

**SURVIVANCE OF THE CULTURE:
HOW TODAY'S GENERATION OF MAINE WOMEN
KEEP THEIR FRANCO-AMERICAN CULTURE ALIVE**

by
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The Question

In 2007, while enrolled in Franco-American Women's Experiences (FAS 230) through the University of Maine, I asked myself, among other things, what seemed like a simple question at the time: "Who and where are the Franco-Americans in Maine?" The subject had come up during the class, and a subsequent online discussion had ensued. Later, the question was integrated into a lesson plan I was drafting for use in a high school French class: "An Introduction to Franco-American Studies With an Emphasis on Maine's Franco-Americans." The document included a section in which students were asked to identify and conduct an oral interview with one of Maine's Franco-Americans.

Still, the question lingered with me, staying relatively dormant over the next two years. As a result of my most recent studies in Franco-American Women: Borders and Beyond (FAS 329), the question has evolved into something much more specific. It has now become a two-part query: Who and where are the Franco-American women in Maine and how have they retained a connection to their culture? In the most basic terms, how do today's women keep the Franco-American culture alive?

Project Background

This project was really born out of the above-referenced studies as well as questions about my own ancestry. Earlier this year, in September 2009 to be exact, in planning for my mid-term and final reports for FAS 329, it seemed natural to go back to my 2007 quandary. It seemed like a good time to find the answer to my question – as much as I could anyway with the time and space that was allotted in the semester. What really began with the simple desire to understand more about my Franco-American background became a challenge to define, quite specifically, a group of living Franco-American women in Maine who are keeping their culture alive for future generations.

My Background

My parents are of Franco-American descent. My mother, Leone Marie Bard Labreck (1930-), was born in Fort Kent, moved to the "Head of Falls" in Waterville at the age of 10, and currently resides in Winslow. My father, Lawrence W. Labreck, Sr. (1925-1996), grew up in Waterville in an area known locally as "down the Plains."

It is really in honor of both my parents that my Franco-American studies were originally pursued. Since those studies began, I've learned quite a bit about my parents and other ancestors and about what is now identified as "my culture." I might not speak the French language, but I have come to realize that it isn't just a language that makes someone part of a particular ethnicity. It's more a combination of a person's ancestry, the traditions they've retained from one generation to another, and the memories they've kept alive.

So, although I was told about my family's background, it was only recently that I came to understand that the traditions and memories I had retained were cultural in nature. Basically, I had not previously identified with any ethnic culture. I would simply say that my grandparents were French and that my parents spoke French. Other than that, no connection had as yet been made by me to the Franco-American society. It was only through my readings and studies that I was able to recognize that, not only were my grandparents and parents Franco-American, so was I. Finally! It feels good to relate to and feel part of an amazing, historic group.

Additionally, it was good to discover that there are others who share the same types of backgrounds, memories, and traditions that I now cherish and identify as being distinctly Franco-American. It's easier to understand now that the meat pies, the quilting, and a strong work ethic, for example, are all part of what makes me the person I am and are also part of being Franco-American. They help define me, yes, and - unlike how others might feel - it's okay with me to be defined in that way. People can be unique, but that doesn't mean they have to be alone! It is amazingly comforting to know where we come from and be able to share a group of traditions and customs with others. It's also nice to be able to touch something tangible - like my mother's *tourtière* pie recipe, her knitted mittens, and my quilts, for example - or be able to feel the intangible - like the strong work ethic both of us are known for - and appreciate them as inherited traits.

Note: The reader might observe that my mother has been included on my list. She certainly fit the criteria for my research - retaining and inspiring her daughters and granddaughters to retain some of the Franco-American traditions that she had inherited from her parents and grandparents.

Recognizing a Need

In 1977, Maine's Franco-Americans were officially recognized by the State as an ethnic group, and the first Franco-American Day was celebrated at the State Capitol in Augusta on March 2, 2002. When the Maine Legislature passed a joint resolution proclaiming March 19, 2008, as Franco American Day, it was to "commemorate the rich history of the French people in the state of Maine and

the United States of America” (<http://www.maine.gov/legis/senate/Records/123/2nd/03-19-08R2.doc>). Today Franco-Americans represent approximately one-third of Maine’s population (http://www.francomaine.org/English/Pres/Pres_intro.html).

Early in the semester, I realized that quite a bit of research has been done on the Franco-Americans, and a large amount of information is available on some of the more famous members in Maine’s history. Yet, with the exception of University courses, a specific focus on current Franco women in Maine was difficult to find. The *Curriculum for Franco American Women in Maine, Grades 7-12*, developed by Rhea Côté-Robbins in 2001, was one document that provided a number of resources for my research, but the major focus of my question still begged to be addressed.

It did feel important to learn what others were physically doing, in part, because I was interested in knowing if I was also doing the same types of things. Finding the answer meant first labeling what were typical Franco-American traits, traditions, behaviors, hobbies, characteristics, etc. Admittedly, that was the toughest part of this project, but it was important that there were specific things to look for when developing my list.

Through my research I’ve found that the stereotypical Franco-American is active, thrifty, and hardworking. They also share traditional values, like family and community. In addition, there are some common aspects of the traditional Franco-American culture, including:

- ❖ Storytelling and sharing oral histories;
- ❖ Speaking and/or writing in the French language;
- ❖ Entertaining (e.g. singing; tapping, dancing, step-dancing, or contra-dancing; playing an instrument, including fiddles, spoons, and bones);
- ❖ Food preparation (e.g., gardening, cooking, and canning);
- ❖ Needlework of all kinds (e.g., knitting, crochet work, sewing, and quilting);
- ❖ Woodwork and woodcarving;
- ❖ Attending community events (e.g., religious functions, cultural festivals, social clubs and community centers);
- ❖ Conducting genealogy research; and
- ❖ Last, but not least, writing.

Remember: This list is not inclusive. A Franco-American does not necessarily have to do everything mentioned to be part of the culture. It’s quite possible, through very small or individual endeavors, to be part of what is a greater effort to keep the Franco-American culture both alive and well in Maine.

The Focus

In keeping with the theme of FAS 329, the list included with this report (pages 6-23) is focused only Franco-American women.

At some future point, it should be expanded to include men. In that next phase, I would begin by researching people like Normand Beaupré, Gregoire Chabot, Denis Ledoux, Ben Levine, Yvon Labbé, Harold Lacadie, Don Lesvesque, John Martin, Michael Michaud, Charles Stewart, Roger Damboise, Rosaire “Ross” Paradis, Roger Paradis, and Barry Rodrigue, to mention just a few. Their names came up often throughout my research for this project.

The Challenge and The Struggle

Author and University of Maine professor Rhea Côté Robbins is an active leader in an ongoing effort to keep the Franco-American culture alive. She was the instructor for FAS 329, and some of her recent comments provided additional impetus and encouragement for my intended research project for this class.

The challenge, I believe, is for each generation to remake the culture into a living entity, not leaving behind the traditional stereotypes but redesigning them. I think the struggle for all is in that point where the traditional and the modern meet (Rhea Côté Robbins 2009).

Today there are many Maine women who have found ways to keep their Franco-American culture alive in their families. Some have been able to introduce the traditions to their broader communities, and a few have been able to share aspects of the culture with people throughout the state. They keep it alive in different ways, too: they might make it a point to speak and write in the French language, or they recount the Francophone people and traditions through their prose or poetry, or they share the music of their Franco-American or Acadian ancestors. Many others have inherited cookbooks and recipe collections from their mothers and grandmothers and each year recreate favorite, time-honored dishes. Some have even found ways to market the traditional foods, basically sharing Franco-American and Acadian cuisine with the rest of the world.

The women I identified to date fall into different categories, what I would describe in partial jest as “the famous,” “the not yet famous,” or “the not so famous.” Regardless of their notoriety or previous recognition, these women are contributing greatly to the effort Ms. Côté Robbins referenced in the above quote.

In other words, one thing is certain: They have all found ways to introduce others to Franco-American traditional ways, and by doing so, they are remaking and redesigning “the culture into a living entity,” helping others to better understand what it means to be a Franco-American today. That was my ultimate objective: to better understand what it means to be Franco-American.

My Specific Goal

My specific goal for this project was to identify as many Maine women as I could from this generation who have found a way to incorporate the Franco-American culture into their everyday lives, basically, finding a place – in Ms. Côté Robbins’ words – “where the traditional and the modern meet.” In the time and report length allotted for this project, over 90 such women have been identified and briefly researched. Short profiles have started to be developed on each of them. Online and other resources used in this research were also noted.

Research Methods

Personal interviews, email communications, written documents, and online research were my major sources for information. In as many cases as possible, at least two different sources were used to corroborate information.

There still remains a question about Senator Susan Collins, who was included in my original list and who has been retained on the expanded list. Although identified by others as having a Franco-American background, to my knowledge she has not done so herself, and her web site and other publications do not confirm or deny her specific ancestry. Until other information is known, it seemed appropriate to keep her name on the list.

A Living Document

Finally, it is important to find a way to make this a living document. It should be revised as needed with additions or changes as they develop or become known. Although it is a product of my best effort in the time allotted, the information contained herein is not inclusive and will have to be kept current and continue to develop, or the focus will need to be changed. Certainly, any errors should be identified and corrected as soon as possible to keep the list accurate.

Let’s just say that this document should survive, like the Franco-American culture it helps to represent.

The List

1. Beaulieu, Agnes: Madawaska; former school and public librarian; volunteer with the Mikesell French Library at the French Center of the St. John Valley; honored by Governor John Baldacci for contributions to the Franco-American culture; past officer of Madawaska Historical Society; helped plan first Acadian Day in 1978; inducted into Franco-American Hall of Fame. (http://fanbf.blogspot.com/2005_08_10_archive.html), (http://www.madawaskahistorical.org/mhs_about.html), and (<http://www.maine.gov/legis/house/records/122hrec/20050406.doc>)

2. Bouchard, Janice: Fort Kent, retailer, cookbook author, helps market Bouchard Family Farms *Ployes* (Buckwheat Pancakes) Mix, shares traditional family recipes, participates in annual Fort Kent *Ploye* Festival. (<http://www.bangormetro.com/media/Bangor-Metro/January-2008/Ploye-Joy/>) and (<http://www.bangordailynews.com/detail/114991.html#>)

3. Bouchard, Kelsy: Fort Kent, graphic arts and design major at the Massachusetts College of Art, created new logo and graphics for *Ployes* Mix packaging, helping design Franco-American cookbook. http://www.ourmainestreet.com/DigitalCopy/01/oms01_24_33.pdf)

4. Bouchard, Rita: Fort Kent, retailer, created the idea for Bouchard Family Farms *Ployes* (Buckwheat Pancakes) Mix, Franco-American cookbook author. (http://www.ourmainestreet.com/DigitalCopy/01/oms01_24_33.pdf)

5. Brown, Erica: Lewiston, fiddler; has performed with Maine French Fiddlers and Brunswick Youth Orchestra and at the Ossipee Bluegrass Festival and the Blistered Fingers Bluegrass Festival; leading member of the Bluegrass Connection band with “deep roots in traditional French music;” a student at the University of Maine at Augusta. (<http://www.ericabrownonline.com/>) and (<http://www.bates.edu/x48060.xml>)

6. Canavan, Marilyn: Waterville; former Maine State House Representative; retired director of State Ethics Commission.

(<http://www.maine.gov/legis/house/history/121st/121bios/caname.htm>)

7. Cassavant, Donna Roy: Lewiston; contra step-dancer; apprentice to Master Artist Cindy Larock; has taught her children and husband to dance; member of Lewiston jigging troupe who has performed for the Pineland Fiddlers at Waterville's Franco-American Festival.

(http://mainearts.maine.gov/artists/traditional/TAawardees_2007.shtml)

8. Chassé, Géraldine Pelletier: Madawaska; cookbook author (*Reunion Family's Favorite Recipes*) first president of Madawaska Historical Society, which helped erect the sign marking where Acadians first stepped upon American soil.

(http://www.madawaskahistorical.org/files/Newsletter_vol_1_no_1.pdf) and

(<http://www.fawi.net/Suggested.html>) and (<http://www.acadian.org/acadbook.html>)

9. Clavet, Anne: Fort Kent; former U.S. Navy officer; served 25 years in Foreign Service with U.S. Department of State; volunteer election clerk; treasurer of *Le Club Francais*.

(http://www.clubfrancais.org/officers.php?officer_title=Treasurer)

10. Clavet-Poulin, Cecilia: Lewiston, bi-lingual, Franco-American author, poet, wrote *This Canuck Lives Here*, leads Creative Writing Workshops.

(<http://www.fawi.net/Lesfemmes.html>), (<http://www.francoamericanconnection.com/fa-writers/index.html>) and

(<http://www.fawi.net/ezine/vol3no4/canuckliveshere.html>), and

(<http://mainearts.maine.gov/directory/listing.asp?ID=1712&name=Cecilia+Clavet-Poulin>)

11. Cloutier, Jeanette: Augusta, speaks the French language with family and friends; has done genealogy research for 10 years and authored a biography booklet she shared with her family members; has visited Grand Pré and other historical places of her ancestors; attends and supports *Le Club Calumet*, a Franco-American social club in Augusta; explains that she grew up in a city divided between the French and the Irish communities. (by email correspondence)

12. Colgan, Claire Dumais: Madawaska; a native of Frenchville; sings with *Les Chanteurs Acadiens*, a non-profit group that sings French Acadian songs and helps to promote the Maine Acadian identity. (from email correspondence at memeann43@hotmail.com)

13. Collins, Susan: Caribou, Republican U.S. Senator, “sponsored the federal legislation for the funding of the Acadian Heritage Center in Calais, and she supports cultural programs to preserve the Franco-American/Acadian heritage in Maine.”

(<http://www.happyones.com/franco-american/fa-politics/index.html> and

(<http://www.francoamericanconnection.com/fa-politics/index.html>)

14. Comeau-Crosby, Joyce: St. Agatha; formerly of Edmundston, New Brunswick; retired education technician; supports the *Ste. Agathe Historical Society*; vocalist, composer, and performer with *Les Chanteurs Acadiens*, a non-profit group that sings French Acadian songs and helps to promote the Maine Acadian identity; sings and writes songs about St. John Valley traditions. (http://acim.umfk.maine.edu/public_celebration.html) and (<http://mainearts.maine.gov/directory/listing.asp?ID=1499&name=Les+Chanteurs+Acadiens>) (from email correspondence with Ann Levesque at memeann43@hotmail.com and with Don Levesque at donleve@gmail.com).

15. Cormier, Marie: Oakland (also has a home in New Brunswick); poet; actress who has performed “La Souillone” by Norman Beaupre as well as dinner monologues; has performed in Maine (in both French and English) and in Paris, France, and New Brunswick, Canada. See “Regrets” at <http://www.fawi.net/ezone/vol4no1/page2/page29/page29.html> and (http://www.rem1.org/local_voices/images/2007b/fall_2007_local_voices.pdf)

16. Cote, Gertrude: Manchester, author of *As I Live and Dream*.

(<http://www.fawi.net/Suggested.html>)

17. Cyr, Rosemary: Presque Isle; lab director for University of Maine at Farmington Archaeology Center; interested in expanding her family's genealogic research and maintaining cultural traditions; shares recipes with daughter; student in Franco-American studies courses. (<http://voyager.umeres.maine.edu/Login/FAV18-00112529/FOV18-0012895B/I3E9EE9D6>)

18. Desgroseilliers, Rachel: Lewiston; former hospital administrator and nun; executive director and co-creator of Museum L-A (preserving mill artifacts and history, documents Industrial Revolution in New England); and participant in the November 10, 2009, Franco-American *Reassemblment*. (<http://www.mainebiz.biz/news45451.html>) and (<http://www.sunjournal.com/node/403258/>)

19. DeRoche, Celeste: author of *These Lines of My Life: Franco-American Women in Westbrook, Maine, the Intersection of Ethnicity and Gender 1884-1984*, *I Learned Things Today That I Never Knew Before: Oral History At The Kitchen Table*, and *How Wide the Circle of We: Cultural Pluralism and American Identity 1910-1954*. (<http://www.fawi.net/Suggested.html>)

20. Desrosier, Constance (Connie) Morin: St. Agatha, Maine Acadian traditional singer, member of St. Agathe Historical Society. (<http://acim.umfk.maine.edu/music.html>) and (<http://www.stagatha.com/SAHS.pdf>)

21. Desrosier, Nancy Begin: Winslow; makes the traditional Tourtiere Pie each Christmas season with her husband; shared her family's secret recipe on Facebook; learned crafts from her grandmother; makes and sells handmade jewelry. (Personal contact.)

22. Doyon, Edna: Belgrade; member of Le Club Calumet; helped to revive Augusta festival Le Festival de la Bastille. (http://fanset4.blogspot.com/2006_04_13_archive.html)

23. Dubé, Rita: Lewiston, executive director of Franco-American Center, participant on the 2006 Bowdoin College panel discussion “Cultural and Artistic Dimensions of the Franco-American Experience” and the November 10, 2009, Franco-American *Reassemblment* (<http://www.bowdoin.edu/news/archives/1bowdoincampus/003529.shtml#>)

24. Dumais-Colgan, Claire: Madawaska; Frenchville native; retired teacher; vocalist with *Les Chanteurs Acadiens*. (from email correspondence with Ann Levesque at memeann43@hotmail.com and with Don Levesque at donleve@gmail.com.)

25. Gagne, Joyce: Belgrade; member of *Le Club Calumet*; helped to revive Augusta festival *Le Festival de la Bastille*. (http://fanset4.blogspot.com/2006_04_13_archive.html)

26. Gagnon, Dawn Daigle: born and raised in St. Agatha; reporter for Bangor Daily News; (recommended for inclusion by Melissa MacCrae).

27. Gagnon, Priscilla (or Priscille): Biddeford; president of *La Kermesse*; helping to revive Augusta festival *Le Festival de la Bastille*. (<http://www.twincitiescreative.org/franco.pdf>), (<http://fanset8.blogspot.com/2009/05/la-kermesse-discontinues-fireworks.html>) and (http://fanset4.blogspot.com/2006_04_13_archive.html)

28. Gagnon, Susan: Jay, writer of *Into Light and Voice* and *Waves of Memories*. (<http://www.fawi.net/ezine/vol3no4/BoganbySGagnon.html>) and (<http://www.fawi.net/ezine/vol3no4/WavesofMemories.html>)

29. Gastonguay, Mercedes: Lewiston; artist who mainly depicts her Franco-American heritage; art teacher of children and adults; organizes exhibits of her students' work; owner of Apple Sass Hill Studio and J M G Art & Framing; work has been exhibited at the State House in Augusta and in "Voyages: A Franco-American Reader;" work featured at Franco-American Center at the University of Southern Maine.

(<http://portalxw.bisoex.state.me.us/directory/listing.asp?ID=65&name=Mercedes%20Gastonguay>) and (<http://francoamericans.squarespace.com/francoamericans/2009/8/6/century-old-photos-from-the-mills.html>)

30. Gauvin, Bertha Caron: Madawaska, self-published author of *Au Temps des Annees Folles*.

(<http://www.fawi.net/Suggested.html#Biblio>)

31. Gawler, Ellen: Belgrade; one of Maine's top fiddlers; lead member of the Gawler Family Fiddlers; director of Pineland Fiddlers; instructor at Maine Fiddle Camp and Pineland Suzuki School; has performed at Franco-American Heritage Center and at fairs and festivals, performing traditional Maine and Canadian music; created Maine-based trio Trillium, which has released two CDs. (<http://www.maine-fiddle.org/staff.htm#ellen>) and

(<http://www.pinelandsuzuki.org/>)

32. Gervais, Gloria: St. Agatha, lifetime member of St. Agathe Historical Society, collected documentation and photographs for *Les Filles de la Sagesse Ste-Agathe, Maine 1904-2004*.

(<http://www.stagatha.com/SAHS.pdf>)

33. House, Tricia Dupres: Presque Isle; bi-lingual; translates for co-workers when needed; teaching daughter to speak French. (first-hand knowledge)

34. Hussey, Evangeline Labreck: Brewer; a native of Winslow; second generation Franco-American; student of Maine history and Franco-American culture at the University of Maine; writer; quilter; collector and lover of antiques and vintage stuff. (personal)

35. Husson, Elizabeth Beaudreau: Brewer; family on both sides (Beaudreau and Leavitte or Lavoie) were Franco-American; knits and crochets items for family members; does gardening and canning every year; shares her pickles and fresh produce with co-workers; is known for her cooking skills; shares stories of playing with her grandmother's jar of buttons. (Personal contact)

36. Kimball, Kessi: Vassalboro; and participant in the November 10, 2009, Franco-American *Reassemblent*.

37. King, Anette Paradis: Gouldsboro; born in Old Town; author of *Growing Up On Academy Hill-Remembering My French-Canadian-Papa* and *Toward Evening*; presenter at FAWI 10 Year Anniversary (1996-2006). (<http://www.francoamericanconnection.com/fa-writers/#king>) and (<http://www.francoamerican.org/workshops/Women%20in%20the%20Curriculum.pdf.doc>)

38. King, Jackie: East Holden, country singer, local television pioneer. (<http://www.fawi.net/ezine/vol3no2/king.html>)

39. Labbé, Lilianne: Ellsworth; performer, folk musician (including clogging, bones, and spoons accompaniment), participated in University of Southern Maine's *Rêves et Réalités de la Franco-Amérique* (2002). (<http://www.francevision.com/nsltr/vf11/vf00017.htm>), (<http://usm.maine.edu/lac/francoamericanstudies/faa.html>), and (<http://www.francoamericanconnection.com/fa-entertainers/index.html>)

40. Labreck, Leone Marie Bard: Winslow, formerly of Fort Kent, librarian's assistant at the Winslow Public Library, former volunteer at the Maine State Museum in Augusta and Thayer Hospital in Waterville, former Hathaway Shirt Company pieceworker, French translator whenever needed, has donated handmade doilies to auction fundraisers, typical Franco-American woman who cleans, gardens, bakes, cans, shares stories of growing up Franco, reads, knits, and crochets. (personal interview)

41. Laliberte, Danielle: Jackson and Stillwater; university instructor; published writer and poet (bi-lingual); member of Franco-American Resource and Opportunity Group (FAROG); 2009 editor of UMaine's *The Stolen Island Review*; founder of Oieseau Chapbooks, an independent chapbooks press (2009). (<http://daniellelaliberte.wordpress.com/about/>) and (<http://voyager.umeres.maine.edu/Login/FAV18-00112529/FOV18-0012895B/I3E925709>)

42. Lambert, Connie Cote: singer. (<http://www.fawi.net/ezine/vol3no3/SchmidtFP.html>)

43. LaMontagne, Nancy: Jackman, formerly of Waterville; teacher; has shared her story with UMaine students. (<http://www.fawi.net/ezine/vol3no2/Acheyinter.html>) and (<http://www.fawi.net/ezine/vol3no2/Achey.html>)

44. Langollier, Kristin: Orono, University of Maine professor, author, co-author of *Storytelling in Daily Life: Performing Narrative*, a collection of stories from Franco-Americans in Maine. (http://portlandovations.org/files/pca_offstage/traverser_book_discussion.pdf) and (<http://www.fawi.net/ezine/vol3no4/LangellierPetersonbk.html>)

45. Larock, Cindy: Lewiston, studied traditional dances of French Canada (contra-dances, step-dancing), educator, and ME Arts Commission Master Artist (2004), guitarist, taught "New England Folk Dance: The French Connection" at the University of Southern Maine, founding member and director of the Maine-based troupe *La Plume de Ma Tante* (Franco-New England Folk Dancers), founder of *Les Pieds Rigolants*, (The Giggling Feet, a youth folk dance ensemble). (http://portlandovations.org/files/pca_offstage/traverser_book_discussion.pdf) and (<http://mainearts.maine.gov/directory/listing.asp?ID=2304&name=Cindy%20Larock>) and (<http://www.fawi.net/ezine/vol3no3/SchmidtFP.html>)

46. LeBlanc, Rachel: St. John Valley; sings French language ballads; taught them to daughter, Lucie LeBlanc Ouellette. (<http://mainearts.maine.gov/news/release.asp?ID=8225>)

47. Levesque, Ann Perreault: Fort Kent; a native of Eagle Lake; retired teacher; vocalist with *Les Chanteurs Acadiens*, a non-profit group that sings French Acadian songs and helps to promote the Maine Acadian identity; sings and plays the spoons. (from email correspondence with her at memeann43@hotmail.com and with Don Levesque at donleve@gmail.com)

48. MacCrae, Melissa: Brewer; copy editor for the Bangor Daily News; activist; author of *It Takes a Woman*; quilter; uses ribbon, buttons, and fabric remnants inherited from her grandmother in her quilt designs. (by email correspondence and personal meeting)

49. Marrache', Lisa: Waterville, family physician, Assistant Senate Majority Leader, active member of Maine Historical Society and founder of Franco-American Heritage Society of Greater Waterville. (<http://www.mainesenate.org/marrache/>)

50. Martin, Florence Rose: Lewiston, formerly of St. Agatha; quilter; with her husband ran a social Snowshoers Club (*Club des Raquetteurs*); singer; performs at festivals and other events; wrote down many of the old traditional songs and donated them to the Ste. Agathe Historical Society. (<http://www.fawi.net/ezine/vol3no3/SchmidtFP.html>) and (<http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2004/04-026.html>)

51. Martin, Marie Thérèse Beudet: Wilton, author. (<http://www.fawi.net/Suggested.html>) and (<http://www.umfk.maine.edu/archives/collections/collections.cfm>)

52. Martin, Rebecca: raised in Rumford Point, jazz singer; songwriter; balladeer; community activist; helped build a Victory Garden in her community. (<http://www.sing365.com/music/lyric.nsf/Rebecca-Martin-Biography/00E146F042FF3DB948256EFE000DAB14>) and (<http://www.dailyfreeman.com/articles/2009/07/05/news/doc4a502e568278c064761486.txt>)

53. Michaud, Jackie: member of St. Agathe Historical Society, collected documentation and photographs for *Les Filles de la Sagesse Ste-Agathe, Maine 1904-2004*.

(<http://www.stagatha.com/SAHS.pdf>)

54. Michaud, Lisa Desjardins: Editor-in-chief, *Le Forum*; Franco-American Centre at the University of Maine; collaborator on “Maine’s French Communities;” communications coordinator of Franco-American Oral History Archives.

(http://www.francomaine.org/English/Collabo_intro.htm)

55. Miller, Corinna: Durham; participant in the November 10, 2009, Franco-American *Reassemblment*; author and co-editor of in *Voyages: A Franco-American Reader*

(<http://www.flipkart.com/voyages-nelson-madore-barry-rodrigue/0884482944-i9w3fncdyc>)

56. Morin, Amy Bouchard: French Island; genealogist; author/publisher; one of the principal interviewers on the 1992 community-based oral history project, which led to the book *Nos Histoires de l’Ile*; secretary to *Nos Histoires de L’Ile* Historical Photo Archive; one of the contributors to the first edition of the FAWI publication, *The Initiative*, originally published in 1997. (<http://www.fawi.net/Lesfemmes.html#Amy>) and

<http://www.umaine.edu/folklife/mf026.htm>) and (<http://www.old-town.me.us/nos/home.htm>)

57. Nichols, Carol: French Island; one of the interviewers for *Islands and Bridges: Communities of Memory in Old Town, Maine (1993-94)*; founding member of *Nos Histoires de L’Ile* Historical Photo Archive; UMaine Senior Designer in University Relations; former Aroostook County art teacher (<http://www.umaine.edu/folklife/mf026.htm>)

58. Olmstead, Kathryn: Caribou, journalist; retired UMaine educator and founder of Maine Center for Student Journalism; editor, publisher, and distributor of *Echoes Magazine*.

(<http://www.umaine.edu/hr/recognition/2009/comments/olmstead.html>).

59. Ouellette, Barbara: French Island; Coordinator of Student Academic Services at the University of Maine; quilts, does needlework and continues to make the same traditional dishes as her mother and grandmother did; member and supporter of the Franco-American Women's Institute; one of the principal interviewers for *Islands and Bridges: Communities of Memory in Old Town, Maine* (1993-94). (<http://www.fawi.net/Lesfemmes.html#Barbara>) and (by email)

60. Ouellette, Cléo: Frenchville; French and English teacher; secretary of *Le Club Francaise*. (http://www.clubfrancais.org/officers.php?officer_title=Secretary)

61. Ouellette, Lucie LeBlanc: St. John Valley; singer of French language ballads learned from her mother, Rachel LeBlanc; has performed at festivals and at the Lewiston "House Party" and at Lafayette, Louisiana's Festivals Acadiens, (<http://mainearts.maine.gov/news/release.asp?ID=8225>)

62. Ouellette, Yvonne: French Island, helped author *Les Histoires de L'Ile* (c1995). (<http://www.umaine.edu/folklife/mf026.htm>)

63. Ouellette, Terry: St. Agatha, 2004 president of the St. Agathe Historical Society.

64. Paradis, Françoise: Saco; psychologist; former administrator, counselor at the University of Maine, currently in private practice; Maine Historical Society docent at the Wadsworth-Longfellow House; prepared commemorative edition of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's epic poem, *Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie*, and other related works, including a coloring book and traveling exhibit. (http://fanbf.blogspot.com/2005_08_10_archive.html) and (<http://www.francoamericanconnection.com/fa-writers/index.html>)

65. Paradis, Judy Ayotte: Frenchville, French teacher, former state senator and long-time advocate of the French language, inducted into Franco-American Hall of Fame, organizer of Marquis Family Reunion, president of Maine Acadian Heritage Council. (<http://www.sjvalley-times.com/index.cfm?event=news.view&id=5D14077D-19B9-E2F5-468B1F389BB1BCD1>) and (<http://www.uma.edu/mwhof-jparadis.html>)

66. Paradis, Nancy: Cross Lake and Fort Kent; self-taught woodcarver (Artistree Gallery). (<http://mainearts.maine.gov/directory/listing.asp?ID=1331&name=nancy%20paradis>) and (<http://www.whittlepeoplecarvings.com/index.php>)

67. Pelletier, Cathie (AKA K.C. McKinnon): St. John Valley, award-winning novelist (*The Funeral Makers* and *Candles on Bay Street*) with the vast majority of books set in the state of Maine, literary agent, and songwriter (songs recorded by David Byrne, Texas Tornados, and Glaser Brothers); winner of the New England Book Award for Fiction and the 2006 Patterson Prize. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cathie_Pelletie) and (<http://www.fawi.net/Suggested.html>) and (<http://www.utc.edu/Academic/TennesseeWriters/authors/pelletier.cathie.html>).

68. Pelletier, Leonette “Nan”: Eagle Lake; named 2009 State’s Top Quilter in recognition of her work to revive the art; charter member of Acadian Quilters in Madawaska; officer of Fort Kent Northern Neighbors Quilters; honored in 2009 by Pine Tree Quilters Association as “Meet the Quilter.” (<http://www.bangordailynews.com/detail/126829.html>) and (<http://mainebusiness.maintoday.com/newsdirect/release.html?id=7385>)

69. Pelletier, Susann: Lewiston, learning associate at the Writing Workshop at Bates College, poet who wrote *Immigrant Dream and Other Poems* including “For the Innocents,” has been published in the *Puckerbrush Review*, *Franco-American Women’s Anthology*, and other literary journals. (<http://abacus.bates.edu/eclectic/vol3iss1/susannpoet.html>)

70. Perry, Maureen: Lewiston, writes bi-lingual poetry, presenter at FAWI 10 Year Anniversary (1996-2006). See “Creons et Croyons” and “Au Cafe” at (<http://www.fawi.net/ezine/vol4no1/page2/page20/page20.html>) and (<http://www.francoamerican.org/workshops/Women%20in%20the%20Curriculum.pdf.doc>)

71. Petrie, Lanette Landry: French Island, writer and photographer of *My Mother's Walls* and co-editor of *I Am Franco-American and Proud of It!*; plays traditional French wooden spoons. (<http://www.womensenews.org/story/cultural-trendspopular-culture/010412/franco-american-women-awakening-silenced-culture>)

72. Pinette, Susan: Madawaska; University of Maine professor; participant in the November 10, 2009, Franco-American *Reassemblment*; director of Franco-American Studies program at University of Maine; collaborator on *Maine's French Communities*. (http://www.francomaine.org/English/Collabo_intro.htm), (www.francoamericanconnection.com) and (<http://www.umaine.edu/francoamericanstudies/susan.html>)

73. Plourde, Carole: St. Agatha; member of St. Agathe Historical Society, collected documentation and photographs for *Les Filles de la Sagesse Ste-Agathe, Maine 1904-2004*. (<http://www.stagatha.com/SAHS.pdf>)

74. Plourde, Lynn: Dexter; speech therapist; children's book author; co-editor of *I Am Franco-American and Proud of It!* (<http://www.lynnplourde.com/meetlynn.html>) and (<http://www.francoamericanconnection.com/fa-writers/index.html>)

75. Poulin, Susan: South Berwick, actress, writer/performer/comedian, co-founder and artistic director of original theatrical productions, including panelist and performer of *Freeing The Voice: Franco-American Women Speak Out* and other panels on the Franco-American culture; selected as one of Maine's 10 most intriguing people by Portland Magazine; wrote the play, *Franco-Fry or Pardon My French*. (http://www.poolyle.com/resume_poulin.pdf) and (<http://www.poolyle.com/>) and (<http://www.francoamericanconnection.com/fa-entertainers/index.html>)

76. Price, Trudy Chambers: Knox; born in Island Falls; author of *The Cows Are Out: Two Decades on a Maine Dairy Farm*. (<http://www.fawi.net/ezone/vol3no4/TrudyCPrice.html>)

77. Provencher-Faucher, Doris: Biddeford; retired teacher; historical fiction author; conducts bilingual research to produce a series of historical novels, such as *Le Quebecois: The Virgin Forest* (<http://www.francoamericanconnection.com/fa-writers/index.html>), (<http://www.twincitiescreative.org/franco.pdf>), and (<http://www.fawi.net/ezone/vol3no4/DorisPFaucher.html>)

78. Rice-Defosse, Mary: Lewiston: French professor at Bates College; editorial board member of "Women in French Studies;" board member of Franco-American Heritage Center; Franco-American Collection at the University of Southern Maine; and participant in the November 10, 2009, Franco-American *Reassemblment*. (<http://www.sunjournal.com/node/421904/>) and (<http://www.bates.edu/faculty-ricedefosse.xml>)

79. Robbins, Bridget: Brewer, ME, and Putney, VT; French and Spanish teacher; quilt artist, author of *Family Stories* about her Franco-American relatives, transcribed *Canuck et d'Autres Histoires* (French Language Edition), makes her mother speak French when they're together, is teaching her son both French and Spanish. (<http://www.fawi.net/ezone/vol3no4/Familystories.html>) and (personal stories)

80. Robbins, Rhea Côté: Brewer, UMaine professor; author of *Wednesday's Child* and *Down The Plains* as well as poems, essays, book reviews, and magazine articles; founder and executive director of the Franco-American Women's Institute, editor of *Franco-American News and Events*, *Canuck and Other Stories*, and *moé pi toé*; and co-editor of *I Am Franco-American and Proud of It!* And participant in the November 10, 2009, *Franco-American Reassemblément*; winner of the 1997 Maine Chapbook Award for *Wednesday's Child*.
(<http://www.rhetapress.com/#>), (<http://www.womensenews.org/story/cultural-trendspopular-culture/010412/franco-american-women-awakening-silenced-culture>),
(http://fanset4.blogspot.com/2006_04_13_archive.html) and
(http://portlandovations.org/files/pca_offstage/traverser_book_discussion.pdf).

81. Roy, Ann Parent: Van Buren; teacher; director of Van Buren's Acadian Village; organized the Levasseur-Dubay Museum; inducted into Maine's Franco-American Hall of Fame; president of the Greater Van Buren Area Chamber of Commerce; former secretary and director of the Maine Acadian Heritage Council; vice president of *Le Club Francais*; and secretary of the Daughters of Isabella. (http://fanset4.blogspot.com/2006_04_13_archive.html) and
(http://www.clubfrancais.org/officers.php?officer_title=Vice-President)

82. Roy, Ida Marquis: St. John Valley, Maine Acadian traditional singer, nominated for National Heritage Award by the Maine Arts Commission. (<http://acim.umfk.maine.edu/music.html>)

83. Sands, Virginia "Ginny": Bangor; former teacher; author and illustrator who writes books in English and French; contributor to *Le Forum*; work includes *My Rabbit*, *Sugar* and other children's books as well as *The Embrace Life Cookbook*, which has some Franco-American influence and the sales of which helps raise funds to support *Le Forum*.
(<http://www.fawi.net/ezine/vol3no4/GSandbio.html>) and
(<http://www.fawi.net/ezine/vol3no4/Contents.html#1>). Also see articles "A Rare Man," "A Red Superstition," "Two Cans of Creamed Corn," and "The French Dog" on
<http://www.fawi.net/ezine/vol4no1/page1/page1.html>.

84. Saucier, Melanie: Fort Kent; singer/songwriter; sang the national anthem in French at Gov. John Baldacci's inaugural ceremony in 2007, which was heard across the state on the radio stations of the Maine Public Broadcasting Network; won 2008 State of Maine VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest.

(<http://www.umfk.maine.edu/valleyvision/release/default.cfm?release=01079>),

(<http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-11760434.html>),

(<http://pressherald.maintoday.com/story.php?id=249015&ac=PHnws>), and

(<http://www.maine.gov/legis/senate/Records/123/2nd/03-19-08R2.doc>)

85. Shanahan, Maryanne: Camden, innkeeper, Maine Literary Festival organizer.

(<http://fanset8.blogspot.com/2009/10/maine-literary-festival-to-explore.html>)

86. St. Louis, Adeline (Connie): French Island; interviewer for *Islands and Bridges: Communities of Memory in Old Town, Maine* for Maine Folklife Center; Board Member of *Nos Histoires de L'Ile* Historical Photo Archive. (<http://www.umaine.edu/folklife/mf026.htm>) and

(<http://www.old-town.me.us/nos/home.htm>)

87. St. Pierre, Adele: Jay; musician interested in traditional music, harmonica, and wooden dolls; history and geography teacher; writer of *Le Coins Francaise* articles; organized 2003 Terre pis Ciel festival de Jay; conducted research on pre-Quiet Revolution French spoken in Quebec; writing a cookbook of Franco-American recipes.

(<http://www.francoamericanconnection.com/fa-writers/index.html>) and

(<http://www.fawi.net/ezine/vol3no4/AdeleStPierre.html>) and

(<http://www.fawi.net/ezine/vol3no4/petsdes.html>)

88. St. Pierre, Lorraine: Lewiston and Manhattan; wrote the play, *Comics*; a self-described witch and dream interpreter. (<http://www.luhrenloup.com/mes.html>)

89. Sutton, Georgette: Biddeford; quilter and family archivist.

(<http://www.twincitiescreative.org/franco.pdf>)

90. Tardif, Karen: St. Agatha; makes natural soaps and candles from homegrown herbs and flowers. (http://www.heavens-scent.biz/About_Us.html)

91. Tessier, Marie: Bangor; independent journalist; freelance writer; newsroom consultant; journalism professor at the University of Maine; Womens enews.org correspondent; defends equality for women; wrote *Franco-American Women Awakening a Silenced Culture*. (<http://www.womensenews.org/story/cultural-trendspopular-culture/010412/franco-american-women-awakening-silenced-culture>)

92. Theriault, Jeri: Portland, poet (*Add-A-Pearl*), educator, Fulbright Fellow, wrote *East of Monhegan* and *Catholic*; chapbook author. (<http://www.alchemy-prague.com/p2002/jeri-theriault.htm#>), (<http://www.maineLiterature.org/mainepoets-p6.html>), and (<http://mainearts.maine.gov/directory/listing.asp?ID=1183&name=Jeri%20Theriault>)

93. Thibodeau, Gert: Fort Kent; born in New Brunswick; artist; figurative painting; teaches adult education; exhibitor and former partner at Artistree Gallery in Fort Kent. (<http://www.madeinaroostook.org/art2.html>) and (<http://art2heart.webs.com/aboutme.htm>)

94. Unsinn, Claire Bergeron: Kennebunk; quilter; fiber artist; creator of *Frankly Female*, an exhibit of art quilt portraits of Franco-American women. (<http://kennebunklibrary.org/unsinn.asp>) and (http://www.keepmecurrent.com/observer/news/article_e52cbff2-77c5-11de-95e5-001cc4c002e0.html)

95. Vachon, Joséé: born in Quebec and raised in Maine; sings French folk songs; hosted “Bonjour”; co-founded the folk group *Chanterelle*, which produced two French CDs; received the National Culture through the Arts Award from the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers (NYS AFLT); served as Franco-American Ambassadrice; inducted into the French Canadian Hall of Fame, Class of 2007. (<http://www.joseevachon.com/biography.html>) and (<http://www.francoamericanconnection.com/fa-entertainers/index.html#stpierre>) and (<http://www.umfk.maine.edu/valleyvision/release/default.cfm?release=08093>)

96. Wollstadt, Genie: French Island; wrote a history of St. Joseph’s Church; one of the principal interviewers for *Islands and Bridges: Communities of Memory in Old Town, Maine*. (1993-94); founding member of *Nos Histoires de L’Ile* Historical Photo Archive. (<http://www.old-town.me.us/nos/home.htm>) and (<http://postcardsfromoldtown.blogspot.com/2009/09/old-location-of-st-joseph-church.html>)

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