

**MAINE FRANCO-AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
MINUTES – SPRING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – APRIL 27, 2024

Approximately 25 people were in attendance for the meeting and for the presentation by Denis Ledoux, author of French Boy / A 1950's Franco-American Childhood.

**President** Father Parent called the meeting to order at 10:04 am greeting the attendees which included both members and guests. He reminded attendees to sign in.

**Recording Secretary:** Connie Hitchcock

Connie Hitchcock moved and Camden Martin seconded to approve the minutes of the last general membership meeting held October 21, 2023. The motion was carried.

**Treasurer:** Normand Lamie

Normand distributed copies of his report to the attendees. He praised Ann Nadeau, the outgoing treasurer, for her conscientious record-keeping and thanked her for her help in the transition.

The balances as of March 31, 2024 are:

Checking:	\$ 885.06
Savings:	\$ 1,495.08
CD # 1	\$ 2,710.72
CD # 2	\$ 2,641.16

Normand explained that reason for the difference in the amount of interest earned on the CD's is that CD#1 has just been renewed at a higher interest rate while CD#2 is earning the older interest rate.

There were no questions from attendees.

The report was placed on file for audit.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Connie Beliveau

Connie reported that since last October, she has sent one Sympathy card and three Thank-You cards for donations of both cash and books.

**Librarian:** Fr. Parent

- A. Acquisitions: Nothing has been bought, but we did receive a few small donations which will be added to our collection
- B. Father announced that MFGS has a number of genealogical resources for sale and can provide a list upon request. These include maps and assorted CD's and books.
- C. MFGS still has a need for:
  - a. librarians to help members with their research. Father noted that we are open only on Wednesdays because we don't have the staffing to open more often. Father mentioned that the librarians work only one shift per month and if we had more people, we could expand our hours of operation.
  - b. volunteers to work on indexing Fr. Labonté's books
  - c. volunteers who are adept at Excel or Access to catalog books
  - d. volunteers who could help with simple maintenance of the library.

- D. The PRDH program is working and is an excellent tool for finding the original spelling of names.
- E. MFGS has a multi-volume set of Biographies of ancestors in both the original French and an English translation.

**Research Director:** Arthur Allard sent in his request to remind members of the available research services such as:

A. Direct ancestral line for one person for up to 13 generations back to France in the 1600's for a flat fee: members - \$ 20; non-members - \$ 40.

Neatly formatted results can be a gift for a special someone.

Deadline for these requests is October 27, 2023 if ordered for Christmas. Two notices about this service have appeared in Sun Spots, a daily community column in the Sun Journal.

B. Research specific information [for example: a particular baptismal record or marriage record – generally pre-1940] for an hourly rate:  
members - \$ 10/hour; non-members - \$20/hour.

C. Father Parent had the current volunteer librarians stand to be recognized.

**Webmaster:** Simeon Breault

A. Updates are ongoing. Simeon recently posted the latest Acadian World Congress newsletter which provides information about the upcoming conference which will be held in Nova Scotia.

B. Simeon requested that you notify him of any errors you may find as you peruse the site.

**Nominations & Elections:** Richard Gamache

Richard informed the attendees that the following positions need to be filled in the upcoming October election:

Officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary

Board of Directors: Three [3] Board Members

All positions are for a two-year term [2024-2026]

If you are interested, please notify Richard through the MFGS email: [info@mfgn.org](mailto:info@mfgn.org).

**Facebook:** Joline Fortier emailed her report April 24, 2024:

Likes: 786

Followers: 862

The url for the MFGS Face Book page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/MFGSlibrary?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

Simeon noted that you can also access the MFGS Face book page by clicking on the face book icon [lower case "f" in a contrasting color square] on the MFGS website.

**Old Business**

A. Genealogy Research class: update - Sign-up sheets were on the back table  
Conducted by Father Parent

Location: MFGS Library, 217 Turner St., Auburn, ME

Cost: Free for members / \$30 for non-members

Class size limited to 10 people

Beginner class: 4 one-hour classes + optional time for questions & help

Time and Dates: 6:00 pm on Tuesdays May 7, 14, 21, 28

Advanced class: 3 one-hour classes + optional time for questions & help

Time and Dates: 6:00 pm on Thursdays May 16, 23, 30

B. **REMINDER:** Dues for individuals have increased by \$ 5.00 effective with this new fiscal year, January 1, 2024. Dues are now \$25.00.

### **New Business**

A. Collector Plates – Father announced that a set of vintage Henri D’Arceau Limoges Lafayette Legacy Porcelain Collector’s Plates are available for sale on the back table.

MFGS has a complete set of 7, each plate depicting a different American Revolution scene, is numbered, has the description of the scene in French on the back of the plate, and is in its original Styrofoam box. MFGS is selling the set of seven for \$42.00, or any individual plate for \$7.00.

B. Garage Sale – Father introduced the possibility of having a garage sale to raise funds for MFGS. He asked that anyone interested contact him, and stated that logistics still needed to be worked out. He offered his home on Rte 136 as an excellent location because of traffic and visibility.

### **Good of the order:**

1. Door Prizes: Ann Nadeau donated a beautiful flower arrangement won by: Richard Gamache. She also donated five consolation vases of flowers which were won by various members.
2. Linda Boynton was the winner of the 50/50 which totaled \$36.
3. The Auburn Public Library has a book sale every Saturday from 9:30 am to 12:30.

### **Next General meeting: October \_\_\_\_, 2024, 10 am - Exact date and Location TBA**

Speaker: Dr. Joseph M. Hall, Jr., Associate Professor of History at Bates College.  
Native American interactions with Europeans during the colonial period.

### **Motion to adjourn:**

Connie Hitchcock moved and Marie Murphy seconded to adjourn to the presentation by Denis Ledoux preceded by a short intermission for refreshments.

The motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.

At the end of Denis’s excellent presentation and readings from his latest mémoire, Connie Hitchcock presented him with a Visa gift card.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Hitchcock, Recording Secretary  
Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society

