

Les Nouvelles de la Famille Doucet

NEWSLETTER OF LES DOUCET DU MONDE

JULY 2005

INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

Carol J. Doucet, President

103 South Ridgeway Drive, Lafayette, LA 70503
Phone (337) 984-6879
E-Mail edo15@bellsouth.net

Dean Doucet, Vice President

2063 West Windsong, Apache Junction, AZ 85220
Phone (602) 982-3185
E-Mail ajcajun@mchsi.com

Patricia Doucette Hayes, Secretary

1 Lougheed Court
Aurora, Ontario, Canada L4G 5K8
Phone (905) 727-8600
E-Mail aphayes@pathcom.com

Jacqueline Auclair, Treasurer

20130 Cherry Lane, Saratoga, CA 95070
Phone (408) 255-6319
E-Mail auclair@treeline.net

INTERNATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

Lucien (Lou) Doucet

1814 Ficus Point Drive, Melbourne, FL 32940
Phone (321) 255-6819
E-Mail ldoucet@fsfa.com

Samuel P. Doucet

19455 Highway 102, Jennings, LA 70546
Phone (337) 824-7546
E-Mail bars@cfweb.net

Norman E. Doucette, Jr.

9 Governor's Ave., Apt. No. 1, Winchester, MA 01890
Phone (781) 729-9133
E-Mail N_Doucette@msn.com

James Gaboury

1804 Shepherd Court, Apt. 209, Waukesha, WI 53186
Phone (262) 446-0194
E-Mail jimgaboury@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Carol and Eldine Doucet

103 South Ridgeway Drive, Lafayette, LA 70503
Phone (337) 984-6879
E-Mail edo15@bellsouth.net

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

WEB MASTERS

Dean Doucet, Web Master
Lucian Doucet, Co-Web Master
<http://www.doucetfamily.org>

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

By Carol Doucet

This fall, Les Doucet du Monde will elect officers and board members to guide our organization through 2006 and 2007. Read the information in this newsletter about elections and get involved. Nominate the persons whom you'd like to have as the leaders of LDDM. How about nominating yourself?

We need to have more of our members involved -- leading LDDM, submitting articles, suggesting items for discussion.

Articles which have appeared in our newsletter have been about history, culture, customs, holidays of our ancestors, visits to French and Acadian tourist attractions. You can send original articles or copies of articles which you have read. If you send a copy of an article, please give credit to the authors and source.

Dean Doucet is adding thousands of names to the genealogy section of our Doucet family web site. Send him any genealogy information which you have not yet sent.

We would like to add photos of LDDM activities to our web site. We have many photos of the Doucet/Doucette reunion of August 2004. The only other photo is of the 1999 reunion. Search your photo albums and send any photos you would like to share. We need to have them in digital format if possible. They can be from a digital camera or they can be scanned from photographs. One important thing, do not reduce them to low resolution. If you scan photos, scan them at 300 dots per inch. If they come from a digital camera, send them without any resizing or modifications. You can e-mail them or burn them to a CD and mail them to Lou Doucet. Also, if you can identify any of the people in the photos please do so. Just give the photo number (file name) and name the people from left to right.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Elections for the international officers and board members, as well as for chapter officers who will serve for 2006-2007 will be held this fall.

The first step in this process is to obtain nominations from you, the members, for candidates to fill each position. Enclosed is a copy of the sections of the bylaws which list the positions to be filled and the duties of each. Any member in good standing is eligible to run for office, so please give serious consideration to nominating someone and/or running yourself (you can nominate yourself). If you nominate someone, you must first obtain their permission in writing and send it in along with their qualifications. Enclosed is a list of current LDDM members for your use. Send nominations to Carol Doucet no later than September 30th.

Once nominations have been compiled, ballots and voting instructions will be mailed to you.

ACADIAN EXHIBIT

By Norman Doucette, Jr.

On June 21st, I attended the opening of an Acadian Exhibit called "Le Grand Dérangement: The Acadian Exile in Massaaachusetts, 1755-1766" at the Massachusetts Archives/Commonwealth Museum in Boston with members of the Acadian Cultural Society. It was a nice exhibit, with a local appeal, about the Acadians that settled in the Boston area after the 1755 deportation. Some exhibit frames referred to the help that they received from the locals and townships at the time. They also had pictures of Grand Pré (Nova Scotia) and St. Martinville (Louisiana) related to the Evangeline story by Longfellow. The 1929 Evangeline silent movie was playing on a video machine and books and an enlargement of the 1929 music score "Evangeline" by Al Jolson and sung by Dolores Del Rio were in an exhibit case. They had a special invitation opening with refreshments that night at 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. There was a nice 16-page exhibit booklet available that night. I also met Bruce Caissie, President of the Acadian Cultural Society and his parents, the founders of the Society.

The next event by the Acadian Cultural Society will be the raising of the Acadian Flag at Boston City Hall Plaza at noon on Thursday, July 28, 2005 to remember the 250th anniversary of the Deportation. There will a one-hour program with readings and poems and song. The featured speaker will be researcher and genealogist Lucie LeBlanc Consentino.

About a month ago, I was looking through some old sheet music at the Transfer Station where I work and found a copy of the Evangeline score from 1929 and brought it home.

NOTE: You may contact Acadian Cultural Society at www.acadiancultural.org or E-mail brucekc365@netscape.com

IT'S ALL RELATIVE

By: Pat Hayes

One of the best moments of our Nova Scotia trip last summer was the opportunity to meet so many cousins at the Doucet Reunion and to have the chance to put a face to many individuals with whom we had corresponded or whom we had heard about. A lot can happen in the five years before the next Acadian reunion in 2009.

We invite you to send in to us by regular mail or E-mail notice of events that are significant in your life. These could include births, marriages, deaths, promotions, retirements, trips or any other items that you would like to share with your Doucet cousins through the LDDM newsletter. News of a trip might best be sent after the event, as we don't want to advertise an unoccupied home.

We welcome your notices at Pat's E-mail address or Les Doucet du Monde, 1 Loughheed Court, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 5K8, Canada.

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Molly Doucette of Aurora, Ontario will be celebrating her 90th birthday in August. We hope she continues to enjoy good health and an active lifestyle.

Pat Doucette-Hayes, retired teacher, and Alan Hayes have recently purchased a smoked food distributorship in Toronto. Clients include many fine restaurants and hotels in the Toronto area.

JEANNE DOUCET-CURRIE WEB SITE

Our Canadian "cousine," Jeanne Doucet-Currie now has a web site (<http://jwww.jeannedoucetcurrie.ca>).

Jeanne, her husband, Wayne, and Jeanne's sister, Marie Pauline, entertained at the Doucet/Doucette reunion in August of last year at Pointe-de-l'Église, Nouvelle-Écosse.

Check out the singer, composer, author's web site. You'll find a biography, calendar of performances, testimonials, and a photo gallery. The site is in English and French.

Information can be found about her group's CDs, "En Acadie, nous voici," and her new album "Elle s'en souvient," and Jeanne's book about growing up in an Acadian region, "Grandir à la Baie."

You can order from her web site.

Interesting links are also found at the bottom of the page. I suggest that you try out the link for CIFA-FM Radio. Click on the address then, on the page that appears, click on "Écoutez CIFA, then "cliquer ici pour écouter." You'll be able to listen to radio programs live from the Baie Sainte Marie (southwest Nova Scotia). A wide variety of music is played -- Acadian, Cajun, country, bluegrass, jazz, for instance.

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.

~~~~~  
Searching for parents of William J. Doucett, m. Cathering McEachern  
September, 1865. May have been in Blackville, near Miramichi, NB.

Robert Brawn  
[bofa43@adelphia.net](mailto:bofa43@adelphia.net)

~~~~~  
(NOTE: The following ran in the October 2004 Newsletter. We regret that the E-Mail address was listed incorrectly. If you tried unsuccessfully to contact to contact Mark Pelletier, please try again).

Maybe you can help me as I am a wayward Doucet looking to find my way home to my family line.

I had no luck tracking down family roots for my great grandmother Rose Ann Doucet of Massachusetts. She was married to Raphael (or Louis Raphael) Pelletier, b. 3/30/1865 in Trois Rivieres, Quebec and d. 1/16/1940. They eventually had six kids with Henry, my grandfather, being number five and having been born in Haverhill, 4/21/1899.

She was 74 (or not) and living in Arlington when Raphael died in 1940 but the 1900 census showed her as 31 with her birthday as February 1869. I know nothing about her death, or for that matter, about her life, her family and her background.

That census record shows that she was born in Massachusetts and that both her parents were from French Canada. She and Raphael had been married eleven years at the time of the census, which would mean she was probably 20 at her wedding in 1889.

At the time of the 1930 census "Rosie" and "Ralph" were still living in Arlington and he was working as a barber. They were also hosting their daughter Blanche, my grandfather Henry's wife, Sadie, and their son, Ralph -- my dad (1927-2003). Henry at that particular moment was away from the family enjoying the hospitality of the State of Massachusetts courtesy of the legal authorities. He was later released, the charges dropped and his record expunged.

Can you help me locate Rose Doucet and her history? I live in Washington state so on site investigation isn't possible and hours of looking on the net hasn't pulled up anything yet.

---Mark Pelletier
b. 5/28/52 Argentia, Newfoundland
markpeltier@fhtm.us

MARDI GRAS IN CAJUN COUNTRY

Part II: St. Martinville, LA

By Jacqueline Auclair

During our February trip to Mardi Gras in Cajun country, we were fortunate to spend the day in St. Martinville, with Carol and Eldine being the guides for six couples. It was a rainy day, but the weather didn't dampen our enthusiasm for seeing the town.

St. Martinville is very strong in Acadian history as it is the oldest settlement in Acadiana. It was a French colonial outpost early in the 18th century, and by the 19th century the town became known as Petit Paris because of its energetic social life.

When the Acadians were dispersed from Acadia (now Nova Scotia) in 1755 they were shipped to Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Georgia colonies. Other Acadians ended up in France, England, and even a greater number ended up in Quebec and Isle St. Jean. Some even ended up in the French West Indies and others in French New Guiana. None were directly shipped to Louisiana, but in later years, several hundred made their way to Louisiana from France, from the colonies, and the West Indies. Most Acadians were not welcomed in the Colonies, and were outcasts since they didn't speak English and were mostly of the Catholic faith. When the opportunity came that they could end up in a Catholic French region, the move took place and thus Louisiana became part of Acadian history with many, many descendants still living in the Cajun region.

Our first stop in St. Martinville took us to the Evangeline Oak Park. On the banks of the bayou in this park sits one of the most photographed oak trees having derived its fame from Longfellow's poem "Evangeline". The surrounding grounds would have been nice to explore had it not been for the rain that hastened us to shelter at the Acadian Memorial Museum. This was a wonderful little museum that honors Acadian exiles who found refuge in Louisiana. There is a wall mural depicting Acadians and, as the spotlight hits a certain person in the mural, that image talks to the visitors giving a history of that refugee and how they came to be in Louisiana. There also was a wall of Acadian Names, an Eternal flame, and a Multi-media Center.

We then visited St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church. The church was established in 1765 upon the arrival of Acadians in this area, but the church structure itself did not come into being until 1773. It is a historic church known as the "Mother Church of Acadians," and is the oldest church parish in southwest Louisiana. The present church structure was completed in 1844. To the left of the altar there is a replica of The Lady of Lourdes Grotto, and to the right there is a large marble baptismal font said to have been a gift from King Louis XVI of France.

Next to the church is the Petit Paris Museum that houses "The Spider Museum". Ugh, spiders, but the name is deceiving. Upstairs at the museum there is a depiction of the legendary Durand sisters' wedding

created using very elaborate Mardi Gras costumes. The legend told to us by the museum's personnel goes as follows: Charles Durand, a very wealthy plantation owner, had a number of daughters he had married off, and in 1850 the last two were marrying in a double wedding. Mr. Durand



wanted to do something special so he supposedly imported hundreds of spiders from Cathay to spin large spider webs along the three-mile long alley of trees leading to his plantation. On the morning of the wedding, he had the servants remove the spiders (so they would not drop on guests as they were passing). While the webs were damp with dew, he

had the servants dust them with gold and silver so the arriving wedding guests and his daughters could admire the webs glistening in the morning sun. Also as the daughters departed down the same road on their way to their honeymoon, they would be reminded of their father's love and wealth. I personally thought this was a cute legend.

The rain at this point was starting to subside and since it was past lunchtime, we decided to visit a restaurant called "Possums", where we had lunch, laughs, and great conversation. It was then time to head back to Lafayette so those going to the King Gabriel and Queen Evangeline ball could start getting ready.

If you haven't been to Louisiana, and someday you get the opportunity, I highly recommend that you go. I'm certain you won't be disappointed, especially in Cajun country.

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2006!

TO HELP YOU KEEP TRACK OF YOUR DUES STATUS, WE ARE NOW LISTING ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL THE LAST YEAR FOR WHICH YOU PAID DUES. IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2006. ENCLOSED ARE TWO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORMS. USE ONE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND GIVE THE SECOND APPLICATION BLANK TO ANOTHER DOUCET COUSIN AND INVITE HIM TO JOIN.

WE HAVE MEMBERS FROM ALL OVER THE US AND CANADA AND FRANCE AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST:

ALBERTA	NEWFOUNDLAND
ARIZONA	NEW BRUNSWICK
CALIFORNIA	NEW HAMPSHIRE
CONNECTICUT	NORTH CAROLINA
FLORIDA	NOVA SCOTIA
ILLINOIS	OREGON
LOUISIANA	ONTARIO
MAINE	QUEBEC
MASSACHUSETTS	TEXAS
MINNESOTA	VIRGINIA
NEVADA	WISCONSIN



**ACADIAN RECIPE CORNER -
TRADITIONS REMEMBERED**
By: Michele Doucette

I have many positive memories with regards to my Grandmother Feeley (née Breau) and her farmhouse, complete with woodstove. As coordinator of the Acadian GenWeb, I find that I am quite eager to share Acadian recipes.

As they say in Louisiana, the heart of Cajun country, "Laissez les bons temps rouler."

Fish Cakes

From Acadian Pictorial Cookbook

- 2 onions, diced
- Butter
- 4 cups mashed potatoes
- 2 cups cooked salt cod
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 2 eggs, beaten

Sauté onions in butter until golden brown. Mix together onions, mashed potatoes, cod, salt, pepper, nutmeg and eggs. Form into patties and fry in butter until golden brown on both sides.

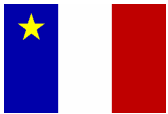
PYRAMID THEORY OF DOUBLING ANCESTORS

SELF
2 PARENTS
4 GRANDPARENTS
8 GREAT-GRANDPARENTS
16 GREAT-GREAT GRANDPARENTS
32 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT GRANDPARENTS
64 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT GRANDPARENTS
128 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT GRANDPARENTS
256 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT GRANDPARENTS
512 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT GRANDPARENTS
GRANDPARENTS
1024 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT GRANDPARENTS

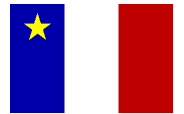
In this theory the number of ancestors doubles each generation. Following is the number of theoretical ancestors in each generation starting in Generation 12 where the above pyramid leaves off.

GENERATION 12	2,048
GENERATION 13	4,096
GENERATION 14	8,192
GENERATION 15	16,384
GENERATION 16	32,768

Source: *Olive Tree Genealogy*



ACADIAN/CANADIAN CHAPTER NEWS



Acadians remembered

By Mary MackKay, *The Guardian*, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, June 16, 2005

Submitted by Jacqueline Auclair

There is a tragedy of titanic proportions in P.E.I.'s tumultuous early history.

Of the 3,100 Acadians deported by the British from this province in the late 1750s, fewer than one-third survived their journey.

One former Acadian community, the parish of Saint-Paul de la Pointe-Prime, which was the strip of land that runs from Pownal to Pinette, was particularly hard hit when a British transport ship, the Duke William, carrying more than 360 people, sank in the English Channel in 1758, wiping more than 20 Acadian families completely off the genealogical map.

"According to (Moncton genealogist) Stephen White, about 120 members of the Doiron family that lived just around this cove here perished when the Duke William went down," says Acadian historian Georges Arseneault during a recent interview in Lord Selkirk Provincial Park in Eldon.

This historic Scottish landmark, which was also the focal point of the Pointe-Prime during its brief existence in the 1750s, will be the site of a new monument to commemorate the Acadian deportees and the shipwreck of the Duke William.

The monument, which is a co-operative effort by the Sister Antoinette DesRoches Historical Committee, the Acadian Museum and the Belfast Historical Society, will be placed at the southwest edge of the historic cemetery in Lord Selkirk Provincial Park, which is representative of the Acadian and Scottish communities in the area.

"You're not going to get too many (historic) cemeteries with two different cultures buried in the same spot," says Ken Emery, president of the 50-member Belfast Historical Society which started work on the project last year following an exhibit of Acadian history in the area and the early history of the Free Church of Scotland.

Not far from the Church of Scotland in Lord Selkirk Park is the ancient burial ground for the two cultures.

"It was first an Acadian cemetery from probably 1751 to 1758. The Scottish settlers arrived after the deportation (about 50 years later)," Arseneault says.

The arrival of the Acadians to this particular area of what was then the French colony of Isle Saint-Jean was fostered by the availability of salt marshes where the settlers could grow hay to feed their animals as they undertook the arduous task of clearing the land.

A 1752 census showed that the parish of Pointe-Prime was well populated for the times with 63 households in the area between Pownal and Pinette with a population of 362, most of whom relocated from Nova Scotia starting around 1750.

"There had been a war between France and England from 1744 to 1748. After the war, the Acadians who were still living in Nova Scotia, which was British territory, were being pressured by the British and French to leave," Arseneault says

(continued on Page 5)

(Continued from Page 4)

About half of the Acadian population in the Pointe-Prime parish was from the Cobequid area of Nova Scotia. Others were from Pisquid, a few from Grand-Pré and a few from Port-Royal. Father Jacques Girard was the first and only priest to serve the parish between 1752 and 1758.

Settled in close proximity to the church and cemetery grounds in what is now called Selkirk Cove was the Doiron clan, the patriarch of which was Noel Doiron.

The French called that the Cove of Pointe Prime, Ance Point-Prime,” Arsenault says.

“So this little village had 13 households in 1752 with a population of 72 Most of the families who were here were all related.”

In 1752, the population of the Island was more than 2,200, but by 1758, with the active deportation of Acadians from mainland Nova Scotia, that number increased to approximately 4,700.

They were soon to be deported from their new home, too. One mass transport out of what is now P.E.I. was the British ship, the Duke William, which sailed out of Port-Lajoie on Oct. 20, 1758, for France, carrying Father Girard, all 366 of his Pointe-Prime parishioners and other Acadian deportees.

According to a declaration made in 1764 by Girard, who with the British crew, the priest and four Acadians made it to the shore with lifeboats, the ship sank 40 leagues off the shores of England on Dec. 13, 1758. More than 360 Acadians drowned.

“According to Stephen White, about 120 members of the Doiron family that lived just around this (Selkirk) cove here perished when the Duke William went down,” Arsenault says.

In fact, 11 of the 13 household family names that were recorded in the 1752 census disappeared and are thought to have been on that fatal deportation journey.

Of those who survived the deportation, very few returned. In the case of the parish of Pointe-Prime, it is thought that only one family came back to P.E.I.

“(It was) the family of Alexis Doiron, the ancestor of all the Doirons here on the Island today,” Arsenault says.

Doiron was living in the Pownal Bay area prior to the deportation. He and his family returned in the early 1770s, settled around Lower Montague and ended up in the Rustico area.

“What’s interesting is a lot of those people ended up in Louisiana from France around 1785,” Arsenault adds.

“One of Alexis Doiron’s brothers, Jean, who was living next to him on Pownal Bay, went to France and tried to settle in different places. He went to Louisiana with his family while Alexis came back to P.E.I.”

In fact, more and more Cajuns, who are the descendants of the Acadians who went to Louisiana, are coming to Canada, looking for the places where their ancestors lived.

“Many of them know that their ancestors did spend some time on the Island here, so now this will be a place where we can send them: ‘There’s a cemetery and maybe your ancestor came to the church here,’ ” Arsenault says of the memorial monument to be unveiled at Lord Selkirk Provincial Park during an official ceremony on Sunday, June 26 at 2 p.m.

“It’s only fitting that we would honour the great sacrifice that people went through for us to be standing here today,”

Emery says.

Arsenault believes it’s important that the story of P.E.I.’s Acadian deportation be better known to Islanders and to Canadians in general because it’s certainly one of the most tragic pages of Canadian history.

“We talk about the deportation from Grand-Pre from Nova Scotia which was in 1755 and was terrible, but the one from the Island is the most tragic because of the number of people who died,” he says.

“Not much has been made on the Island about that. There’s no monument or anything. So this will be the first monument and hopefully there will be some more, maybe around Port-Lajoie, later on.”

DEPORTATION CROSS TO GO TO NEW SITE CBC News, June 24, 2005

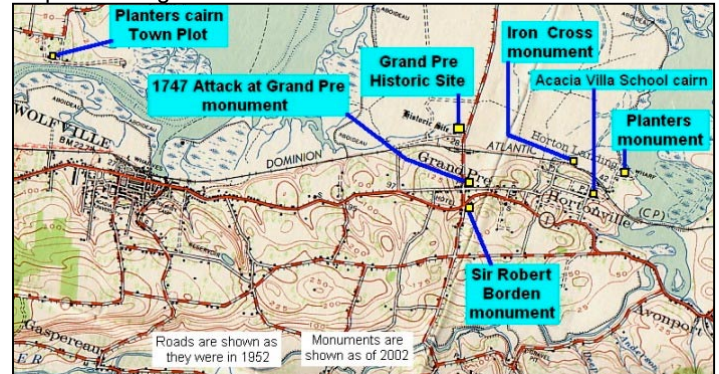
A cross marking the deportation of the Acadians is getting a new home after historians determined it had been in the wrong place for 81 years.

The iron cross was placed in a field in Grand Pré that supposedly marked the spot where 10,000 Acadians were forced to leave their homes 250 years ago.

In the 1920s, historians thought that must have happened by an old creek. But new research tells a different story.

“It was impossible to have gone from that location because there was not a creek there, it was diked across,” said Johnson, a historian with Parks Canada.

“This is the location here at Horton Landing which is the almost certain location where the Acadians walked their last steps on firm ground.”



The rusty cross is getting patched, repaired and repainted before it’s placed in its more appropriate home, near a monument marking the arrival of New England Planters a few years after the deportation.

The Société National de l’Acadie supports the more and the repairs.

“We’re happy that Parks Canada is taking the time to do proper maintenance in preparation of setting the cross at its new location,” said Michel Cyr, head of the society.

The placement of the cross near railway tracks was also an issue for the company that owned the property, which had complained for years that it was a safety risk.

“There was a tremendous amount of pedestrian traffic traveling down there and it was a safety concern to the railway, the province and Transport Canada,” said Jim Taylor, with the Windsor and Hantsport Railway.

Parks Canada expects the cross will be fully restored and placed at the new site by July 28, the 250 anniversary of the beginning of the Acadian deportation.



COMMEMORATION OF THE DEPORTATION

Les Doucet du Monde will participate in "Acadian Heritage Family Day" sponsored by CAFA (Confédération des Associations de Famille Acadienne) which will be held to commemorate the deportation of the Acadians in 1755. It will also precede "Acadian Heritage Week" which is scheduled for the third week of September each year. It is specifically planned so that families can participate in honoring and recognizing the sacrifices and hardships that our ancestors endured as a result of the deportation.

Acadian Heritage Family Day is basically in three parts with the morning program designed to honor and recognize the hardships that our ancestors endured during the deportation and beyond. The afternoon program will celebrate the fact that Acadians endured and survived with a young musicians contest and Cajun music to follow. Acadian Heritage Family Day will conclude with families giving thanks for all the blessings received over the years at a Mass celebrated by Monsignor Joseph Bourque.

FAMILY BOOTHS: Family organizations will be able to have family booths in the back ballroom as we did for the Louisiana Purchase Celebration in 2003. LDDM will have a table with a computer for genealogy, blank genealogy sheets for people to fill in, membership information and applications, and t-shirts and order blanks (we must have a minimum order of 24 to have more shirts made).

Make plans to be with us to meet and or renew acquaintances with other LDDM members. If you can help with the family booth, contact Carol Doucet.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM
Acadian Heritage Family Day
27 August 2005 - Rayne Civic Center

8:00 am	Registration begins (\$5.00 admission 12 and older)
8:00 am-4:00 pm	Booths open.
9:00 am -9:50 am	Entertainment
10:00 am -11:00 am	Opening Ceremonies
11:30 am- 12:30 am	Lunch
12:00 noon-1:30 pm	Young Musicians Contest - Fiddle and Accordion
1:30 pm -3:30 pm	Entertainment - Terry Huval and Jambalaya
4:00 pm -5:00 pm	Closing Mass - Monsignor

Joseph Bourque

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals of

“A Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval”, and for other purposes.

WHEREAS on March 3, 1699, France established the French colony of Louisiana, and this event was commemorated in 1999 as *FrancoFête 99* and the *Congrès Mondial Acadien-Louisiane 1999*;

WHEREAS on December 9, 2003, a royal proclamation was signed in Canada in which Queen Elizabeth II acknowledged for the first time the wrongs committed in the name of the English Crown during the Acadian deportation of 1755;

WHEREAS this royal proclamation sets July 28th of every year, beginning in 2005, as “A Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval”;

WHEREAS the 10,000 men, women, and children exiled from Nova Scotia two and a half centuries ago are the ancestors of many of south Louisiana’s French-Acadian or Cajun people;

WHEREAS in 1803, President Thomas Jefferson purchased the Louisiana territory from France, and the French Napoleonic Civil Code was adopted as the basis of Louisiana’s civil law system which continues to the present;

WHEREAS in 1968, the Louisiana Legislature created the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) and mandated that the agency promote French for economic, educational, and touristic purposes;

WHEREAS since its creation, CODOFIL has recruited teachers from the international community to come to Louisiana to teach French in Louisiana schools;

WHEREAS there are 30 French immersion schools in Louisiana, and Louisiana leads the Nation in bilingual education;

WHEREAS Louisiana is officially bilingual pursuant to section 51 of title 1, Louisiana Revised Statutes, which states “Any act or contract made or executed in the French language is as legal and binding upon the parties as if it had been made or executed in the English language”;

WHEREAS in 2004, the Louisiana Legislature declared Acadian Heritage Week to be the third week in September and urged schools in Louisiana to teach children about their Acadian history, culture, and heritage; and

WHEREAS in 2005, the world will memorialize the 250th anniversary of the Acadian deportation and observe a day of remembrance of the suffering of the Acadian people as a result of their deportation by the British Crown (as memorialized in Queen Elizabeth II’s Royal Proclamation dated December 9, 2003): Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives

- (1) supports of the goals of Acadian Heritage Week; and
- (2) supports the goals of “A Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval”, as established by Queen Elizabeth II’s Royal Proclamation, signed on December 9, 2003, in which the sufferings of the Acadian people were acknowledged.

(This resolution was approved by the LA House of Representatives and awaits action by the US House of Representatives).