m

HISTORY SPACE Forest of family trees await

Success stories of locating ancestors via Colchester's Vermont Genealogy Library

FROM THE VERMONT FRENCH-CANADIAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society

(VT-FCGS) was created in 1996. The Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society (VT-FCGS) is the parent organization for the Vermont Genealogy Library. We are located at 377 Hegeman Ave. (Fort Ethan Allen) in Colchester. In 2011, the society expanded its mission to include classes and research materials to help people find their ancestors no matter what their ethnicity.

Throughout the years there have been thousands of interesting stories our members discovered at the Vermont Genealogy Library with the help of our volunteers and our extensive resources. We want to share with you a sampling of the many personal stories by our members.

See ANCESTRY, Page 2C

the history space



Ancestry

Continued from Page 1C

Sharon Flaherty's story

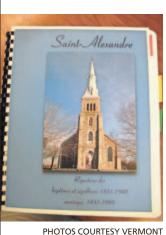
One of the events that the library does that is of great help and encouragement for me are the Special Interest Nights. I find that Ed McGuire's help, knowledge and encouragement on 'Irish Special Interest Night' is valuable indeed. These interest groups are a great way for anyone searching their Irish ancestors to meet to discuss and share their research, tackle brick walls and share successes.

The Library also has wonderful online resources for Irish records like Ancestry.com and Find my Past. I used tips on interviewing living relatives that I learned during one of the Saturday lectures when interviewing my 91-year-old aunt. She was able to tell me the photo was taken in Portland, Maine, about 1907. Mary Elizabeth is my grandmother.

My husband and I will be traveling to Ireland later this year, so the advice and hints that I have gathered from the interest groups and the classes on the Irish, will put to great use.

Karl Lamson's story

In a family discussion about growing up in Winooski in the 1930s, my father-in-law remarked that he only knew ancestors had lived in Saint-Alexandre, Quebec. I had heard about the Vermont Genealogy Library and went there a few days later. I



A book on Saint-

Lamson find his

Alexandre helped Karl

father-in-law's ancestors

going back 350 years.

found a book about Saint-Alexandre that included a lot of information on our family. A volunteer

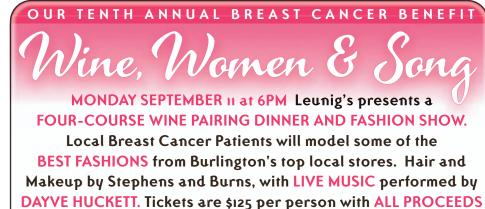
guided me and we researched my father-in-law's ancestry all the way back to the first immigrant in the 1600s from Poitiers, France. Imagine how surprised he was when I showed him the chart on his

ancestry going FRENCH-CANADIAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY back 350 years! I did some research on other lines in my in-laws' ancestry. One line traced back to the

Mayflower in 1620, while many traced back to Quebec. Two of the families came to Winooski. One father of 10 died not long after moving to Winooski in the 1880s so several of the children went to work in the mills to allow the family to stay together.

Every family has a story; with genealogical research we can learn stories from the past and gain a deeper appreciation of the lives of our ancestors.

« Hannah (Cranage) and Patrick John Flaherty, with children, from left, Lillian Frances, Mary Elizabeth, Robert Henry and Lawrence Coleman. Sharon Flaherty interviewed her 91-year-old aunt and learned this family photo was taken in Portland, Maine, about 1907. Mary Elizabeth is her grandmother. She got the idea to interview living relatives from a lecture at the Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society in Colchester.

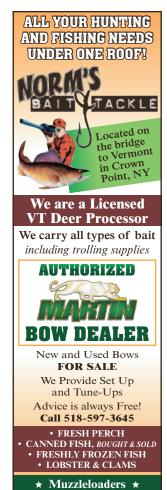


DONATED to the Vermont Cancer Network and the Cancer

Center at the University of Vermont Medical Center. Seating is limited. To reserve your place CALL 802-863-3759. BISTRO & LOUNGE



CHURCH & COLLEGE • BURLINGTON • 863-3759 • WWW.LEUNIGSBISTRO.COM



Throughout the years there have been thousands of interesting stories discovered at the Vermont Genealogy Library in Colchester.







Jean Baptise Cote and Lucy (Blow) Cote. Bob Cota traced his Cote/Cota line back to France through the Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society.

Bob Cota's story

My cousin, George Myers, asked me if I would like to go to a meeting about genealogy. The more I thought about it the more interested I was. We attended that meeting in St. Joseph's school and 21 years later I still belong to the Society.

It has been a great ride for me tracing my Cote/Cota line back to France. I now have over 5,500 names in my Cote/Cota tree. Recently a lady from Minnesota contacted me looking for her greatgrandfather who was a Cota. It turns out he was my uncle from Grand Isle! It's a small world!

When you look for ancestors it is hard to stop because there is so much information to find. The Society's library is a great place to start. They have all kinds of records to look at and there is always someone there to help you get started.

The Vermont Genealogy Library book collection numbers approximately 4,000 volumes including repertoires, town histories, research by members, and our own publications.



ROUTES AVAILABLE: Bristol | Burlington | Colchester Milton | North Ferrisburgh | Richmond | Underhill

Sheila Morris' story

John Fisher of VT-FCGS and his team of volunteers have made an incredible contribution to genealogists everywhere. With his camera, and permission from the Vermont Catholic Diocese, he has photographed the oldest hand-written baptism and marriage records in most of the Catholic Churches in Vermont. Many capable volunteers transcribed the records, translating them from Latin or French. These books are sold to libraries in Canada and across the U.S. As of June 2017, 56 books have been completed. Copies are also given to the church and the Vermont Diocese.

I would never have found my great grandfather's baptism or birth without the parish records from St. Bernadette Parish in Bridport. My Jean Baptiste Duchaine is not listed in the Vermont vital records, although he was born in Vermont in 1868.

Continued on Next Page

NEED EXTRA INCOME? CALL TODAY ABOUT A FREE PRESS ROUTE!

Burlington Free Press

CALL 802-660-1811 TODAY! HTTPS://DELIVERYOPPORTUNITIES.GANNETT.COM

FP-0000413954





PHOTOS COURTESY VERMONT FRENCH-CANADIAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY A view of the book room at the Vermont Genealogy Library in Colchester

Continued from Previous Page

Judy LeMay's story

I had never given much thought to the history of my Gramp Tatro as he passed away before I was born. I copied information from his tombstone to get started. As I walked away from his grave I saw a large monument with the name "John B. Tatreau". I wondered if this might be a relative? Through research I discovered that John B. was Gramp Tatro's father. Now I had my grandfather and graat grandfather's rec



Judy LeMay traced her Gramp Floyd Tatro's line back to the first Tatro, Louis Tetreau, who arrived in Quebec around 1660.

grandfather and great grandfather's records, but I wasn't having much luck getting past this point.

One Saturday I went to the Vermont Genealogy Library to see what they had to offer. Tom DeVarney gave us a tour and explained the types of records that are available. When told the name I was looking for he walked to a bookshelf and pulled a Tatro Family Genealogy which two gentlemen had put together. With this book I was able to trace Floyd's line back to the first Tatro, Louis Tetreau, who arrived in Quebec around 1660. I have confirmed this information using the resources at the library.

One of the first things I learned was not to let the spelling of a name stop you if other vital dates and facts agree.

The library provides access to a number of online databases such as Ancestry.com and FindMyPast, as well as others. There are also microfiche and microfilm collections of Quebec marriage records. John Fisher found this inventory of goods of the community of Jacques Poissant dit Lasaline and Marguerite Besset on Nov. 9 1735 by Notaire Lepailleur. His family's name, Poissant, was changed to Fisher.

John Fisher's story

My family's name Poissant was changed to Fisher. Being a member of the VT-FCGS enabled me to learn about Notarial Records in New France and Quebec. The French king did not allow lawyers in Quebec, but the Notaries documented everything; marriage contracts, land purchases, sales, donations, and my favorite; "Inventories of the Community of Goods" owned by a married couple after one of them died. For example:

My first Quebec ancestor, Jacques Poissant was born in Marennes, France, on July 12, 1661. He became a French marine and according to the common practice, he was assigned the nickname, "Jacques Poissant dit La Saline" (The Salt) because Marennes was known for its salt marshes. He arrived in Quebec on 12 November 1684 to help defend the colony. In 1694, no longer a soldier, he received a concession of land in La Prairie, Quebec. About 1699, he married Marguerite Besset and they raised 9 children.

Jacques died and was buried on Aug.t 19, 1734, in La Prairie and Marguerite ordered an inventory of their belongings. This was necessary so that everything would be in order for defining the inheritance of the children, and that of the widow.

The copy I obtained from the Montreal Archives was 14 pages long! The notary documented every item they owned, no matter how small, and assigned a value to it; he also tallied the family's debts. It was exciting to find and translate these very special documents.

Annual open house

Feel free to visit the Vermont Genealogy Library, 377 Hegeman Ave. (Fort Ethan Allen) in Colchester during regular hours, or visit the annual Open House on Sept. 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This an opportunity to take a tour of the library, as well as checking out displays, computer demos, genealogy books for sale, and more. The Vermont French-Canadian **Genealogical Society** is a nonprofit, all volunteer organization.





Tom DeVarney's story

Most of us have heard how the names of immigrants who were processed through Ellis Island were changed. Being unfamiliar with the language the immigrant spoke caused some very unusual name changes. Anglicizing the name also changed surnames. Surnames were not the only changes that occurred. Place names were also affected.

My paternal great-grandmother was often listed as Fanny Debarge in U.S. documents. Her marriage did not give the names of her parents but oral history stated that she was originally from St-Tuque, Quebec. There is no Saint Tuque. There is a La-Tuque, Quebec but not where I usually find this family.

While looking at the Quebec map at our library I found a place named St-Hugues (St-Hugh in English) located in Bagot County. Being familiar with the French language, I was able to determine that St-Tuque was really St-Hugues.

When checking the repertoire book for St-Hugues many families of Theberge were found, including a "Rosalie Philomene." Fanny is a nickname for Philomene. It seems that the name Debarge is a local American variant of the name Theberge. There are fewer than 700 Debarge names in all U.S. Census records combined (1850-1940) and many of these are in Vermont.

The Vermont Genealogy Library offers 90-minute classes and workshops on Saturdays from September through December, and also from February through April. Classes are \$5 and the public is welcome. Look for our schedule on our websites and our Facebook page.

Veronica Lee's story

Who knew that the census could be so fascinating! The census provides familial relationships, birthdates and places, and residence, but I treasure the bits and pieces of information one can eke out of the old records that give glimpses into the real people behind the names in my tree.

» Family members who could read and those who could read AND write. I learned that all of the children attended school at least part time and that many boys went to work on farms as early as 14.

» I watched as my farming family moved from Massachusetts to Connecticut to Vermont and then northern New York.

» Last names of neighbors seem to travel from place to place too. I wonder if our families have known each other for generations? I have loved getting to

know my family in this way. The classes at the library are just the place for beginners through experts to expand their skills and knowledge base. And the people you will meet are warm and inviting. Just a place I am answering the question "Who am I?" again.

Old Mill Craft Shop

* Snowflake Bentley Exhibit



GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Jeanne Masson Douglas' people, the LaRocque family, entered the U.S. via Quebec. This is her great-grandmother, Marie Huard-LaRocque, matriarch of the LaRocque families of northern Vermont.

progressed from Macon to Masson to Mason. A few hours in the VT-FCGS library searching through surname directories got me through the surname maze and along my way to sorting out who I am.

times we don't find what we expect to find, but it is always interesting. Come

Jeanne Masson Douglas' story

Without the information provided by VT-FCGS through their workshops, presentations, and books, it would have been impossible for me to progress as rapidly (and completely) as I have in my research.

Mine was a challenging research study, because my mother's people were of French-Catholic descent, whereas my father's people were French-Protestant (Huguenot). This meant that I had to "follow" my father's ancestors from France into Britain and then into Quebec or Ontario, and upstate New York. It was less challenging to track the progression of my mother's people from France to New France (Quebec) and then into the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont.

Another complication for me was tracking my family through several changes in their surnames. Again, this was especially challenging in my father's line, as the maternal surname progressed from Chateauneuf to Chatneuf to Shatney, and the paternal line



* Specializing in Vermont Made Gifts * National Historic Site * River Walk / Hiking Trails Hours: Mon. - Sat. 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Sun: Closed 802-899-3225 **Route 15, Jericho** www.jerichohistoricalsociety.org LED Lighting For all areas of your home or office. A-Lamps Recessed **Retrofit Trims** starting at starting at \$0.95 \$2.95 ELECTRIC SUPPLY Shoplights **Vermont Owned and Operated** starting at 802-655-7090 ^{\$15.00} 30 Champlain Drive Colchester, VT 05446 www.walshelectric.com Product Pricing through incentives from Efficiency Vermont and Burlington Electric Department's SMARTLIGHT LED Incentives Purchaser must be a Vermont resident, cannot ship out of state. Promotional products not for resale Required info: End User name, Vermont installation address and phone number Offer vailable while supplies last, Maximum Purchase of 12 lamps per transaction for residential customers, or 250 lamps per customer for Commercial custo





Ancestry

Continued from Page 5C

Sarah T. Johnson's story

I joined VT-FCGS after attending an Irish Genealogy seminar that inspired me to find out more about my Irish ancestry. I began with the names of my great grandparents and hearsay about Irish ancestors in my maternal line, as well as Scottish and Native American ancestors in my paternal line.

With this information, I started building my tree on Ancestry.com but instead of a plethora of Irish and Scottish hints, my little green leaves pointed to French-Canadian records. Luckily for me, I did just join the VT-FCGS so I attended classes focused on French-Canadian resources. I used databases and books documenting marriages, baptisms and burials. Over time my tree grew numerous French-Canadian branches.

The most valuable resource at the library is the people – one member upon learning the surnames I was researching, supplied me with a copy of his family tree. It turns out we are third cousins once removed! Another member helped me take down a brick wall by translating a baptismal record from 1822, which revealed more ancestors.

By the way, I have yet to find any Scottish ancestors (the one supposed Scotch surname in my tree is an Anglicized version of a German surname), I've hit a roadblock with my lone Irish ancestor and I have not proven any Native American lineage. C'est la vie, eh?

Special interest groups meet on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30, except July, August, and holidays. Currently the library hosts a group on Scottish/English on the first Tuesday, French-Canadian on the second, Irish on the third and DNA testing on the fourth. All are welcome regardless of level of experience.



Book sales at one of the Vermont French-Canadian Genealogical Society conferences. There will be books for sale at the open house Sept. 9.

Susan Latchem's story

When I joined the VT-FCGS I knew I would find myself with a group of "like-minded" people who share an interest in family history but unlike some other groups of "like minded" people, these family history enthusiasts are genuinely happy to hear of others' successes.

Among he many happy hours I have spent at VGL the ones I prize the most have been the monthly meetings of the special interest group (SIG) for DNA genealogy. The energy of this rather large group is palpable. SIG participants and the volunteer leaders share the latest in exciting news from the many online blogs and genealogy societies. We all share our news of attempts to find DNA matches and our successes. We discuss information about the commercial testing companies and difficulties in interpreting the results. We tackle how to use the interpretive tools offered by third parties. And always those with more experience have been willing to offer stepby-step help to any of the rest of the group.



COURTESY CEAL MORAN Ceal Moran started Genealogy Day Get Together every Aug. 9 in honor of her uncle, Father Romeo Trahan S.S.E. In 2015, she worked to have a state resolution passed for Genealogy Day.

Ceal Moran's story

It has been about a dozen years since I started gathering data to help "complete" my sister's family genealogy. It seemed only natural for my detective skills to get sharpened in this way and soon I was hooked!

This was when the seed was planted to create something special, my legacy, Ceal Moran's "Genealogy Day Get Together" every Aug. 9. This started out as a new tradition to energize communication across the generations but it is evolving. The event has a reunion feel to it and a table is always set up for the hobby of genealogy.

I have also given interviews and presentations at schools, libraries and senior centers. In 2015 I worked to have a state resolution passed for Genealogy Day. In all of my ventures I display information for VT-FCGS and the Vermont Genealogy Library. I like giving back to a group that continues to give to me in various ways. I'm sure that this makes my uncle, Father Romeo Trahan, proud, for he was one of the group's founding members.

ESSEXCINEMAS + X	MAJESTIC	PALACE		Sunset Drive-In	
Essex Outlets, Essex Jct Exit 10 on Rt. 289	VT's Premier Cinema Maple Tree Place, Williston 1-89 Exit 12, RTE 2A	10 Fayette Dr, So. Burlington, Shelburne Rd, behind McDonald's	Corner of College St. & So. Winooski Ave., Burlington	Porters Point Rd., Colchester	theater near you
878-7231 essexcinemas.com	878-2010 majestic10.com	864-5610 palace9.com	864-FILM Roxy6.com	862-1800 sunsetdrivein.com	
THE HITMAN'S BODYGUARD R	WIND RIVER R	FALSETTOS	DUNKIRK PG13	SCREEN 1	
T-REX (2D) 12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00	1:50 4:20 6:45 9:10 LEAP! %	Wednesday 9/6 at 7PM STUDIO GHIBLI: CASTLE IN THE SKY (DUBBED) %	3:35 8:10	2ND BIG WEEK!	Renegades 9/1
	1:00 3:00 5:00 6:25 9:20 LOGAN LUCKY M13	12:55	THE GLASS CASTLE PG13	HITMAN'S BODYGUARD8:00	
12:00 2:10 4:20 6:30 8:40 GOOD TIME R	1:05 3:30 6:30 9:00	LEAP! % 1:45 4:20 6:40 8:50	1:00 3:40 6:25 9:05	BABY DRIVER10:20	RENEGADES
1:00 3:25 5:50 8:15	THE HITMAN'S BODYGUARD R 1:40 4:15 6:50 9:00	WIND RIVER 8		SCREEN 2	
WIND RIVER 8	ANNABELLE: CREATION 8	1:30 3:55 6:15 8:55 THE HITMAN'S BODYGUARD R	INCONVENIENT SEQUEL IR	HALLE BERRY IN	
12:55 3:30 6:05 8:40 THE HITMAN'S BODYGUARD #	1:35 4:05 6:40 9:10 THE GLASS CASTLE MI	1:10 3:45 6:25 9:00 LOGAN LUCKY 1613	1:15 6:00 The Big Sick R	KIDNAP8:00 ANNABELLE9:50	The LEGO
	1:05 3:45 5:50 8:50 THE NUT JOB 2: NUTTY BY NATURE %	1:05 3:40 6:20 9:15		AINIVADELLE	Ninjago
LOGAN LUCKY PG13	1:20 3:40	ANNABELLE: CREATION # 1:25 4:10 7:00 9:25	ROXY EXCLUSIVE	SCREEN 3	Movie 9/22
12:15 3:00 5:45 8:30	DARK TOWER P613 7:00 9:20	THE NUT JOB 2: NUTTY BY NATURE PG	THE ONLY LIVING BOY IN NY R	HELD OVER!	
ANNABELLE: CREATION 8	DUNKIRK PG13	2:00 4:05 THE DARK TOWER P613	2:00 4:30 7:00 9:00	GREAT FAMILY FUN!	
1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00 The glass castle roi3	1:30 4:00 6:20 9:05 SPIDERMAN: HOMECOMING P613	3:55 9:30 DUNKIRK PG13	ROXY EXCLUSIVE	NUT JOB 2 8:00 SPIDERMAN9:50	BBAGADA
12:15 3:00 5:45 8:30	1:00 3:50 6:10 8:40 DESPICABLE ME 3 %	1:40 4:00 6:50 9:20	THE WOMEN'S BALCONY PG13	HOMECOMING	-521
ATOMIC BLONDE R	1:10 3:20	ATOMIC BLONDE R	1:45 4:25 6:50 9:15	SCREEN 4	American Made
6:30 9:05 DUNKIRK MI	WONDER WOMAN PG13 6:00 8:30	6:35 9:10 GIRLS TRIP #		13TH SMASH WEEK!	9/29
12:30 3:15 6:00 8:30	Closed Captioning/Assistive Listening/	1:15 3:50 6:30 9:05		WONDER WOMAN8:00	
DESPICABLE ME 3 % 12:00 2:10 4:20	Narrative Audio Devices Available On Request	WONDER WOMAN PG13 6:05	1:25 4:00 6:45 9:20	DUNKIRK10:20	
*3D Pricing Applies *No Passes/Discount Tickets ***TREX® Pricing **Audio Description 🚥 7.1 Dolby Surround Sound Showtimes valid 8/27/2017					