

Historical Society of Clarendon VT

September 16, 2024

Clarendon Grange Hall/Community Center

Attendees were Bob Underhill, Kevin Peck, Carla Peck, Michelle Burns, Pat Moore, Gloria Williams, Jo Holmes, Rick Bersaw, Dave Potter, Steve Surrell, Jean Surrell, Randy Brown, Phil Mandolare, Marie Jaignent, Nicolette Asselin

This month's meeting was a presentation centered on French Canadian genealogy, though the underlying fundamentals pertain to any genealogical research. Where French Canadian genealogy differs is that far more extensive records were kept in Quebec than occurred virtually anywhere else and those records have been compiled (including in French Canadian churches in New England) and made accessible to researchers. Additionally French Canadian women retained their maiden names which eliminates a common roadblock in genealogical research.

The presentation focused on a French Canadian family that came to Proctor in 1897, tracing the paternal line back to the 1600's immigrant from France. This family included the Americanization of their French name, the usage of middle vs first names, a practice common with French Canadians, and "dit" names which was common in 1600's and 1700's Quebec.

Bob Underhill brought his personal reference library, including maps showing where individual households lived in numerous communities in the Greater Quebec City area in 1709 and on L'île d'Orleans in 1689. He passed out a handout identifying French Canadian Genealogy Libraries in New England, common abbreviations used in French Canadian reference materials and translations of key words frequently used. This was intended as an aide to using French reference materials without being French speakers.

The October meeting will be a presentation by William C. Badger of the Rutland Railroad Historical Society.