



Les Nouvelles de la Famille Doucet

NEWSLETTER OF LES DOUCET DU MONDE

MARCH 2004

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Message from the INTERNATIONAL president By Carol Doucet

A very Happy New Year to each of you and your families – “une Bonne et Heureuse Année et le paradis à la fin de vos jours.”

This year, the third World Acadian Congress – Congrès Mondial Acadien 2004 – will be at center stage. The Doucet/Doucette reunion will be on Monday, August 2, on the campus of the Université Sainte-Anne in Church Point, Nova Scotia. Meet Doucet cousins, learn about the culture, visit places that were important to our Acadian ancestors. If you plan to go to the CMA and have not made reservations, you need to do so as soon as possible. The free Nova Scotia Doers' and Dreamers' Guide and map are very useful.

Membership It is time to renew membership in LDDM for 2004 if you have not done so yet. Don't forget to take advantage of the opportunity to give a gift membership to someone in your family. Fill out the membership form and mail it in now.

The Doucet 2004 Membership and Enrollment form is for admission to the Doucet/Doucette reunion in Church Point, Nova Scotia.

Election In November, the election was held to choose your LDDM leaders for the years 2004 and 2005. You will notice that some new members have come forward to serve. Some have decided to continue giving of their time and talents, but in new positions. It's great to see that the Acadian/Canadian Chapter has several persons who have joined George Doucette in guiding their chapter.

The Louisiana Chapter needs to have several persons step forward and accept leadership positions. The chapter has no officers and, because of the death of Lillie Loftin, Becky Lavergne is now the only board member. It will not take many hours of your time and most of the communication is handled by E-mail. All activities will be held in South Louisiana. I'll be happy to work with you to plan socials for the Louisiana Chapter. So, let's plan an enjoyable social for this year.

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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/"](http://www.doucetfamily.org/)

ELECTION RESULTS

In November 2003, the members of Les Doucet du Monde elected officers and board members to serve from January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2005. Results of the balloting are listed below. Congratulations to all! A hearty welcome to the "brand new" members and a heart felt thanks to re-elected members for past and continued service.

International Officers

International President – Carol Doucet
International Vice President – vacant
International Secretary – Patricia Doucette Hayes
International Treasurer – Jacqueline Auclair

International Board Members

Dean Doucet, Samuel Doucet, Norman Doucette, Jr., James Gaboury, Fred Union

Acadian Chapter Officers

President – George Doucette
Vice President – Darlene Neilson
Secretary/Treasurer – vacant

Acadian Chapter Board Members

Michele Doucette, William Israel Doucette, Pauline Doucette Parker

Louisiana Chapter Officers

President – vacant
Vice President – vacant
Secretary/Treasurer – vacant

Louisiana Chapter Board Members

Rebecca Lavergne, Lillie Doucette Loftin

As you can see, the Louisiana Chapter has no officers! Becky decided not to run for President because of ill health. Sadly, on February 2 Lillie Doucette Loftin passed away. We need members to step up to fill these vacancies so the chapter can remain viable. Contact Carol Doucet by E-mail, phone or U.S. mail if you wish to offer your services.

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.



CONGRÈS MONDIAL ACADIEN 2004

AS OF MARCH 1, 2004, THERE ARE **154 DAYS** LEFT UNTIL THE DOUCET/DOUCETTE REUNION
IN CHURCH POINT, NOVA SCOTIA ON AUGUST 2, 2004

THEME SONG OF CMA 2004

Je reviens au berceau de l'Acadie

Comme un bateau à pleine voile
Je pars avec entrain
Comme une nuit percée d'étoiles
J'attends le soleil du matin
Au large les nacelles me séduisent, m'appellent
Et le vent me convie à regagner mon pays
Je reviens au berceau de l'Acadie

J'ai le mal des vents des hivers d'antan
J'ai envie des couleurs de mon passé
Port Royal réclame ses enfants
J'entends les carillons de Grand-Pré
Comme un oiseau messenger d'un printemps enjoué
Comme un fleuve libéré de barrages et de glaciers
Je reviens au berceau de l'Acadie

De la Baie des Chaleurs jusqu'aux terres des bayous
Dans les ports de la Nouvelle-Angleterre
De Belle-Île-en-Mer, dans les champs de Poitou
C'est l'Acadie qui résonne dans l'air

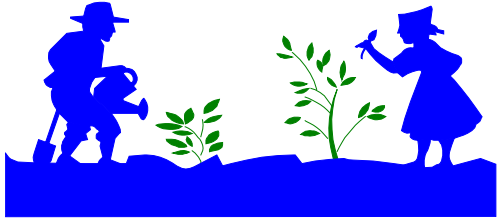
De tous les coins de la terre
Je vois revenir des amis
Certains voudront parler de misère
Mais moi je veux revivre mon pays
Un pays sans frontière, jardin de mon père
Un pays ranimé par un torrent de fierté
Je reviens au berceau de l'Acadie

Mon sang a besoin de l'air salin
Mon Coeur bat au cadences des violins
J'entends du tonnerre dans un ciel serein
Je sens tous les parfums de la saison
J'ai décidé de revenir à la terre des mes aïeux
Je reviens au berceau de l'Acadie

Ma famille je reviens, je veux renouer les liens
Je veux revoir mon pays
Je reviens au berceau de l'Acadie
Content, je reviens avec un Coeur serein
Je veux revoir mon pays
Je reviens au berceau de l'Acadie

The song, written by Michel Thibault and performed by Grand Dérangement with Carole Daigle, invites Acadians and friends of Acadians from all around the world to return to Nova Scotia, the cradle of Acadian culture. Port Royal, the first Acadian settlement in Acadia (1604) is ready to welcome its descendants. At Grand Pré, the scene of a dark chapter in Acadian history, the bells are pealing in celebration of a renewal of Acadian pride. The song uses local natural imagery to evoke a sense of rebirth and patriotism throughout the Acadian diaspora. It is a tribute to a glorious homecoming.

You can hear the song on the CMA 2004 web site: <http://www.cma2004.com/En/themesong-lyrics.cfm>



BIG FLORAL ACADIAN FLAG TO GROW AT GRAND PRÉ

Submitted by Glenda Doucet-Boudreau

The Commerce Grand Pré Association is creating a large Acadian flag out of planted flowers for the 2004 World Acadian Congress.

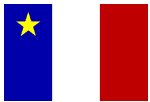
"There's no abetter way to symbolize how important this event is for our community, our province, our country, and Acadians around the world," association president Hanspeter Stutz said in a news release.

"It will be the largest Acadian flag ever seen, or grown, in the world, measuring 20,000 square feet (1,800 square metres)."

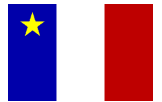
More than 100,000 red, white, blue and yellow flowers will be used and the project will take up more than 1.5 hectares of land.

The flag will be sprouting across the sloping field at the intersection of Grand Pré Road and Highway 1.

(Source: *The Halifax Herald Limited*, January 22, 2004)



acadian chapter news



DOUCET/DOUCETTE FAMILY SONG

Submitted by Glenda Doucet-Boudreau

At the November 25 meeting of the Association of the Doucets/-ettes of Nova Scotia at the "Collège de l'Acadie" in Meteghan River (La Butte), Nova Scotia, Jeanne Doucet Currie and her husband Wayne performed her song, "Doucette et Doucet." "I dedicate this song to the Doucets of the entire world and to those who are working hard to prepare this reunion. There are some persons working hard in all of the family groups, but this song is especially for you," Mrs. Doucet Currie said.

The twenty-five persons assembled listened to, applauded, then sang the theme song of the Doucet family reunion which will take place on Monday, August 2 during Congrès Mondial Acadien

<u>French</u>		<u>English Translation</u>	
Doucette et Doucet Du monde entier, Venez fêter ici En Acadie!	Au berceau acadien On vous serra la main, Cousins et cousines De même racines!	Doucettes and Doucets From the entire world, Come celebrate here In Acadia!	In the Acadian cradle People will shake your hand Cousins, Of the same roots!
C'est sûr et certain Que Germain dit La Verdure Est notre ancêtre ici En Acadie!	C'est sûr et certain Que Germain dit La Verdure Est notre ancêtre ici En Acadie!	It's sure and certain Germain dit La Verdure The first Doucet here In Acadia	It's sure and certain That Germain dit La Verdure Is our ancestor here In Acadia!
Nos ancêtres dispersés Au monde entier Ça nous a point arrêtés Point arrêtés!	C'est sûr et certain Amis acadiens, Qu'on va fêter ici En Acadie	Our ancestors dispersed Throughout the entire world That did not stop us Did not stop us!	It's sure and certain Acadian friends, That we will celebrate here In Acadia
Refrain X 2	Refrain X 2	Refrain X 2	Refrain X 2

Whistle while you work
Acadian radio stations (music and live news in Clare and Cheticamp

www.cifam.ca/pages/ecouter.htm
Click on "cliquer ici. You may have to download "Winamp" (free)

www.ckjm.ca/francais/home/index.htm Click on "Ecoutez" (under "Bienvenu" on left)

UPDATED SCHEDULE FOR DOUCET 2004 FAMILY REUNION

DATE: August 2, 2004
LOCATION: Université Sainte-Anne, Church Point,
Nova Scotia
9:00 a.m. Registration, arts and crafts booth
opens
11:00 a.m. Mass
12:00 p.m. Dinner served
Learn how to make rapure (max. 60
people)
1:00 p.m. Pool activities for children
1:30 p.m. Conference – Stephen White, Acadian
Genealogist
3:00 p.m. Baie en Joie
4:00 p.m. Social at Le Château
Contact: Glenda Doucet-Boudreau, Association
des Doucet, P. O. Box 458, Little Brook,
NS B0W 1Z0.
Telephone (902) 769-3005
E-mail: doucet2004@hotmail.com

DAVID'S GREAT FEAT

By George Doucette

Direct Descendant of David "Le Grand" Doucette

Many years ago when Weymouth, Nova Scotia was a booming village and boats from all over the world would stop and drop their cargo of much needed goods, men from all over would go and seek out the Captain and ask if there was any work for a hard working man. One ship arrived with a hold full of salt and in those days that was a must have item for all households to preserve their bounts of meat and vegetables.

The men gathered aboard the ship and listened as the Captain told them what was expected and what the pay would be. Most of the time the pay was a part of whatever the ship was holding and the men knew this was for the most part a good deal, so the task of offloading began. On this one occasion, the Captain told

the men they would have as much salt as they could carry, so they all talked about bringing bags the next morning to fill and were looking forward to the end of the day so they could carry away their salt, enough they hoped to do till the next ship came in.

One of the men who came to help on board the ship was David (Le Grand) Doucette, my GGGGrandfather. Now, so I have been told, he was a mountain of a man and strong as an ox. He headed out from Doucetteville full of energy and eager to work. The day ended and it was time for the men to be paid, so the Captain told the men they could have what they carried. Off they went to fill their bags. Just about every man had a pillow case which, when full, was a load for any man to carry, especially after working all day and feeling the strain on every muscle. Man after man filled up their share and proceeded to leave when David stepped up and pulled his bag out of his clothes. It was not, as many believed it would be, another pillow case; instead it was a bed bag. It's a bag used to cover the bedding so I'm to understand. The Captain looked with a raised eyebrow and said, "I told you your pay was what you could carry, not your oxen." "I can manage," said David and he proceeded to fill the bag. When it was filled to capacity, he folded the bag over and lifted it to his shoulders and placed it there and started off for home. The Captain was surprised he lifted the bag let alone carried it, so when David started off the Captain followed him and watched in amazement as David, with the bag firmly in place, headed up the hill from the wharf and soon turned the corner towards home. "By God, he can carry it," said the Captain and he watched as David faded out of sight.

Now stories of strong men come and go and I sometimes pass them off as fiction, but seeing my father and his strength and hearing of his father and the fact that he could lift up a barrel of potatoes and put it on his shoulder and carry them, can make me a believer. David's size would also help convince the skeptics. Oh yes, the weight that David carried that day was between 750 and 800 lbs.



LOUISIANA CHAPTER news



CHAPTER LOSES BOARD MEMBER

On February 2, 2004, the Louisiana Chapter lost one of its board members. Lillie Doucette Loftin lost her battle with cancer.

Lillie was involved with Les Doucet du Monde as a board member from its beginning in 1998. When LDDM

reorganized after the 1999 Doucet reunion, Lillie served on the board of the Louisiana Chapter.

Those of us who knew her will miss her gentle voice giving us suggestions and words of encouragement.

On behalf of the LDDM family, a card was sent to her family expressing sympathies and offering condolences.

GENEALOGY DAY IN SEPTEMBER

On Saturday, September 25, the Acadia Genealogical and Historical Society will sponsor a genealogy day at the Rayne Civic Center from 10:00

a.m. to 3:00 p.m. General admission is \$5.00 per person.

LDDM plans to have a booth. Come and join us. Since this activity is in the planning stages, we'll give you more information in the next newsletter

**DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2004!
SEND YOUR CHECK AND RENEWAL FORM TO JACQUELINE AUCLAIR**

DEPORTATION OF THE ACADIANS – ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BUT NO APOLOGY

By Carol Doucet

Since 1990, Warren Perrin, a lawyer from Lafayette and President of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, has fought for Queen Elizabeth II of England to acknowledge the wrongs of the expulsion of the Acadians in 1755 and the hardships it caused his ancestors and to apologize for the wrongs that were done.

For Perrin it was not simply a question of apology. He wanted the Queen to acknowledge that the British officials were not acting independently, but with the approval of the crown, when they undertook the deportation of the Acadians.

On August 15, 2000, Mr. André Boudreau, an Acadian, founder and president of the first Congrès Mondial Acadien and Member of the Order of Canada, presented a letter to Buckingham Palace in person. In it he asked the British government's help in supporting Warren Perrin. Mr. Boudreau's letter says:

"In his petition, Mr. Perrin holds that the deportation took place in times of peace and in violation of laws in force of that era. Based on current definitions, the exile of the Acadians is a violation of human rights. Therefore, the order of exile is still in force at this time because the Treaty of Paris excluded the Acadians from the terms of surrender. I believe, therefore, that the petition is very important and completely justified.

There is no doubt that this event ranks among the great tragedies of the history of Canada. The Acadians were dragged from their lands and separated from their families. In exile, some met slavery or prison. Others, fleeing British authorities, lived hidden in the woods for several years. A number of them perished."

In 2001, Bloc Québécois MP Stephen Bergeron, who has Acadian roots, introduced a motion in the Canadian House of Commons asking the Governor General to demand an apology from the Queen. The liberal government defeated the motion.

The SNA (Société Nationale Acadienne) wrote to Queen Elizabeth in 2003 seeking an acknowledgement of the Grand Dérangement (deportation). Buckingham Palace responded by saying that, since Canada was now independent, the Queen would defer to the judgment of her ministers in Canada.

In December 2003, the federal cabinet of Canada agreed to issue a proclamation in the name of the Queen recognizing the wrongs the Acadians suffered during the deportation.

The SNA's Euclide Chiasson said the statement would not be an apology, but acknowledgement was the next best thing.

Governor General Adrienne Clarkson said she was pleased to be part of this historic proclamation. "I'm very happy that I signed that proclamation. The Acadian community is an example of a community that has just burgeoned and bloomed and blossomed in the last two to three decades which is astonishing, their literature, their art, everything. It has to do with the way they are and are proud of being the way they are so I was very happy to sign that proclamation."

Heritage Minister Sheila Copps, who has Acadian ancestors on her mother's side, read the proclamation in Ottawa as the federal government's acknowledgement on behalf of Queen Elizabeth. She said she sent an invitation to the Queen to come to the Maritime Provinces to mark the first official "Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval" on July 28, 2005.

Sources: The Daily Advertiser, Lafayette, Louisiana, December 11, 2003

CBC News Online, December 10, 2001

L'Etoile Acadienne: A Boudrot Family Newsletter published by L'Association de la Famille Boudreaux, Lafayette, Louisiana, December 2003

**PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING JULY 28 OF EVERY YEAR AS
“A DAY OF COMMEMORATION OF THE GREAT UPHEAVAL,”
COMMENCING ON JULY 28, 2005**

ADRIENNE CLARKSON
[L.S.]
Canada

Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom, Canada and her other Realms and Territories QUEEN,
Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

To All To Whom these Presents shall come or whom the same may in any way concern,

Greeting:

MORRIS RESENBERG
Deputy Attorney General of Canada

A Proclamation

Whereas the Acadian people, through the vitality of their community, have made a remarkable contribution to Canadian society for almost 400 years;

Whereas on July 28, 1755, the Crown, in the course of administering the affairs of the British colony of Nova Scotia, made the decision to deport the Acadian people;

Whereas the deportation of the Acadian people, commonly known as the Great Upheaval, continued until 1763 and had tragic consequences, including the deaths of many thousands of Acadians – from disease, in shipwrecks, in their places of refuge and in prison camps in Nova Scotia and England as well as in the British colonies in America;

Whereas, We acknowledge these historical facts and the trials and suffering experienced by the Acadian people during the Great Upheaval;

Whereas We hope that the Acadian people can turn the page on this dark chapter of their history;

Whereas Canada is no longer a British colony but a sovereign state, by and under the Constitution of Canada;

Whereas when Canada became a sovereign state, with regard to Canada, the Crown in right of Canada and of the provinces succeeded to the powers and prerogatives of the Crown in right of the United Kingdom;

Whereas We, in Our role as Queen of Canada, exercise the executive power by and under the Constitution of Canada;
Whereas this, Our present Proclamation does not, under any circumstances, constitute a recognition of legal or financial responsibility by the Crown in right of Canada and of the provinces and is not, under any circumstances a recognition of, and does not have any effect upon any right or obligation of any person or group of persons;

And Whereas, by Order in Council P.C. 2003-1967 of December 6, 2003, the Governor in Council has directed that a proclamation do issue designating July 28 of every year as “A Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval,” commencing on July 28, 2005.

Now Know You that We, by and with the advice of Our Privy Council for Canada, do by this Our Proclamation, effective on September 5, 2004, designate July 28 of every year as “A Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval,” commencing on July 28, 2005.

Of All Which Our Loving Subjects and all others whom these Presents may concern are hereby required to take notice and to govern themselves accordingly.

In Testimony Whereof, We have caused this Our Proclamation to be published and the Great Seal of Canada to be hereunto affixed. Witness: Our Right Trusty and Well-beloved Adrienne Clarkson, Chancellor and Principal Companion

of Our Order of Canada, Chancellor and Commander of Our Order of Military Merit, Chancellor and Commander of Our Order of Merit of the Police Forces, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

At Our Government House, in Our City of Ottawa, this tenth day of December in the year of Our Lord two thousand and three and in the fifty-second year of Our Reign.

By Command,
JEAN-CLAUDE VILLIARD
Deputy Registrar General of Canada

THE ACADIAN PICTORIAL COOKBOOK REVIEW

By Michele Doucette

This well-presented book is filled with notable illustrations that quickly help to set the mood with regards to Acadian heritage. The cover alone (Church at Grand Pré and the statue of Evangeline) evokes conflicting feelings as a result of its breath-taking beauty. I simply must take the time here to commend Mr. Wayne Barrett on his photography.

There is a most interesting introduction in the book written by Barbara LeBlanc, the superintendent of the Grand Pré National Historic Site. I will attempt to outline the important aspects below.

"The foods of the Acadians reflect a blend of traditional French eating patterns adapted to a foreign land and influenced by contact with Micmac and Malecite peoples.

Most Acadians in the Maritimes are descendants of farmers and labourers who came to the New World from central western France in the mid-seventeenth century. They began a new life in Acadia, where strong family ties and a common religion, language and ancestral tradition helped to create an independent cohesive community.

The first group of Acadian settlers landed at La Have, Nova Scotia, in 1632. In 1636, they moved to Port Royal, and as the population grew, they began to settle farther up the Annapolis River and, by the end of the century, along the Bay of Fundy. Eventually, a group settled on Prince Edward Island. As a result of the Deportation (1755-1763), those Acadians lost their land and were scattered around the world.

Descendants of the Acadians who resettled in the Maritimes after 1763 can be found today in pockets along parts of the coastline of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. Acadian cuisine has not changed much over the centuries. Simplicity is STILL the main character.

In the early settlements, Roman Catholic religious restrictions partly dictated food consumption. Acadians abstained from meat for more than 150 days a year, and this, in addition to the abundance of seafood in the Maritimes, offers an explanation of fish, herring and cod in particular.

Contact with native peoples also influenced the Acadian diet. Corn, not used in Europe, became an ingredient for dishes such as corn chowder and cornmeal cake. Acadians probably learned hunting techniques from the Indians as well, bringing rabbit, moose and game birds to their tables.

Pork was one of the principal meats, along with some beef, mutton and chicken. The main vegetables included beans, corn, peas, carrots and onions. The most popular were cabbage and turnip, probably because these vegetables stored well over the winter. The potato was not part of the Acadian diet in the early period. Once it was introduced, however, it became a mainstay.

The Acadian settlers, mostly farmers and fishermen, led a less sedentary existence than that of their descendants today, and hard physical chores necessitated hearty meals. Breakfast, for example, often consisted of foods such as blood pudding, baked beans, head cheese or leftovers from the previous evening's meal.

Grist mills supplied whole wheat, oats, buckwheat and barley. Acadians traded flour made from grains for molasses and sugar from the West Indies. Consequently, molasses became an important ingredient.

Journals written by visitors to Acadie in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries refer to various drinks. French wine, home-brewed apple cider, spruce beer and fir beer, rum from the West Indies and milk accompanied meals. Milk was also left to thicken and sour, to serve with bread. Historical documents suggest as well that Acadians were the first to cultivate apple orchards. Cherries, pears and wild berries such as blueberries and blackberries were served fresh or used to make jams."

The recipes in the pictorial cookbook are but a sampling of the rich Acadian heritage in the Maritimes. Recipes include: Head Cheese, Blood Pudding, Fish Cakes, Cabbage Soup, Split-Pea Soup, Mussel Stew, Corn-Chowder Bisque, Fish Chowder, French Acadian Soup, Vegetable Soup, Oyster Soup, Rabbit Fricassée, Rappie Pie, Tourtières, Partridge with Cabbage, Chicken Fricot, Acadian Meat Pie, Poutines Râpées, Boiled Ham, Restigouche Potpie, Seafood Casserole, Poached Cod, Clam Pie, Fried Smelts, Fried Eels, Salt Herring and Potatoes, Lobster Sauce, Egg Pancake, French Bread,

Blueberry Muffins, Cornmeal Cake, Molasses Cake, Acadian Fruitcake, Vinegar Pie, Acadian Sugar Pie, Irish-Moss Blanc Mange, Poutines à Trou, Old Acadian Dessert, Jumbo Raisin Cookies, Ginger Cookies, Sucre à la Crème, La Tire, Apple Cider and Spruce Beer.

ABOUT "DIT" NAMES

Submitted by Jacqueline Auclair

QUESTION: While reading last week's issue, one writer mentioned "dit" names used by the French-Canadians with their surnames. I have found several "dit" names in my own ancestry and it is so confusing. What exactly does it mean?

ANSWER: A "dit" name was the practice of adopting an alternative surname. It was extremely common in Quebec. The term DIT is a form of the word DIRE (to say) and can be loosely translated as "that is to say" or "called."

"Dit" names sometimes followed the family through the generations, but their use was sometimes inconsistent. Some families always used the "dit" name in combination with the original surnames, while others used it only occasionally. In many cases the "dit" name eventually replaced the original surname completely.

Consult René Jetté's "Dictionnaire genealogique des familles du Québec" and Msgr. Cyprien Tanguay's "Dictionnaire genealogique des familles canadiennes" (Volume 7) for lists connecting French-Canadian names with their possible "dit" names and other variants. An excellent book for French-Canadian researchers is "French-Canadian Sources: A Guide for Genealogists." It was published last year (2002) by Ancestry.com "<http://shops.ancestry.com/>"

Source: RootsWeb Online Newsletter, Oct. 15, 2003

USING AND PRESERVING FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS

By Kristin Brandt
Submitted by Jacqueline Auclair

Family photographs are priceless. They enrich family histories and provide glimpses into a previous way of life. Over the past 150 years, photographs have been increasingly used to chronicle family events. Photos not only preserve memories but give clues useful for further research. Photographs should be preserved with the greatest of care, for they can aid in the search for the past and enhance our understanding of our ancestors' lives. Organizing and preserving photos will enable the next generation to share these valuable treasures.

Photographs can aid in family history research and should be considered a valuable original document. Details in the photograph will not only give you a feel for how they lived, but may give clues leading to additional records. A photo of a man with a badge or medal might give you a clue to his occupation or military service. A

woman may have a noticeable limp, and her story possibly could be discovered through medical records. Snapshots can be particularly revealing because they often show how people live, including their home, work, and family recreation.

Proper photo storage is vital to extending the life of the photographs that make family history come alive. Organize and label all photographs with a soft pencil. Store photos in archival boxes. Talk to older relatives and try to find out as much as possible about the photos. Many people have boxes of old photos and no information at all about the subjects. If dates are unknown, consult a specialist in photo dating or consult available books on the subject. Photographs can be dated when photo processing techniques, clothing, hairstyles and buildings can be identified with a specific time period.

Archivists agree that the foremost destroyers of photographs are light, humidity and extreme temperatures. Photos should be stored at a nearly constant temperature, in the dark, where the humidity is relatively low. Changing conditions can be very harmful. Never store photos in non-insulated attics or basements that will vary widely in temperature.

Other foes include acid, adhesive, insects, rodents and oil from hands. Acid-free paper and albums should always be used in displaying and storing photographs. Scrapbook stores now sell an archival mist that makes paper acid-free and safe to use. Solutions are also available to remove adhesive and clean photos. Oil from hands can be harmful to photos, so try to hold them by the edges. Photo cleaning kits also include a soft, lint-free cloth for wiping oils away.

To ensure that photo images are never lost, make digital copies of your prints and burn them onto CDs. CDs should last a long time. That way, photocopies can also be distributed to several family members, which will lessen the chance of losing them entirely due to deterioration or disaster.

Photo preservation is important for extending the life of most precious family photos. Many products are available to aid in the task. Proper preservation will enable future generations a glimpse into the past and will aid in the pursuit of true and complete family history.

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