



Les Nouvelles de la Famille Doucet

NEWSLETTER OF LES DOUCET DU MONDE

OCTOBER 2003

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Message from the INTERNATIONAL president

By Carol Doucet

Elections It's time again for you to choose the officers and board members who will serve you during the next two years. Ballots are enclosed with this newsletter; cast your vote and return them before the deadline. Only ballots received by November 3 will be accepted.

Membership Participation Please send in your membership renewal form and dues soon so that we can keep you informed about activities, plans, and news from the chapters. And remember to take advantage of gift memberships; they make great Christmas gifts.

We would like to see more of you become involved in LDDM. It's your organization; it will be only as good as you make it. Offer your help and attend activities and get-togethers when possible.

For instance, we have two get-togethers per year for our Louisiana Chapter and have had low turn out. Suggest the types of activities you would like to have as well as dates and places you think would be most suitable for the greatest number of members.

The Acadian/Canadian Chapter will be more active during the coming year, especially with our Doucet reunion in Nova Scotia. We plan to have a booth to promote LDDM, share genealogy information and recruit new members.

Genealogy Books Over the years, we have added to the benefits offered to our members. Another project is in the planning stage. Dean Doucet, our LDDM web master, has suggested that we compile the genealogy information on our Doucet family web site into several books. We hope to have these ready by the middle of 2004. Have your family included by sending your genealogy information to Dean. His address is listed on this page. Contact him if you have any questions.

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Deadlines for submitting material are: January 31 for February issue, May 31 for June issue and September 30 for October issue.

WEB SITE

Dean Doucet, Web Master

<http://www.doucetfamily.org>

GENEALOGY QUERIES

We would like to have as a regular feature in each newsletter a section for members to submit genealogy queries. If you have reached a "brick wall" in your research and would like to seek help from other members, submit your query, including as much information as possible. Include your name, address, E-mail address (and phone number, if you wish). We will publish it and ask members to reply to you. Please advise our web master Dean Doucet (see contact info on page 1) of any information you receive so it can be added to the Miscellaneous Section of the Genealogy Section on our web site.

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ON MY AUNT BY MARRIAGE ROSEMARY DOUCET SINGLETON. SHE WAS THE DAUGHTER OF MAXIM DOUCET WHO WAS AT THE COLLEGE IN LAFAYETTE. LOUISIANA. SHE WAS MARRIED TO MY UNCLE HORACE ADKINS FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS AROUND 1940. HE WAS KILLED IN THE WAR. I REMEMBER SEEING A YEARBOOK PICTURE (1940 OR 1941) WHEN SHE AND MY UNCLE WERE NAMED MR. AND MISS SOUTHWESTERN. SHE LATER MARRIED ALEC SINGLETON AND LIVED IN BATON ROUGE FOR A SHORT TIME. I UNDERSTOOD SHE DIED A COUPLE OF YEARS LATER. CAN ANYONE PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT HER? DOES SHE HAVE ANY FAMILY LIVING?

MRS. JAMES NALLS, TYLER, TEXAS

Jnalls4489@aol.com

(EDITOR'S NOTE: I responded telling Mrs. Nalls that Maxim Daniel Doucet's parents were Jacques Doucet and Aurore Dubernard; Jacques's father was Cleobule Doucet and his father was Pierre Zephirin Doucet (my great-grandfather). Maxim was born in 1896 and Father Hebert's books cover only up to around 1909 so his children (who would probably have been born around 1918 or 1920) are not listed. Maxim was the Dean of the College of Education at the University when I attended in the early 1960's. The College of Education building on the campus of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette is named Maxim D. Doucet Hall).

I AM A DESCENDANT OF PIERRE DOUCETTE THROUGH MADELINE m. CLAUDE LANDRY. I HAVE MADELINE DOUCETTE LISTED AS INDIAN IN A LDS GEDCOM FILE. ARE THE DOUCETTES INTERMARRIED WITH INDIAN PEOPLE? IF SO, CAN YOU HELP ME TO IDENTIFY WHERE THE INDIANS CAME INTO PLAY? FROM WHAT I CAN READ ON THE DOUCET FAMILY WEBSITE IN THE INFORMATION ABOUT GERMAIN ONWARD. I SEE NO MENTION OF INDIAN MARRIAGES, ETC. CAN YOU HELP ME TO VERIFY THIS INFORMATION? OR DISPROVE IT, AS THE CASE MAY BE.

NANCI E. SMITH-POLLARD

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CONGRÈS MONDIAL ACADIEN 2004



AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2003, THERE ARE **306 DAYS** LEFT UNTIL THE DOUCET/DOUCETTE REUNION IN CHURCH POINT, NOVA SCOTIA ON AUGUST 2, 2004

Are you registered yet?

If you plan to attend the Doucet family reunion on August 2, 2004 in Church Point, Nova Scotia and have not yet registered, you can get a "Membership and Enrollment Form" on the Doucet family website (<http://www.doucetfamily.org>). Click on "Congrès Mondial Acadien 2004", then "L'Association des Doucet de la Nouvelle Ecosse Membership Form." You can print the form.

Do you plan to drive in Nova Scotia?

You've heard of children asking, "Are we there yet?" Avoid this problem. To figure ahead of time the distance between towns, use your maps. Or use this web site:

<http://www.novascotia/howtogetaround/distancecalculator/default.htm>. You can calculate the distance between several towns in Nova Scotia in kilometers and miles. It also gives you the approximate driving time.

Theme song of CMA 2004

Download the theme song of CMA 2004 from their website: <http://www.cma2004.com>. You'll see it on the right side of the home page. Or you can listen to it on the site. The lyrics are included and you can print them. Read the news release about the song. And read about "Grand Dérangement," the group that sings the song.

Nova Scotia Tour Guide

If you do not have the Nova Scotia tour guide, "2003 Doers and Dreamers Guide," you can get a free copy by:

1. Going to their web site: <http://www.destination-ns.com/forms/guide.asp>.
2. Calling toll free: 1-800-565-000
3. Or writing to:

Department of Tourism and Culture
Visitor Services
P. O. Box 456
Halifax, NS Canada B3J 2R5



LOUISIANA CHAPTER news



NATIONAL DAY OF THE ACADIANS

On August 15 at 10:30 a.m., the Acadian Memorial in St. Martinville, Louisiana unveiled their third recent project, "Putting a Face on Acadian History." (The first two projects were unveiled on June 15 – the replica of the deportation cross of Grand-Pré and the tiles representing the "crests" of nine Acadian families). A spotlight shines upon individual characters in a wall-sized mural by Robert Dafford depicting the arrival of the Acadians in Louisiana as a taped narration tells the story of the individual.

During the day, the St. Martin Parish Public Library showed the movie, "Evangeline," Longfellow's poem brought to life by actress Delores Del Rio. At the Acadian Memorial, activities throughout the day included Théâtre Cadien vignettes, a lecture on Acadian traditions and Cajun music.

At 6:45 p.m., there began a procession of banners from the St. Martinville city hall to St. Martin de Tours Church, led by Brenda Comeaux-Trahan carrying the Acadian Memorial flag. About two dozen attendants followed

carrying Acadian Family Name banners. Eldine carried the Prejean banner and I followed her with the Doucet banner. A Mass was celebrated in French at 7:00 p.m. Adding to the beauty of the ceremony was the Congr s Mondial Regional French choir.

I encourage all Doucets and Doucet descendants, and all other Acadians who live in Louisiana, to make plans to attend the celebration of the Acadian National holiday next year.



(Editor's Note: Following are translations of two articles by Nathalie Poirier that appeared in the French language weekly, *Le Courier de la Nouvelle- cosse* for the week of July 18 to 25, 2003. They were sent to us by Glenda Doucet-Boudreau, President of L'Association des Doucet de la Nouvelle  cosse)

A SPECIAL MEETING BETWEEN DOUCETS

LOUISIANA: *Last April when Glenda-Doucet Boudreau had the chance to go to Louisiana with her husband on a business trip, she jumped at the occasion, not to relax but to reinforce bonds with the Doucets of the whole world.*

Mrs. Doucet-Boudreau is the president of the Doucet family reunion planned during the Acadian World Congress, which will be on August 2 next summer. For some time now, as part of the job of president she has been corresponding with the president of "Les Doucet du Monde", Carol J. Doucet, who lives in Louisiana. Therefore, when the opportunity to travel to Louisiana arose, she took advantage of the situation to meet Mr. Doucet as well as Becky Lavergne (n e Doucet), the president of the Doucets in Louisiana, and to promote CMA amongst as many Cajun cousins as possible.

The question which was asked most often by interested persons concerned accommodations. So, Mrs. Doucet-Boudreau advised them that it was best to make reservations as soon as possible. Glenda mentions that she has received the confirmation of ten persons who will be at the reunion next summer in Nova Scotia and several others are considering attending.

THE ACADIAN CENTER RECEIVES REGISTERS OF OLD ACADIAN PARISH

NOVA SCOTIA *The Acadian Center of the University of Saint Anne - College of Acadia received last Friday, July 4, the oldest existing registry of an Acadian parish, that of Saint John the Baptist (Saint-Jean-Baptiste) in Port Royal. The registry which previously belonged to the Nova Scotia Archives and Records management in Halifax, contains 370 pages, with birth, marriage, and burial records between 1702 and 1728 of this parish, now known as the parish of Saint Louis at Annapolis Royal.*

"This artifact of Acadian heritage is a significant contribution by the province in recognition of the celebrations surrounding the Acadian World Congress in 2004", said Rodney MacDonald, minister of tourism and culture. "This registry is an important piece of the history of Nova Scotia."

It is in the parish of Saint John the Baptist that the Catholic religion was first permanently established in what we now know as Canada. In 1605 a chapel was constructed on the site of the settlement of Port Royal. In 1610, Membertou, a Mi'kmaq, was the first native to be baptized. About 1613, the parish was officially established and in 1632, a monastery, a church and a school were constructed at Lequille and the parish received its traditional name.

Around 1654, the church was moved to the place known today as Annapolis Royal. That church and others were destroyed following several sieges of the town. After 1713, when Acadia belonged to Great Britain, several other buildings were used for religion.

"The church has always been an important part of the Acadian culture and history", adds Neil LeBlanc, minister of Acadian Affairs. "Artifacts like these allow us to preserve our history for the benefit of future generations."

Despite the loss of the churches and even the abolishment of the parish, the registries have remained intact. They were brought to Halifax after the Deportation in 1755 and became part of the archives of Nova Scotia in 1857.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Port Royal documents dating from 1702-1755, including those mentioned in this article, can be found at the following web site: <http://gov.ns.ca/nsarm/cap/acadian/background.asp> You can read the "Background" information if you wish and then do searches in those documents. Using the zoom feature, you can read the original register pages).*

CAJUN WEDDING CUSTOMS
Submitted by Jacqueline Auclair

When a daughter came of marriageable age, her father would whitewash his gate and chimney top to announce it.

A round of visiting would be made to announce the wedding plans to family and neighbors.

Every young girl had a hope chest to keep items for her new home.

The bride would be given enough chickens to start her egg money.

The groom would be given a calf, pig or mule.

The wedding day began with the men butchering a hog, chickens and ducks.

The neighbors would bring cakes, pies and other food.

The bride wore a dress that her mother had made.

The groom wore a dark suit, preferably navy blue, and wore black leather gloves. He had to wear white socks. That was a must.

The mothers might not go to the wedding because it was too sad.

The procession of buggies from the bride's home to the church would be led by the bride and groom in the first buggy, followed by parents and bridal party and other relatives and friends.

After the wedding, there would be a big dance and wedding procession. Music had to be played in a certain order, and there was much promenading.

The men would dance with the bride and pin money on her veil while they danced. Some of the ladies pinned money to the groom's coat.

The dance would continue all night, although the bride and groom left early.

The couple would probably live with the bride's parents for a year or two until they had money to build their own home.

In some cases, there was a 'broomstick' wedding, when there was not a clergyman available in a rural area. In the presence of witnesses, the couple would hop over a broomstick together and state their intention to live together forever. If a bride was pregnant, they jumped backwards over the broomstick. Months or even years later, whenever a priest would come by, he would remarry them.

One teacher recalled that in 1928 in an area near Forked Island, she found that most of her students were illegitimate. Their parents had jumped over the broom stick because that was the only way they could get married at the time. She asked a priest from Kaplan to come and teach catechism. He married the parents and baptized the children all together at the same time. Then the bishop came to the classroom and confirmed the children.

(Taken from Lagniappe, possibly a newspaper supplement from Lake Charles, Louisiana, dated February 21, 1996)

REMINDER!!!

WE HAVEN'T RECEIVED ENOUGH ORDERS FOR OUR NEW LDDM T-SHIRTS TO PLACE AN ORDER YET. THE COMPANY REQUIRES A MINIMUM ORDER OF 24 SHIRTS. CHEST MEASUREMENTS ARE: SMALL (34-36), MEDIUM (38-40), LARGE (42-44), XLARGE (46-48), XXLARGE (50-52) AND XXXLARGE (54-56). IF YOU HAVE ALREADY PLACED AN ORDER AND WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE SIZES, SEND A NOTE TO CAROL DOUCET (CONTACT INFORMATION IS ON FRONT OF NEWSLETTER). PLEASE SEND IN YOUR T-SHIRT ORDERS (FORMS WERE INCLUDED IN THE JULY 2003 NEWSLETTER) AT THE SAME TIME AS YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND BALLOT.