONS	
4202 · Website Book Download	1,212.00
4203 · Repertoires	630.00
4209 · Captives Download Books	203.00
Total 4200 · PUBLICATIONS	2,045.00
4400 · LIBRARY	
4401 · All Copies	51.10
4402 · Maps & Charts	192.50
4403 · Guest Fees	10.00
4405 · Beverages/Candy/Snacks	114.00
4409 · Used Books	82.00
Total 4400 · LIBRARY	449.60
4500 · RESEARCH	
4501 · Research Income	3,365.00
Total 4500 · RESEARCH	3,365.00
4600 · CONFERENCES & WEBINARS	
4601 · Conference Attendance Fees	1,625.00
4608 · Webinars Attendance Fees	1,050.00
Total 4600 · CONFERENCES & WEBINARS	2,675.00
4700 · SOCIETY	
4702 · General Donations	4,653.31
4705 · Cash Over & Short	-256.12
4706 · Ckg Act Int	3.38
4708 · Sav Act Int	0.78
4713 · Dividends	9,797.41
Total 4700 · SOCIETY	14,198.76
Total Income	44,239.36
Gross Profit	44,239.36
Expense	
6100 · MEMBERSHIP EXP	
6101 · Postage	679.40
6102 · Supplies	1,143.48
Total 6100 · MEMBERSHIP EXP	1,822.88
6200 · PUBLICATIONS EXP	
6201 · Postage	229.46
6202 · Supplies	150.58
Total 6200 · PUBLICATIONS EXP	380.04
6400 · LIBRARY EXP	
6401 · Postage	257.79
6402 · Supplies	285.53
6405 · Beverages/Candy/Snacks	127.77
6408 · Copier Rental	1,514.70
Total 6400 · LIBRARY EXP	2,185.79

11:35 AM

09/22/24

Cash Basis

**American-Canadian Genealogical Society**  
**Profit & Loss**  
 January through August 2024

	Jan - Aug 24
<b>6600 · CONFERENCE AND WEBINAR EXP</b>	
6604 · Speakers	740.00
6609 · Other (Zoom)	439.90
<b>Total 6600 · CONFERENCE AND WEBINAR EXP</b>	<b>1,179.90</b>
<b>6700 · SOCIETY EXP</b>	
6701 · Postage	27.20
6703 · Telephone	566.57
6704 · D&O Insurance and Bond	1,023.00
6707 · Bank Charges	15.00
6708 · Fund Raising Exp	100.00
6709 · Computer Expenses	968.36
6710 · Credit Card Charges	53.18
6712 · Internet Services	1,275.12
6714 · PayPal Fees	231.70
6716 · Square Fees	325.68
6717 · Misc Society Expenses	1,093.54
6718 · Website Expenses	2,600.00
6719 · Computer Maintenance	4,855.00
6720 · Computer Genealogy Fees	594.34
6722 · Library Security	574.63
<b>Total 6700 · SOCIETY EXP</b>	<b>14,303.32</b>
<b>6800 · BUILDING EXP</b>	
6801 · Heat	672.18
6802 · Electricity	1,780.59
6804 · Insurance - Bldg. & Liab.	1,995.00
6808 · Office Cleaning	660.00
6811 · Sundial Rent	16,917.55
6812 · Common Area Charge and RE Tax	8,787.70
6813 · Library Improvements	3,837.68
<b>Total 6800 · BUILDING EXP</b>	<b>34,650.70</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>54,522.63</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-10,283.27</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>	
Other Expense	
6750 · Digitization	8,851.35
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>8,851.35</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>-8,851.35</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-19,134.62</b>

## ACGS LIBRARY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT July 2023 through June 2024

The library is currently open twice a week on Wednesdays & Saturdays from 10am – 2pm. For the 12-month period July 2023 through June 2024 we had 179 visitors to the library (which is 101 less than the prior year) with an average of 2 visitors per open day. Wednesdays and Saturdays both average about the same number of visitors.



We have 2 Research Aides that cover Wednesdays and Saturdays each month. In some cases, we do not have an available RA and the person at the Front Desk handles all research questions. At this time, we have a pool of 6 regular volunteers to cover the Front Desk. As needed, the Front Desk Volunteers are also covering as Research Aides when there is no one else available. This seems to be working out as we only average 2 visitors per shift at the library. Our volunteers have shown themselves to be very consistent, and we appreciate their reliability.

We saw a total for Used Book Sales of \$501 for the months of July 2023 through June 2024 which was (\$2,574) less than the prior year. We've seen an increase in donations of used books this year which should hopefully drive some further used book sales. We also saw \$419 of sales in Maps and Charts.

Ed Lamarine continues in his role in the shipping of books and charts and managing and inventorying the books to be scanned for the website. His time and dedication are very appreciated.

Phil Cote, #9418  
Library Director  
08/31/2024





# American-Canadian Genealogical Society

## **VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEART OF ACGS**

We welcome your interest in volunteering for your Society. We are an all-volunteer 501 (c) (3) organization that is heavily dependent on volunteers to keep our Society operating. We are constantly in need of volunteers to help with various activities and duties in, and for, the library. So that we may match your talents with our needs, please complete the following questionnaire.

### **Please check the job, or jobs, that interest you most**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research Aide          | <input type="checkbox"/> Recording Church Records (requires Travel) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous Office   | <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogical Research (for others)         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Librarian              | <input type="checkbox"/> Digitization Project - Scanning            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proofreading           | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer/ Web Design/IT                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bookkeeping/Accounting | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Data Entry                        |

How many hours are you available per month to volunteer at library? \_\_\_\_\_

How many hours are you available per month to volunteer at home? \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us about your work experience and/or your volunteer experience.

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Please tell us about any other skills or talents that you have.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Leave with the Librarian when visiting the Library OR Email to [Volunteer@acgs.org](mailto:Volunteer@acgs.org). Thank You!

American-Canadian Genealogical Society  
1 Sundial Ave, Suite 317  
Manchester, NH 03103  
603-622-1554

## **Research Services Report 2024**

The Research Department is pleased to report that, after a challenging period in 2023, we have had a successful year in 2024. Our total revenue through August has exceeded the year-end totals for the past several years, marking a significant turnaround:

### **Total Revenue for the Calendar Year**

YTD 2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
\$3,365	\$791	\$3,080	\$1,210	\$1,930

Along with a number of smaller research requests, four larger projects contributed to our success in 2024: three pedigree projects and one translation project consisting of 26 baptism, marriage, and burial records.

Despite the dry spell in 2023 revenue, the number of inquiries handled by the Research Department has increased steadily over the past five years. Along with traditional requests for direct line charts, translations, transcriptions, and verifications of existing work, we are currently fielding a significant number of queries regarding general questions, research advice, and record lookups. In addition, with the increasingly vast collections of genealogical records found on various genealogy websites along with the availability of assistance from online genealogy groups, many of the inquiries we receive are from members and clients who have hit a “brick wall” and can no longer proceed on their own.

Our services include single-event lookups (baptisms, marriages, and burials), direct line charts, full pedigree charts, verification of work already completed, brick wall analysis, transcription of documents, and translation of French documents. Along with translations of vital records, we can assist with all sorts of translations, ranging from personal letters and family notes to more complex documents.

We are optimistic that research services will continue to be in demand in 2025, and we thank all our clients who have entrusted their research to us.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Lamontagne Duffy, #8237 and Cécile Durocher. #9737  
Co-Chairs

## **Membership Annual Report 2024**

Our membership numbers just over 900 people as of August 2024. While this number continues to decline it has slowed considerably with addition of our online content.

We are still growing our on-line content and have over 1,200 of our books on-line. With access to Genealogy Quebec and MyHeritage our membership is a great value. A good portion of our membership (45%) comes from more than an hour away from the library, so the online resources continue to be very important. There are also board members and other volunteers that are not local to Manchester but contribute to our society remotely in important ways.

Again, this year I would like to thank again the membership team of Cecile Durocher (9737), Ginette Fosher (9574), and Larry Autotte (3505) for their hard work to process all your membership renewals, transactions, update the web site, and distribute renewal notices. All the hours they put in don't get noticed but they are vital to keep the society running.

In closing, I would like to remind all members that it is essential to keep the society updated with your current email, phone and address. We do not disclose your information to any party for any reason and use your information solely for library business.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Steve Lefoley, #4141 – Membership Chair

## **ACGS Correspondence Annual Report 2024**

From June 2023 to the end of June 2024 we saw a total of \$27,660 donated to ACGS. This is an increase of \$ 18,906 over the prior year. These donations were acknowledged with a total of 65 emails (gifts \$45 and under) and 63 letters (for gifts \$50 and over).

Phil Cote, #9418  
Corresponding Secretary  
August 31, 2024

## **Publication Editorial Board Annual Report 2024**

The Publication Editorial Board (PEB) report covers all areas of what ACGS publishes to our members or to the public. This report is broken down into the following four categories with a summary of what each segment has done in the last year.

### **Editorial Board**

Since the last Fall Conference in September of 2023, the Editorial Board has published a December issue of the *American-Canadian Genealogist* that was the last of the four issues for our anniversary year of retrospective articles from past issues. We then moved to production of the April issue and the August issue of the *A-C Genealogist* with some wonderful articles from a variety of authors. In 2024, we are going back to the old format of doing three issues of the journal for the year. We therefore are working on the final issue of the journal for this year at the time of the Fall Conference in October, and the issue will be published on December 1, 2024. If you have an article that you would like to submit to the Editorial Board, please email it to us at [editor@acgs.org](mailto:editor@acgs.org)

### **Newsletter**

Every month our newsletter editor, Jeannine Levesque, puts together a newsletter of the latest messages, events, and information of interests, and sends it out to all our members. We can see, via the use of Constant Contact, that these emails are going through and some of the recipients are reading and engaging with the segments of the emails. We hope that the information that is provided is informative and helpful in our members' research and knowledge of what ACGS is doing as a society.

### **Rep Publications - Sub Report for year end 2024 by Steve Lefoley**

The last year has been a busy one for book publications and additions to our online content. Thanks to many volunteers, we have published eight new repertoires and 2<sup>nd</sup> editions of six books by Rev. Fernand Croteau. The 1<sup>st</sup> editions were done by hand, so the 2<sup>nd</sup> editions correct many errors and allow the data to be searchable. Our new repertoires are for the Troy NY and Pittsfield MA areas where records are hard to obtain. We can always use new volunteers for data entry and can accommodate whatever skills you may have. All this work can be done from home as long as you have a computer. Please contact us if you wish to try it out at [acgs@acgs.org](mailto:acgs@acgs.org).

The library has over 10,000 books in its collection and many of those are not available anywhere else but at ACGS. Marriage and birth records are focused on French-Canadian parishes, but we also have several that served other ethnicities. For instance, the new repertoires published this year include Irish, Italian, and Polish parishes. We also have

records from several US states besides New England. ACGS is committed to putting these books online via our website so they may be accessed by members that cannot travel to the library. So far, we have over 1,200 of our books scanned and available. They are all our holdings for the US states. At this time, we are scanning our collection of several hundred Family Genealogies books that people published and donated to ACGS over the last fifty years. It is expected that we will finish our scanning in 2026 and conclude with the Canadian parish records. The Canadian records will be mostly those that cannot be accessed online already via *Généalogie Québec* (which members may access as part of membership).

A complete list of our holdings is available on the web site accessible even for nonmembers. We continue to modify this list as we constantly receive new books and put books online. If you have genealogy books that you no longer need or do not want, please consider donating them to the library.

### **Webinar & Conference Program**

Since our last Fall Conference in September 2023, the Webinar & Conference committee held the remainder of the three webinars to round out our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of celebration. In 2024 we have held two successful webinars, one on March 16, 2024, with Sabrina Gamache Mercurio, with her presentation, *“Our Mothers of New France”*. We then had most recently, our August 10, 2024, webinar with Paula Grandpre Wood, with her presentation, *“What I Learned About the Ceinture Flechee and My Ancestral Heritage”*. Sandwiched in between these two webinars, was our Spring Conference held on May 18, 2024, with three great speakers on the topic of DNA and doing genealogy research: Sarah Cochran, Debbie Wilson Smyth, and Paula Williams. We thank all those that attended these events and hope that everyone will be able to join us for our future events. We are already starting to plan our presentations for 2025, so if you have topic or suggestion for a speaker, please let us know by email me at [acgs@acgs.org](mailto:acgs@acgs.org).

Respectfully Submitted

Jo Zurwell, #10349, Publication Editorial Board Chair

## ACGS Outreach Committee Annual Report 2024

This year was marked by big ideas, significant changes, and growing ambitions. While not all the proposed actions from September 2023 were fully realized, the revitalized Outreach Committee successfully met and exceeded many of its goals, with several ongoing projects planned to continue throughout 2025.

The Outreach Committee was revived in August 2023 and met their overarching goals of establishing a master list of organizational partners and revamping previous presentations for the year. Further work to specialize in establishing regional partners both in New England and in the Southeast continues. Additionally, the development of “alternative” / non-traditional marketing strategies remains a top priority for the Committee going into 2025.

Previously, the Outreach Committee was overseen by Gerry **Savard** and Muriel **Normand** for several decades. Under their guidance, the Committee produced several presentations and established partnerships with regional organizations. The Committee was dissolved in 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Outreach Committee was revived in August 2023 after the Board of Directors identified a need to enhance member relations, increase participation, and expand the membership base.

As the year concludes and the Fall 2024 Conference approaches, the Outreach Committee remains committed to developing interest in the Society and gaining new members. We are proud to share that we have met our goals of establishing a master list of organizational partners and revamping previous presentations for the year. As we move into 2025, we hope to establish new organizational partners throughout New England and the Southeast. Additionally, we hope to advertise to at least one organization in Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, and West Virginia; the only states we currently do not have membership in. The development of “alternative” / non-traditional marketing strategies remains a top priority for the Committee going into 2025.

While the Committee began with five core members, only three remain at this time. Despite their passion and dedication, the progress of the Outreach Committee is slow due to low numbers. The Committee is actively looking for new participants, volunteers, ideas, and recommendations for 2025. If you are interested in joining the committee, please email us at [Outreach@acgs.org](mailto:Outreach@acgs.org), you do not need to be local to Manchester to be on this committee, all our meetings are via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Co-Chairs: Sandy **Duffy**, #8237 and Alexis L. **Peters**, #10924



## **Website Annual Report 2024**

The Website Committee continues to work with the digitization team to scan and/or digitize as many of our volumes in the library as possible. The goal is to have as many of our resources in the library available on the website in either a searchable database format or a card catalog lookup system to find the volume and be able to open a file and read the book, just like if someone was at the library doing research.

We have lucked out and a scanning company now occupies a suite in our same building. So instead of having to send our books across the country to Michigan, we only need to send them down the hall and have the books back on our shelves in a week. We are nearing the home stretch for the scanning project and have a lot of our resources up on our website. As of the writing of this report we have over 1200 volumes in a PDF viewable format on the members only portal side of the website; not bad for having started this process in September 2022.

We hope that our members from near and far will be able to utilize this latest resource and conduct a lot of their research from the comfort of their homes.

The other big change on our website in the last year has been the switch from using PayPal to using Square to process our online orders from our website. The process is greatly streamlined and no longer needs the patron to leave our website to process the order with their credit card.

Different problems pop up from time to time, as with any technical, but we are dealing with any issues that come up as they happen.

If you have any questions on the website, experience an issue with something not working as expected, or a suggestion for something you would like to see for all members, please reach out to me at [webmaster@acgs.org](mailto:webmaster@acgs.org) and I will see what can be done.

Respectfully Submitted

Jo Zurwell, #10349,  
Website Committee Chair



# FACNH

Celebrating French  
Language, Culture & Heritage



JOSÉE  
VACHON

*Benefit Concert*

NOVEMBER 19TH



Details &  
Tickets



Classes  
Kids & Adults



Events



BEAUJOLAIS  
NOUVEAU

DINNER & DANCE NOVEMBER 23

