

Les Nouvelles de la Famille Doucet

NEWSLETTER OF LES DOUCET DU MONDE

JUNE 2006

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

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MESSAGE FROM The INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

By Carol Doucet

Les Doucet du Monde's two web masters have been very busy working on our web site. Read the article submitted by Dean Doucet and Lou Doucet.

Our family organization is fortunate to have other dedicated persons serving on the board.

Jackie Auclair, our treasurer, and Pay Hayes, our secretary, keep tabs on our membership and do a great job.

The other board members, Sam Doucet, Norman Doucette and Jim Gaboury contribute to the success of LDDM by their participating in our discussions.

Eldine Doucet, co-editor of our newsletter, makes "Les Nouvelles de la Famille Doucet" neat and attractive.

A wide variety of articles was submitted for this issue of our newsletter.

As we have said several times, this newsletter, "Les Nouvelles de la Famille Doucet," is yours. Thanks to those members who have contributed articles, recipes and inquiries.

IT'S ALL RELATIVE

By: Pat Hayes

One of the best moments of our Nova Scotia trip for CMA 2004 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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HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

LDDM WEB SITE UPDATE
By: Lou Doucet and Dean Doucet

We are currently working on several projects pertaining to the genealogical data on the family web site located at: www.doucetfamily.org.

Several months ago we added a Name Index that contained all of the individuals listed in the genealogical data. We are currently updating the Index in a two phase project to add links between the individuals in the index and where the individual is located within the genealogical data.

The first phase is to link each name in the Index to where the individual is shown as a child and as a parent, as appropriate. This will make it easier to move from the Index to the genealogy data when it is completed.

The second phase will be to link each child to where they are shown as a parent, and vice versa. As an example, you are in Generation II and click on a child. This will take you to where that child is shown as a parent in Generation III. If you click on the parent link in Generation III it will take you back to where the parent is shown as a child in Generation II. This will allow you to move forward and backward between the generations of the family.

This is a time consuming process, but will make the genealogical data more user friendly. We are hoping to have both phases of this done by the end of the year. Due to this project we won't add any additional data or make changes to the existing data until the project is completed. We already have over 1000 names and corrections to add. Your patience is appreciated in this matter.

We will post the links as we complete each section of the Index. The Index links that are currently completed will be highlighted in yellow on the index pages.

Most of you are aware that there are online bulletin boards where individuals can post queries and genealogical data. Links to these bulletin boards at GenForum and RootsWeb are contained on the Links page of the web site. We are building a matrix to bring all of the postings with genealogical data together for each individual/family referred to in the various bulletin boards. We have almost completed the matrix for the Doucet and Doucette GenForum bulletin boards. This will be expanded to include the various other spellings of Doucet and Doucette and to begin the review of the RootsWeb bulletin boards.

We are excited about these projects in an effort to assist our extended family members in their quest for finding their place in the family tree. As always, we will continue to accept corrections or additional data for the genealogical data.

Letter to My Ancestors

[EDITORS'S NOTE: This was submitted by Jackie Auclair. We include it as a public service to all who have run into similar problems. You may want to use it as a form letter.]

Dear _____:

I am your _____ living in the early 21st century here in _____, _____. I am sitting in front of a microfilm projector (I'll explain what that is in a later e-mail) in a special library run by the LDS (nice people, but later on them, too) trying to decipher the small and shaky handwriting of your parish's minister/vicar/curate (choose one). He must have been either vertically challenged or had palsy - because it's unreadable! At least I think it's your parish! I'm not even sure of he decade.

Thanks for leaving such a good paper trail! (Sarcasm intended). According to family legend, you and your wife _____ had _____ children, some of whom lived beyond infancy. Yet not a single one was recorded in the parish records! I can't even find your marriage certificate. You two WERE married, right? Didn't you know that there would be legions of people like me frantically spending their waking hours and small fortunes

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.

ENCLOSED IS A MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM. IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YET, PLEASE FILL IT OUT AND MAIL IT IN TODAY WITH YOUR DUES. IF YOU HAVE ALREADY RENEWED HELP OUR ORGANIZATION GROW BY GETTING A FAMILY MEMBER TO JOIN -- AN UNCLE OR AN AUNT, A SIBLING, A COUSIN, ETC. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP. YOU CAN DOWNLOAD ADDITIONAL FORMS AT OUR WEB SITE: WWW.DOUCETFAMILY.ORG.

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

ALBERTA	NEW HAMPSHIRE
CALIFORNIA	NEW ZEALAND
CONNECTICUT	NORTH CAROLINA
FLORIDA	NOVA SCOTIA
FRANCE	ONTARIO
ILLINOIS	ORGON
LOUISIANA	PENNSYLVANIA
MAINE	QUEBEC
MASSACHUSETTS	TEXAS
NEVADA	WISCONSIN
NEWFOUNDLAND	

BOOK CORNER

I've just finished reading an engaging book about the Acadians of Nova Scotia entitled "A great and noble scheme: the tragic story of the expulsion of the French Acadians from their American homeland" by John Mack Faragher.

I'm sure that some of you may have read this book. If you haven't, I recommend that you do to learn more about, and appreciate, our rich history and heritage. The book is lengthy and detailed (some 57 pages of footnotes and references) covering 400 years of conflicts, wars, treaties, accommodations and contradictions.

With reference to the latter, I learned that in 1717 a John Doucette was Lt. Governor of l'Acadie, BUT on the British side--a Huguenot, the English born son of French exiles. C'est la vie!

--Edwin Antoine Doucette, Riverside, CA

looking for any and all traces of your lives? Were you just stubborn, couldn't afford the fees, or not members of the Established (or any) Church?

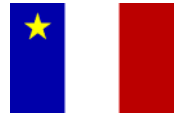
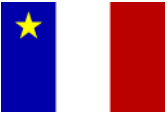
You're wondering. "What's all the fuss, we're dead as doornails?" We're not sure, but I think down here we're infected with he same disease: Rootsoos obsessionus. Of course, WE are going to leave better records for our descendants!

Anyway, I'm glad I was able to vent my frustrations upward. If I couldn't do that, I'd have probably popped the obnoxious researcher next to me who is right now translating an old parish record in German - and out loud, for Pete's sake!

I have an idea.... When I'm "dead-on" (pardon the expression) to finding the correct record, give me some sort of sign. Make the projector bulb flicker twice. Or, if it must be done in the privacy of my home, I have a Labrador Retriever. Talk to her. That will get my attention for sure.

Thanks for listening. I'll be better in the morning.... I'll be back at the library tomorrow night for Round 14, so catch me there.

Sincerely yours,



NEWS FROM A FRENCH MEMBER!

[EDITOR'S NOTE: I received the following information through e-mail correspondence with Emmanuel Julien.]

et sa famille sont arrivés de l'île Saint Jean (Prince Edouard) à Saint Malo, en Bretagne, en 1759. La famille est ensuite repartie en Louisiane en 1785, sauf mon ancêtre Pierre Doucet, qui avait rencontré une jeune française et qui a décidé de rester à Saint-Malo. Ma famille est ensuite restée deux siècles dans cette ville, jusqu'à ce que mon grand père Louis Doucet vienne à Paris pour son travail. Depuis notre famille y habite mais nous avons gardé une maison à Saint-Malo, ou plus exactement à Saint-Servan, devant le port où ont travaillé mes ancêtres, qui étaient pour la plupart marins (beaucoup sont allés pêcher à Terre Neuve) ou artisans de marine.

Je suis maintenant directeur industriel d'une grande société française (40,000 personnes) implantée dans 70 pays, ce qui fait que je parle plus anglais que français ... j'ai donc bien regardé votre site, auquel j'avais contribué à travers Dean Doucet.



I just visited during Easter time the Augustin Doucet home in Poitou (my ancestor Augustin Doucet arrived from Acadia in Saint-Malo in 1759, then he moved to Poitou (ligne acadienne) in 1773, then to Nantes in 1775 where he died. His wife Marie-Anne Pretieux and two of his sons, Jean-Baptiste and François Doucet, left for Louisiana in 1785. They established in Bayou La Fourche. My ancestor, Pierre Doucet, who remained in Saint-Malo, France is the brother of Jean-Baptiste and François Doucet.)

I have been surprised that the home of Augustin Doucet in Poitou is still there (and inhabited! but not by some Doucets), after more than 230 years.

C'est bien moi que vous aviez rencontré en Nouvelle Ecosse en 2004, où j'avais assisté avec ma mère (Yvonne Doucet), mon épouse et mes jeunes enfants à la grande réunion des Doucet. Nous sommes effectivement descendants de Germain Doucet d'Acadie. Lors du Grand Dérangement, Augustin Doucet

Meilleurs souvenirs de France,
Emmanuel

OLDEST HOUSE ON P.E.I. BOASTS RICH ACADIAN HERITAGE Doucet house in Rustico, built around 1768, saved by residents from wrecker's ball

[EDITOR'S NOTE: This was sent by Mitch Doucet of Dieppe, New Brunswick in January 2004. It somehow got misfiled and we just recently found it.]

RUSTICO, P.E.I. If the walls of the Doucet house in Rustico could talk, they could log almost 240 years of stories. There is the love story of its builders, Jean Doucet and Marguerite Gaudet, who after meeting and marrying on the Island of Miquelon in 1767 where Doucet had fled during the Acadian Expulsion, moved in the Rustico area and built their little log home in 1768.

There is the saga of the multi-generations of Doucets who lived in the house for two centuries and the day the last resident passed away and no more returned.

Then there is the triumphant tale of the little house that could and did survive, despite being slated for demolition more than once. And it now shines as one of the monuments of Acadian heritage at the Farmers' Bank National Historical Site in Rustico.

"I've never been involved in anything like this before and the thing that really impresses me is that these people were smart enough to do something about it when they had the chance," says Bob Doucette, chair of the Doucet house committee and one of the many direct descendants of the house's original occupants.

"The time that the community has put into it, by the different volunteers and people like that, is just amazing."

In the fall of 1999, the house's modern day owner John Langdale, who was about to build a new home, wanted the uninhabited, ramshackle structure removed from his property.

Fortunately, instead of simply demolishing it, he offered it to the community.

Fr. Lyndon Hogan, former pastor at Rustico's St. Augustine's church, the oldest Catholic church on P.E.I., and local MLA Beth MacKenzie contacted the Friends of

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the Farmers' Bank committee to inform them that the Doucet house was being offered for the taking.

In addition to the house having considerable historic value, being that it is the oldest in P.E.I., it relates directly back to the church because the first deacon of the church was Jean Doucet.

Still heavily involved with the major Farmers' Bank project, the group's first response was no thanks. But after some discussion, they realized there might be a great regret in the future if something wasn't done to preserve this valuable piece of provincial heritage.

They decided to move the building from nearby Cymbria to the Farmers' Bank National Historic Site on Route 243, off Route 6, which also leads to St. Augustine's Church and the Barachois Inn. But the floor was so badly rotted that it basically collapsed in on itself. It seemed as if the last bit of life had leaked out of the little house. They decided, at the very least, it should be historically documented to preserve its architectural information.



Susann Meyer, a restoration architect from Fort Louisbourg Parks Canada, spent a cold wet weekend in October 1999 documenting the Doucet house.

"She became more and more excited about what she was finding there. She felt it was a very early house."

"She said the construction technology was unique to the Acadians and that it was important to the history of Prince Edward Island," says Judy MacDonald, president of Friends of the Farmers' Bank of Rustico, Inc.

Heritage consultant Carter Jeffrey, who eventually designed the restoration plan for the Doucet house, remembers that thrill of finding a huge island stone fireplace base in the middle of the basement.

"So it was like wow! This is a very early house because the earlier homes had large fireplaces in the middle of the house," says Jeffrey who help Meyer document the house, along with fellow worker Arnold Smith and John Boylan from Community and Cultural Affairs.

This set the minds of the Friends of the Farmers' Bank committee. The Doucet house had to be saved, but the problem of moving it was still there.

"The thought was it cannot be dismantled because it would lose a lot of its integrity," MacDonald says. "There would be so much original material, especially all the chinking and so on would be lost.."

A plan was devised to brace the house from the inside so it could survive the move which was completed on Dec. 23, 1999 and financed by the province, Parks Canada and a lot of in-kind assistance from the community, as well as the resources of the Farmers' Bank.

However, there was still the question of how old the house actually was.

André Robichaud, a l'Université de Moncton expert in dendrochronology, the study of growth rings in logs, was called to the scene.

When he compared the pattern of the growth rings in logs in the Doucet house to those in St. Augustine's church and the

Barachois Inn, the building dates of which were known, he determined the age of the house.

"The Doucet house is considered to be the oldest house in the area and it's possibly the oldest house in all of P.E.I.," says local history buff Edouard Blanchard, who is secretary treasurer of the Friends of the Farmers' Bank.

"According to the dendrochronology test...it was determined that the house was built around 1768 which is, of course, shortly after the signing of the Treaty of Paris between the French and the English."

This treaty, which ended the war between the two countries, signaled the return of many Acadians who had left voluntarily or were forced to leave during the expulsion.

"Rustico is one of the oldest continually inhabited Acadian communities anywhere, in terms of the post deportation community that was established," Doucet house committee member Maurice Roy says.

"Not all the Acadians were deported from Prince Edward Island, so a lot of the settlers who founded Rustico were actually Acadians who were in hiding and had never been deported and they were later joined with Acadians who were quickly returning after the Treaty of Paris in 1763."

One of those was Jean Doucet, who returned from Miquelon with his new wife, Marguerite. The P.E.I. born Doucet was descended from Germain Doucet who emigrated from France to Port Royal, now Nova Scotia, around 1632. Thought to be ancestor of all Doucet families in Acadia, Germain was Jean Doucet's great-great-grandfather.

Once he returned to the Island, Jean Doucet took up an interesting sideline, becoming deacon at the local Catholic church and even baptizing children and performing marriages in the absence of an official priest. He was appointed a deacon to perform certain church services because Father James MacDonald, who was pastor in the community from 1772 to 1785, had passed away, Blanchard explains.



"So in 1785 to 1790, there was a period of five years when there was no pastor here at all and it was during that time that the bishop of Quebec appointed Jean Doucet as a deacon to perform certain church services. He would do that and wait for other priests to come to the area to validate whatever was done."

Jean and Marguerite Doucet had 10 children. Their descendants spread across the land and through history. The last Doucet to live in the house was Dolphe Doucette who passed away in 1979. However, the 1790s is the era that the restored Doucet house will reflect.

In January 2003, with funding from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency's Strategic Community Investment Fund, the province and donations, work on the seven-month project began.

First up, the kitchen wing built in the mid-1800s was removed. A huge barn was then constructed around the entire house, allowing construction foreman Selwyn Buote and the team of workers hired through an HRDC skills enhancement program to work throughout the long winter months.

The official opening for the Doucet house is set for June 29 (2004) as one of the highlights of the founding of Acadia.



[EDITOR'S NOTE: *The similarities between French speakers in Maine and south Louisiana are amazing! The Louisiana constitution of 1921 banned French on the school grounds and many of that generation had similar experiences.*]

June 4, 2006

LONG SCORNED IN MAINE, FRENCH HAS RENAISSANCE

By [PAM BELLUCK](#), [NY Times](#)

SOUTH FREEPORT, Me. — Frederick Levesque was just a child in Old Town, Me., when teachers told him to become Fred Bishop, changing his name to its English translation to conceal that he was French-American.

Cleo Ouellette's school in Frenchville made her write "I will not speak French" over and over if she uttered so much as a "oui" or "non" — and rewarded students with extra recess if they ratted out French-speaking classmates.

And Howard Paradis, a teacher in Madawaska forced to reprimand French-speaking students, made the painful decision not to teach French to his own children. "I wasn't going to put my kids through that," Mr. Paradis said. "If you wanted to get ahead you had to speak English."

That was [Maine](#) in the 1950's and 1960's, and the stigma of being French-American reverberated for decades afterward. But now, le Français fait une rentrée — French is making a comeback.

The State Legislature began holding an annual French-American Day four years ago, with legislative business and the Pledge of Allegiance done in French and "The Star-Spangled Banner" sung with French and English verses.

Maine elected its first openly French-American congressman, Michael H. Michaud, in 2002. And Gov. John E. Baldacci has steadily increased commerce with French-speaking countries and led a trade delegation to France last fall, one of the first since tension with France began after the Sept. 11 attacks. In an interview, the governor, who is of Lebanese-Italian descent and studied Russian in high school, added, "I've been working on my French."

The Franco-American Heritage Center, opened in Lewiston a few years ago, fines guests at its luncheons up to a dollar if they lapse into English — jovial retaliation for the schools that once gave students movie tickets or no homework if they squealed on French speakers.

"Reacquisition classes" and conversation groups have sprung up at places like the South Portland Public Library, giving people a chance to relearn their mothballed French. Census figures show Maine has a greater proportion of people speaking French at home than any other state — about 5.3 percent.

And in South Freeport, there is L'École Française du Maine, a French-immersion program that began as a preschool in 2001 and proved so popular it has added a grade each year. Many students have French-American parents who were estranged from the language, and some commute long distances to the school.

"My dad grew up speaking only French and went to school and got teased by other kids, and he wanted to spare his kids

that experience, so both my wife and I are kind of a generation that got skipped," said Bob Michaud, whose son, Alexandre, attends second grade at L'École Française, 45 minutes from home. "I'm doing it because I want Alex to learn more about our heritage and background."

The school has made Anna Bilodeau, 8, and her brother Markus, 7, so fluent that they routinely speak French with their grandmother Arlene Bilodeau, 68, who regrets that she did not ensure her own children were well versed in French.

"It made me feel sad — this was our language," Ms. Bilodeau said. "When I hear Anna and Markus speaking, I just admire what they're doing."

People of French descent poured into Maine and other New England states from Canada beginning in the 1870's and became the backbone of textile mills and shoe factories. But resistance developed, and people began stereotyping the newcomers as rednecks, dolts or inadequate patriots. In 1919, Maine passed a law requiring schools to teach in English.

French-Americans had a saying: "Qui perd sa langue, perd sa foi" ("Who loses his language, loses his faith"). But many assimilated or limited their children's exposure to French to avoid discrimination or because of a now-outmoded belief that erasing French would make learning English easier.

"There was just a stigma that maybe you weren't as bright as anybody else, that you didn't speak English as well," said Linda Wagner, 53, of Lewiston, who takes classes to reclaim language lost as a child.

Suzanne Bourassa Woodward, 46, of South Portland, who recently joined a conversation group and enrolled her 10-year-old daughter in French classes, said "my French went underground" in fourth grade because "I was ridiculed, the dumb Frenchman jokes came out."

"After that," she said, "my parents would always speak to me in French, but I always responded in English."

As recently as the early 1990's, a character named Frenchie, who caricatured French-Americans, was a fixture on a Maine radio show until protests drove him off the air.

The stigma was compounded by the French-American dialect, which can differ from French spoken in France in idiom, pronunciation, vocabulary — like British and American English.

French-American French, derived from people who left France for Canada centuries ago, resembles the French of Louis XIV more than the modern Parisian variety, said Yvon Labbé, director of the French-American Center at the University of Southern Maine.

French-Americans may say "chassis" instead of "fenêtre" for window, "char" instead of "voiture" for car. Mr. Labbé said many French-Americans pronounced "moi" as Molière did: "moé." A saying illustrated French-Americans' inferiority complex about their language: "On est né pour être petit pain; on ne peut pas s'attendre à la boulangerie" ("We are born to be little breads; we cannot expect the bakery").

"We were always told that we spoke bad French, that we were worthless as people because we spoke neither French nor English," said Ms. Ouellette, 69.

Indeed, when Jim Bishop, son of Fred Bishop (né

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Frederick Levesque), took high school and college classes to recapture French "it was just a nightmare," he said. "At times I would say words and they would turn out not to be real words."

Maine's French renaissance is partly due to the collapse of the mills and factories, which put French-Americans into the mainstream. It was aided by a group of legislators who in 2002 began holding weekly meetings in French.

The revival includes both French-American patois and culture, celebrated at places like the Lewiston center, and Parisian language and curriculum, taught at L'École Française. The government of France is also involved, seeing "very big potential" to "develop trade relations, tourism," said Alexis Berthier, a spokesman for the French consulate in Boston, which is promoting programs and events in Maine and working to establish sister cities.

Most Maine schools, like those elsewhere, teach considerably more Spanish than French. But for those like Norman Marquis of Old Orchard Beach, who takes reacquisition classes, the resurgence of his lost language is profound.

"It's almost like I found religion," said Mr. Marquis, 68, suddenly choking with emotion. "My religion, No. 1, was French. I have a personal movement in my heart for it."

(Ariel Sabar contributed reporting from Augusta, Me., for this article.)

Acadian Memorial Foundation receives SAVE OUR HISTORY GRANT from The History Channel

Let The Children Speak: Historical Organization Partners with Local Schools to Tell The Stories of Acadia's Children Refugees

NEW YORK, January 25, 2006— The History Channel today awarded the Acadian Memorial Foundation, Inc. in St. Martinville, La. with a \$9,979 *Save Our History* grant to research and develop stories about the lives of children of the Acadian refugees. Acadian Memorial is one of 26 history organizations that will receive *Save Our History* community preservation grants. These will fund innovative, educational projects designed to bring communities together, actively engage children in the preservation of their local history and communicate the importance of saving local history for future generations.

...In partnership with Holbrook Multi-Media, Acadian Memorial will work with middle and high school students to research the histories and genealogies for many of the 1,497 Acadian children who were forced to flee their farms in Nova Scotia by the English in 1755. Using primary and secondary resources, the students will gather historical facts about the culture and history of the Acadian settlers which they will then use to produce "first-hand" stories about the lives of actual children depicted in the Mural, *The Arrival of the Acadians*, or listed on the *Wall of Names*. The best stories will be developed into scripts, recorded in both French and English by the students, produced into dramatic music and sound effect filled soundscapes by Holbrook and incorporated into the Audio Interactive program at the Memorial which currently features four adults. With so many children visiting the Memorial, it's only fitting that it includes stories from a child's point of view.

The audio reenactment recordings of the students' scripts will be installed within the Audio Interactive exhibit at the Foundation. Student stories, scripts and lesson plans will also be available on the Acadian Memorial's website to promote community education on the Acadian population. Eventually, the Memorial hopes to publish a

book documenting the lives and experiences of "The Children of Early Acadiana" and encourage its use in the schools of Acadiana.

"In light of what we as a culture have been through this past year, the History Channel has really come to the rescue of Louisiana and its history," said Brenda Comeaux Trahan, Acadian Memorial curator/director. Ms. Trahan worked with grant author Sylvia Biennu and Holbrook Multi-Media to apply for the offering.

Teachers and students in three Acadiana schools will participate in the project, including sixth grade students of Jodie Suire and Leah Popp at Catholic High School in Iberia Parish, French Immersion seventh grade students of Brigette Anderson at Paul Breaux Middle School in Lafayette Parish, and French Immersion seventh grade students of Peggy Freehan at Cecilia Junior High in St. Martin Parish.

Librarians, Clerks of Court and Genealogical Societies in the parishes of St. Martin, Iberia and Lafayette have agreed to assist these students in their quest for historical and genealogical facts. The Center for Louisiana Studies at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette will allow the students to research there.

"Through the ongoing commitment of grants, the *Save Our History* National Program has been able to create a network of community preservation projects," said Dan Davids, President of The History Channel - USA. "The grants make it possible for communities to save significant elements of their local history and the partnership between the schools and the historic organizations brings communities together. Beyond that, this interaction sets in motion a future of collaboration that will hopefully inspire generations to continue these historic preservation efforts. We are proud to be a part of this momentum and help give communities the catalyst they need to begin saving their legacy."

In its first year, these educational projects made lasting impressions on the participating children. Many projects instilled a sense of responsibility and pride in students about their communities, resulting in increased excitement and involvement in the projects. In Cleveland, the first book of any kind written about the Clifton Park neighborhood. Mary Pat Clark, a City Councilwoman, got word of the students work and rallied the entire community behind the effort resulting in an invitation for the children to speak with the Mayor at a City Council meeting....

The History Channel® Announces Acadian Memorial Foundation as 2006 Save Our History National Awards Finalist

*Finalists Receive Trip to Washington, D.C. for National
Awards Luncheon Hosted by Save Our History National
Spokesperson Cokie Roberts*

ST. MARTINVILLE, La., May 19, 2006 — The History Channel today announced the Acadian Memorial Foundation (AMF) in St. Martinville, La. as one of 10 finalists for the Save Our History National Awards to honor local communities and classrooms that demonstrate outstanding commitment to history education and preservation of local history. The finalists will each receive a trip to Washington, D.C for history-themed activities, including private tours of the White House, trolley visits to the national monuments, and culminating with the June 5 awards luncheon hosted by best-selling author and political commentator Cokie Roberts.

First Lady Laura Bush, representing Preserve America, will personally meet with and present three finalists with an additional grand prize National Award that recognizes their outstanding work in the following categories:

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- The Save Our History Time Warner Cable Preservation Award – a \$10,000 award to one exemplary historical organization that demonstrates outstanding commitment to preservation and history education.
- The Save Our History Classroom Award - a \$10,000 cash prize to the school or educational organization that demonstrates exceptional commitment to the program through projects and implementation of lesson plans.
- The Save Our History Lowe’s Community Award – a \$10,000 cash prize to the school, preservation organization or community group that displays superior commitment to their project and community.

...In January, The History Channel awarded the AMF a \$9,979 Save Our History to research and develop stories about the lives of children of the Acadian refugees. The AMF worked with local middle and high school students to research the histories and genealogies for many of the 1,497 Acadian children who were forced to flee their farms in Nova Scotia by the English in 1755. The students produce “first-hand” stories about the lives of the children and recorded the best stories in both French and English.

According to Brenda Comeaux Trahan, Curator Director of the Acadian Memorial, “The children will finally speak through the recordings that will be incorporated into an interactive audio program on artist Robert Dafford’s mural, ‘The Arrival of the Acadians’ at the Memorial. The project will be unveiled to the public on August 15, the National Day of the Acadians”!

“This project has tapped a groundswell of support and collaboration unimagined by us at the start,” said, Sylvia Bienvenu, educational coordinator at the Acadian Memorial. “It has helped to fulfill the dream of Acadian Memorial founders Jane Bulliard and Pat Resweber to unite our extended Acadian community to research and disseminate the true stories of the Acadians. The Save Our History Education Guide served as a springboard for the ‘Let the Children Speak!’ curriculum developed for the project. It helped us reach out to so many community organizations for assistance to our student researchers in this difficult quest - librarians, clerks of court, historians, genealogists, state and local parks personnel, area Acadian museums, Acadian family associations, and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.”

The curriculum will be made available online for other students to assist in further research. The Louisiana Folk life Program within the LA Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, will conduct Teacher In-services this summer for using the curriculum. The Acadian Heritage Week Committee will add the curriculum to its agenda and the Director of Louisiana History Archives requested placement of student stories in Louisiana and Quebec Archives. The Council For the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) will fund translation of the curriculum into French, then upload it to the French Immersion USA website

Dr. Carl Brasseaux, Center for Louisiana Studies at the University of Louisiana Lafayette, states, “The Acadian Memorial’s Save Our History project has provided local school children with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reconnect in a meaningful way with their ancestors through a hands-on examination of the manuscripts documenting the wanderings and resettlement of the Acadian exiles, victims of a terrible ethnic cleansing exercise in their native Nova Scotia. “This is particularly important in Louisiana, where Acadian history remains a largely forgotten footnote in state-adopted textbooks, despite the fact that the exiles’ descendants constitute approximately one-fourth of the state’s population”!

Warren A. Perrin, President of Codofil, " I am delighted to see the involvement of children in the promotion of our beautiful Francophone culture. It is a very worthwhile project that will for many years to come inspire our youth in joining our work to maintain the unique Acadian heritage of our state.

ACADIAN MEMORIAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- | | | | |
|--------|----|-------------------------------------|--|
| JULY | 28 | <u>Acadian Day of Remembrance</u> | Please take a moment to remember the day the British signed the document to deport the Acadians. |
| AUGUST | 15 | <u>National Day of the Acadians</u> | |
| | | <u>10:00 a.m.</u> | Audio and Save Our History taping at the Acadian Memorial |
| | | <u>5:30 p.m.</u> | Procession of Acadian family banners to Mass |
| | | <u>6:00 p.m.</u> | French Mass - St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church |
| | | <u>7:00 p.m.</u> | Unveiling of the Save Our History Mural Audio Interactive, "Let the Children Speak"/SOH |

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.

Jacques Doucet

I hope you can help me on my search for my ancestors. My great grandfather was Jacques Doucet, born on July 10, 1865 in New Brunswick. His parents were Jacques Doucet and Henriette Blanchard. I believe their marriage was on Sept 3, 1864, but have been unable to confirm this. (I found this date on a message board).

I have been unable to find the date and place of birth and parents of Jacques Doucet, and Henriette Blanchard. My grandmother told me they were from Bathurst, New Brunswick, and at some time lived at Three Rivers. Do you have any information you could share with me? It would be much appreciated.

--E-mail forwarded by Michele Doucette
From Carolyn (TurkeyHollowFarm@aol.com)

Joseph E. Doucet

According to the National Military Archives Records, Joseph E. Doucet was born in 1918 in Acadia Parish, LA. He was in the service in the late 1930s and re-enlisted on October 31, 1945 at Fort Benning, GA. His serial number was 06387916. He was a Technical Sargeant and re-enlisted for the Hawaiian Department. He was single in 1945 and had no dependants. Joseph Doucet was a member of the 48 men who were in the Test Platoon, the elite group that constituted the Army's first paratroopers.



Ed Howard from Columbus, GA is writing a story on these 48 men and would like to contact family members of Doucet to interview them.

--Thelma Richard (thewayrichard@cox.net)