



# Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society

217 Turner Street  
Auburn ME 04210

Phone: 207-786-3327

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May 2021

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*The Father Leo E. Begin  
Library is located at  
217 Turner Street, Auburn  
on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor above the  
Fortin Group Funeral Home*

### Library Hours

**Limited hours due to COVID-19**

*Wednesdays - 1:00 to 8:30 p.m.*

*Saturdays – by appointment*

*Email: [info@mfggen.org](mailto:info@mfggen.org)*

**Visit our Website at:**

<https://mfggen.org>



Like us on  
**Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/MFGSLibrary?ref=stream>

### Officers/Board Members

*President: vacant*

*Vice President: vacant*

*Treasurer: Lucille Langelier*

*Recording Secretary: Connie Hitchcock*

*Corresponding Secretary: Connie Beliveau*

*Board Members: Richard Gamache,  
Jeanne Letourneau, Marie Murphy,  
Simeon Breault and Arthur Allard*

*Library Director: Fr. Robert Parent*

*Research Director: Arthur Allard*

*Webmaster: Simeon Breault*

## A Message to our Members

The MFGS Board of Directors, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, have canceled the 2021 MFGS Spring Meeting. This decision, although disappointing, is the correct decision to ensure the health and safety of MFGS members.

MFGS is hopeful that the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out will continue in a positive direction and by fall 2021, MFGS will be able to hold a Fall Meeting. Members are encouraged to contact the MFGS Office with any questions or concerns.

All our “**Obituary**” books have been digitized by “**OCR**” which puts all the names in a searchable alphabetical order.

## Library Director’s Report

In the past few weeks during this slow period due to the ongoing pandemic, we have been going through the books of our collection and have had about 30 books rebound so far in this ongoing project. And, we purchased an upgrade to our cataloguing program to allow us to update our catalogue of the entire collection faster and better.

Just a reminder, we ARE OPEN Wednesdays due to the dedication of our wonderful volunteers. Check out our revised webpage for holiday closures.

Fr. Robert

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## Nominations and Elections

As a result of the MFGS 2020 Fall Elections, Marie Murphy was elected to the MFGS Board of Directors. We would like to take this time to welcome Marie to the Board and thank her for the time and effort she offers to the MFGS.

Also, at the time of the MFGS 2020 Fall Elections, Rita Melendy's term on the MFGS Board of Directors expired. We would like to express our gratitude to Rita for her service to the MFGS, not only as a Board Member but also as a volunteer librarian.

At this time, we would like to inform the membership that the MFGS is currently operating without an elected President and Vice President. With the 2021 election coming up in the Fall, it is not too soon for consideration of nominees for these positions. If anyone is interested, please send e-mails to [rlgamache@comcast.net](mailto:rlgamache@comcast.net).

Sincerely, Richard Gamache  
Chairman of Nominations and Elections Committee

## MFGS Loses a Founding Member of the Society, Normand Cote



It is with great sadness, but also much gratitude, that I inform you of the passing of Norm Cote. Norm was a founding member of the Society and will be greatly missed.

He worked humbly behind the scenes, being instrumental in the development of our original webpage. He was also one of the dedicated workers of our obituary project, gathering the information on thumb drives to input information on the library computers.

He also worked tirelessly on creating the DVDs of the local churches and cemetery records that we have available.

He was a mentor and a friend to me personally, helping me perfect my pronunciation of French place names. With much love and affection, I wish him God speed. Sincerely, Lucille Langelier, Treasurer

Here is the link to his obituary if you would like to see it.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/lewiston-me/normand-cote-10147391>

### Donate-A-Book - Dedicate-A-Book

Do you have a loved one who you would like to dedicate a book in their memory? MFGS has a list of books that can be purchased. A dedication label will be placed in the inside cover in their memory/honor. Contact the MFGS Library for more information.

**New Members** - We welcome our newest members to the Society: Marilyn Bridges, Wilfrid Dennis and Catherine Malo.

## Public Service Announcements – you may be interested in checking them out

- **Drouin Institute Initiative – Genealogy Quebec**

MFGS wants everyone to be aware of this website <genealogyquebec.com> run by the Drouin Institute in Quebec. It contains BMS information from 1600 to 1861. As our webmaster, Simeon Breault, stated “Anyone who has internet access can use it. Check it out. There are a number of free tools you can explore. Most of their tools and data require a subscription to access. I myself have had an annual subscription with them for a couple of years. The prices (very reasonable, in my opinion) and subscription options are near the bottom of the home page.”

- **General Meeting minutes**

MFGS General Meeting minutes in pdf format for years 2016-2019 are available in the Archival section of our website. No general meetings were held in 2020.

## Technology Corner

During this time of year, it seems we are always waiting. Waiting for Spring to arrive, waiting for the snow to melt, waiting for tax season to be over. No time has it been more felt than during the pandemic.

Unfortunately, one thing that has not been in a “holding pattern” is the number of scams and robocalls. How many times have you been alerted recently that your car warranty is going to expire?

One set of scams which are of utmost concern at the moment are the “**Spoofing**” calls about COVID-19. Spoofing is when a caller deliberately falsifies the information transmitted to your caller ID display to disguise their identity. Scammers often use neighbor spoofing so it appears an incoming call is coming from a local number or spoof a number from a company or a government agency you may already know and trust.

The Social Security Administration and IRS have both issued warnings about scam calls concerning COVID-19 benefit payments, stimulus checks, and fake stock offers. Locally, Dr. Nirav Shah, of the CDC warned folks in one of his recent briefings that fraudsters are offering COVID-19 tests, HHS grants and Medicare prescription cards in exchange for personal details, including Medicare information.

So, what can you do to avoid being scammed?

- Do not answer calls from unknown numbers. If you do, hang up immediately.
- If the caller or a recording offers an “opt-out” choice, you should just hang up. Scammers often use this trick to identify live potential targets.
- Do not respond to any questions, especially those that can be answered with “Yes” or “No”.
- Never give out personal information such as account numbers, Social Security numbers, mother’s maiden name, or other identifying information.
- If they represent themselves as being from a company or a government agency, hang up and call the phone number on your account statement, in the phone book, or on the company’s website to verify.
- Talk to your phone company about call blocking tools and apps you can download to your mobile device. For more information about robocall go to [www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/Stop-unwanted-robocalls-and-texts](http://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/Stop-unwanted-robocalls-and-texts)

The Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society is a non-profit volunteer society dedicated to the collection and preservation of Franco-American genealogical material and helping its members and the general public in their research. Its library, at 217 Turner St. (2<sup>nd</sup> floor), Auburn, houses one of the largest collections of French-Canadian genealogical material in Maine. The Society is dedicated to assisting individuals in discovering and preserving their family history.

For more information visit the MFGS web page at: WEBSITE: <https://mfgen.org>

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*Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society*

Membership Application

MFGS Treasurer, 217 Turner Street, Auburn, ME 04210-6092  
Tel. (207) 786-3327 Website: <https://mfgen.org/>

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want your name and Email Address to appear in our online Email Directory?

(no other information will be listed) \_\_\_\_\_(Yes) \_\_\_\_\_(No)

Types of Memberships:

Individual.....\$20.00      Family Members.....\$10.00

Lifetime.....\$300.00 (15 times yearly fee)

Membership begins in the month in which dues are paid and is renewable on the anniversary of your join date.

Make check payable to: Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society. Dues must be payable in U.S. Funds.