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Letter from the President

As I sit down to write this letter many memories come to mind beginning with the start of our Society. Our society was formalized with a name, officers and constitution at a meeting held in the home of Ruth Charest in 1979. For at least ten years prior to that time a group of persons met quarterly, possibly more often, to research their French-Canadian Ancestry.

At that meeting in 1979 Elmer Courteau, who had been more or less the first leader of the group, asked to serve a term of six months as the first president of the newly organized society. Elmer was at that time terminally ill with cancer. I was elected vice president to take over as president at the end of six months. The timing was good as genealogy was growing by leaps and bounds at the time. Our main focus was to build a collection of books called repertoires from Quebec. I believe I served five terms in that position followed by John Schade who served another ten or so terms. Since then we have had several one year presidents. We have a small number of individuals to draw from to keep this organization going and hopefully we will have more members come forward who are willing to help.

I would like to name all who were at that first meeting, but honestly do not remember. I am going to mention a few who have gone to that great genealogy gathering in the sky: Elmer Courteau, Rose Johnson, Earl Belisle and Huberta Bennett. One other individual who may or may not have been at that meeting was Wiley Pope who was a reference librarian at the Minnesota Historical Society, and would often open the library for us to meet on a Sunday.
In the early 1980's Dorothy Chandler and myself had amassed our own fairly large collections in addition to housing a large part of the society's "traveling" collection in our homes. Every three months we would load up our vehicles with boxes of books and haul them to one meeting place or another, usually in the Twin City area. We would take one trip out of town each year.

We built a large collection most of which was given to the Minnesota Historical Society. As time went on, the Minnesota Genealogical Society opened its own library. Dorothy and I turned over the large traveling collection to the MGS library shelves. The growth of that collection has become nearly stagnant over the past ten years partially due to funding, but also because of a lack of membership help or interest I'm not sure which, perhaps if I combine the words to say members interest in helping.

It is now a new year for the society and we have a several individuals in place to hopefully get us in the right groove again. Although we have a lot of material for our Journal, we always are interested in receiving more from our membership.

In February the board met and determined we can get two issues of our Journal out in a year. The first hopefully will be in your mailbox in May. We would like to be able to start adding to the collection again as well, but the first and most important agenda we have placed on ourselves is to get member communications going out and on time.

We will have our first general membership meeting of the year May 18. This will be our first meeting held away from the library in several years. In an effort to familiarize our members and us with resources in other collections, this meeting will be at the Little Canada Historical Society. I hope to see a good turnout at that meeting and to get member input if they would like to have more meetings of this type in the future. We know many of you use the library according to your time schedule, so perhaps this type of meeting will better meet the needs of members and bring more of you back to our meetings and consequently will have more involvement in your society.

Al Dahlquist
President

F/C/MGS Vol. 23, No. 1
Your Leadership Team

President: Al Dahlquist  
Vice President: Dave LaPlante  
Secretary: Denise Breault  
Treasurer: Jan-Marie McCabe

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dabreault@worldnet.att.net  
jmccabe@mymccabes.net

Committee Chairs:

Acquisitions/Cataloging: Elaine Magnan  
Cousins & Cousins: Joan Davy  
Journal: Erv Chorn  
Research: Dorothy Chandler  
External Communications: Florence Johnson  
Membership: Jan-Marie Breault McCabe  
Fundraising: Jackie DeMeules Hofhenks

epmagnan@rr.com  
jcdavy@aol.com  
popcorn@hotmail.com  
ladyflo@msn.com  
Denise Breault  
Jackie55428@yahoo.com

Workshops & Education Seminars: Open  
Volunteers: Open

Mark Your Calendar  
Meeting Schedule for 2003

May 18, 2003  
Membership Meeting  
Speaker: Al Dahlquist  
*Little Canada Historical Society  
Directions on page 5

November 9, 2003  
Membership Meeting  
Annual Meeting  
Speaker: To be announced

Meetings are held at MGS Library  
*unless otherwise noted  
5768 Olson Memorial Highway  
Golden Valley, MN  
Time: 1 – 4 p.m.  
No fee  
Bring a friend, membership not required
Meeting Information  
Sunday, May 18, 2003  
1 – 4 p.m.

Topic  
Resources and availability of records at the  
Little Canada Historical Center  
Including  
Projects in progress by its members

Speaker: Al Dahlquist  
President of French/Canadian/Metis Genealogical Society  
Pioneer member

After the program  
Time for questions and answers  
Research time available

Refreshments provided by the Little Canada Historical Society

Directions from downtown St. Paul:

1. Drive north on Interstate 35E exiting at Little Canada Road.  
2. Turn right (east) on Little Canada Road.  
3. Proceed about one-half mile, driving past St. John's Church, and cemetery.  
The History Center is located on the left (north) side of the road. The History Center is attached to the Little Canada City Hall. You may be able to miss City Hall and the History Center, but you can't miss the water tower located next to the parking lot for City Hall and the History Center.

Directions from I694

Exit south onto Interstate 35E. Little Canada Road will be the first exit. Cross over freeway and follow directions #3 above.
QUERIES

Answer to a query found in Cousins & Cousins:

Marie Part / Jeanpart, wife of Alexis Fleury, was buried 2 October 1794 Maskinongé. She was 44. Their first child, Alexis, was born 23 and baptized 24 October 1778 Louiseville. Thus, she married c 1777 / 1778. There is only one Jeanpart family at the time in Québec: the family of Jean Part and Marie Josèphe Roy dit Laliberté, both Acadians, who had children in the Bécancour area. They would fit as Marie Part’s parents.

Yours,
René Jetté
jetterene@hotmail.com

Q1: I am seeking information on Ellen Hasset, b. ca. 1865 and married to Peter Keily ca. 1890/91. Who were her parents? Were they from Ireland? Also need information on Lydia/Delia Benoit, b. 3 July 1860 in Canada, where? Her father Jean Baptiste Benoit m. 2 March 1840 at Richelieu, her mother Josephete Brot.

Contact: Ruth Wotring, 13721 12th St NE, Lake Stevenson, WA 98258

DONATIONS

Thank you to the following people for donations made to the F/C/M Genealogical Society.

Ruth Charlest: French Canadian flag to fly during our meetings.

Vera Conners: Issues of “L’Outaouais”, which has enabled us to fill in the gaps in our collection.

Dominique Rene Theze: Manuscript “Etude Marcotte”.

Donations of Cash: Charlene Hamnett
Nancy Holland
Martin Moreau

Memorial: Phyllis Simonson in memory of Dolores Payette

We appreciate their generosity.
Notice
The Board has unanimously voted to give life-long, gratis membership status to three of our founding members: Dorothy Chandler, Ruth Charest and Al Dahlquist in recognition for their past and present commitment to the organization and its membership.

Websites
If you are researching in northern Minnesota this website may help >http://www.ironrangerresearchcenter.org

LDS website
The LDS website <www.familysearch.org> now has indexes for the 1800 US Census, 1881 Canadian Census and 1881 British Census. All three indexes are for individuals, not just heads of households. You can search for children, or by Head of Household and get a list of all persons living with an individual. There are drop down boxes that allow you to filter by birthplace (country/state/city), birth year (exact year or various ranges), and/or census locality (country/state/city).

One of our members writes: “I've been able to find several family members who just seemed to disappear after the 1870 census in new locations that I would never had chosen to explore. But, because whole families are listed under the Head of Household search, I'm sure I've found my elusive relatives. Now I can go explore these new areas and find marriage, death, and burial information.”

Event
The Minnesota Historical Society is offering the following on Monday, June 23, 2003, at the Sibley House Historic Site in Mendota, MN. 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

La Fete de la Jean-Baptiste
A celebration of the French-Canadian heritage of Mendota on the eve of the feast of St. Jean-Baptiste, the patron saint of Quebec. Come and listen to the region’s best French-Canadian fiddlers and singers play lively music from the fur trade era, and watch costumed dancers perform traditional dances.
For more information call 1-800-657-3773 or the Sibley House at 651-452-1596 or visit www.mnhs.org.
### French/Canadian/Metis Genealogical Society Membership Application

Please check one:  □ New Membership  □ Renewal  Membership #

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>US Membership</th>
<th>Foreign Membership</th>
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<td>□ 1 Year $20</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ 2 Years $38</td>
<td>□ 2 Years $48</td>
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Areas of Interest

- Acadian
- American Indian
- Canadian (not French)
- French (global)
- French Canadian
- Huguenot
- Metis

Return to: FIC/MGS
5768 Olson Memorial Highway
Golden Valley, MN 55422

Make checks payable to French/Canadian/Metis Genealogical Society or F/C/MGS

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### Minnesota Genealogical Society Membership Application

Please check one:  □ New Membership  □ Renewal  Amount Enclosed

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City, State, Zip ____________________

Renewals: If this is an address change, check here □

Please check the appropriate membership category:

- Individual or Society ($28)
- Family ($35)
- Supporting ($50)
- Patron ($100)
- Benefactor ($150)

Make checks payable to Minnesota Genealogical Society or MGS
Please write separate checks. Thank you.

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**Past Due Membership**

Check you mailing label for the expiration date of your membership and renew so that you don’t miss an issue.

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Minnesota Genealogical Society
The French/Canadian/Metis
Genealogical Society
5768 Olson Memorial Highway
Golden Valley, MN 55422-5014

Address Service Requested

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