



# Les Nouvelles de la Famille Doucet

NEWSLETTER OF LES DOUCET DU MONDE

NOVEMBER 2009

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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.

## WEB SITE

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

## MESSAGE FROM The PRESIDENT

### By Dean Doucet

Dear Cousins,

This is my favorite time of year. We are approaching Thanksgiving Day in the United States. We all have much to give thanks for. This time of year has always been more meaningful because in past years the week of Thanksgiving was designated as National Family Week.

As I ponder what I am most thankful for, the following are some of the things that come to mind:

I am thankful for life itself, even with all of its ups and downs. Each experience adds to all the others and hopefully makes me a better individual and increases the value of my life.

I am thankful for my health. Although my health is less than perfect, I can still work and get out and enjoy the wonderful world about me.

I am thankful for my family, both immediate and extended. During this past year some relationships have improved and others haven't. I guess that is part of life. But I love my family. They are worth working for. In the case of my extended family, I am thankful for getting to know them better through some of the projects that I have been working on the family web site.

I am thankful for my faith. I am thankful that I live in a time and place where I can worship the Creator of this wonderful planet we live on. Our freedom of religion is continually under attack even where we have that freedom.

On a humorous side, I am thankful for my little car. It has been stolen twice and recovered twice with very minor damage.

I am thankful for each of you who have banded together to preserve the heritage of our Doucet/Doucette family. I am thankful for your willingness to ask fellow family members to join with us in this endeavor and for your individual service to the extended family through the family organization.

This, and much more, is what Thanksgiving is all about.

Following Thanksgiving we celebrate the most important of all blessings that we have to be thankful for, the birth of our Savior. I am so thankful for His life, His atoning sacrifice and His resurrection. This makes it possible for each of us to return home and share the joy of being with our love ones, not only those we knew in this life, but all of our extended family that has gone before us.

Even in the hard economical times, we have much to be thankful for. Be thankful for your family, both present and past, and be most thankful for the greatest gift that we have ever received, even Jesus Christ.



## NOMINATION/ELECTION OF LDDM OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

According to Article VII of the Les Doucet du Monde by-laws, elections will be held in November of odd-numbered years.

Enclosed is the nomination form. An LDDM member can nominate any member, including himself/herself, with the written permission of the person.

Please write qualifications of the nominee for the indicated position.

You may use our LDDM website to nominate instead of mailing the nomination form. It is easy, just fill in the form and click the submit icon, on the bottom of the page. Make sure all questions on the form are filled out, so we can verify your membership. Any nominations by non-members will not be accepted. The web address is: <http://doucetfamily.org/nom.htm>

All nominations, mail or online, must be received by December 3.

### IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

It is now time to renew your membership for 2010! Enclosed are two Membership Application/Renewal Forms. Use one for yourself and pass the other along to an interested Doucet relative.

Please note that you now have the option of paying for two years at a time. We hope you will take advantage of this convenience.

However, BEFORE you send in your renewal, check your membership status on the address label. The last year for which you have paid appears after your name. If your label shows "2010", that means you have already paid for that year. To simplify the Treasurer's work and eliminate the need to issue refunds to members who have already paid, any duplicate enrollments/payments will be applied to the following year.

Additional membership forms can be downloaded from our web site: [www.doucetfamily.org](http://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.

ALASKA	MISSISSIPPI
ALBERTA	MONTANA
ARIZONA	NEVADA
BRITISH COLUMBIA	NEW BRUNSWICK
CALIFORNIA	NEWFOUNDLAND
CONNECTICUT	NEW HAMPSHIRE
FLORIDA	NORTH CAROLINA
FRANCE	NOVA SCOTIA
ILLINOIS	ONTARIO
LOUISIANA	PENNSYLVANIA
MAINE	QUEBEC
MARYLAND	TEXAS
MASSACHUSETTS	WISCONSIN

### AU COURANT?

SUR L'ENVELOPPE APRÈS VOTRE NOM ON INDIQUE LA DERNIÈRE ANNÉE POUR LAQUELLE VOUS AVEZ PAYÉ. INVITEZ UN PARENT À DEVENIR MEMBRE DE LDDM. VOUS TROUVEREZ LA FORMULAIRE D'ADHÉSION SUR NOTRE SITE WEB: WWW.DOUCETFAMILY.ORG.

After the deadline for receiving nominations, a ballot will be posted on the web site (and mailed to members without E-mail). If only one person is nominated for each position, then the Board will declare the nominees elected by acclamation. The election results will be certified at a meeting of the Board before the end of the year.

## NOMINATION/ÉLECTION

L'Article VII du règlement de Les Doucet du Monde constate qu'une élection de l'exécutif aura lieu en novembre des années impaires.

Ci-inclu vous trouverez le formulaire de nomination. Tous membres de LDDM peuvent nommer n'importe quel membre, ou soi-même. Prière d'obtenir la permission de ladite personne.

Veillez indiquer les qualifications du candidat.

Vous pouvez utiliser notre site web au lieu d'envoyer votre formulaire par courrier. C'est bien facile. Remplissez le formulaire puis cliquez sur l'icône "submit" au bas de la page. Soyez sûr(e) de remplir tous les fenêtres pour que nous puissions vérifier que vous êtes membre. Les nominations recues de non-membres ne seront pas acceptées. L'adresse du site web est: <http://doucetfamily.org/nom.htm>.

La date limite de toutes nominations, par courrier ou en ligne, est le 3 décembre.

Après la date limite des nominations, on affichera un bulletin de vote sur notre site web (et on enverra un bulletin de vote aux membres qui n'ont pas d'e-mail.) Au cas où il n'y aura qu'un seul candidat pour chaque poste, l'exécutif déclarera les candidats élus par acclamation. Le résultat de l'élection sera certifié à une réunion de l'exécutif de LDDM avant la fin de l'année.

### WANT TO USE PAY PAL FOR DUES PAYMENT?

If you would like to use Pay-Pal for online payment, please contact Treasurer Jacqueline Auclair @ [jackiea@doucetfamily.org](mailto:jackiea@doucetfamily.org) for instructions.

Remember, Pay Pal charges a fee so be sure to add the amount of the fee to your dues payment!

### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Please let Treasurer Jacqueline Auclair know your current e-mail address. Only about half of our members have e-mails on file. Include it on your membership form.

S'il vous plaît, envoyer votre adresse courriel à notre Trésorier Jacqueline Auclair. Écrivez-la sur le formulaire d'adhésion.

## GERMAIN DOUCETCOMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE

Jeannine and Paul Caissie and their son Bruce have suggested erecting a plaque to honor Germain Doucet, Sieur de La Verdure, our common ancestor, who arrived in Acadia in 1632. He was captain of D'Aulnay's army and commandant of Fort Pentagoet, located in present-day Castine, Maine, from (1635 to 1650). The plaque will be placed in Our Lady of Holy Hope Church which was built over the fort.

They have received permission to erect the plaque, have written the text for the plaque, and are now asking for donations. The cost of the plaque is \$300 U.S.

As members of LDDM, they approached the LDDM Board of Directors for support of the project and indicated that LDDM would be listed as presenting the plaque. The Board of Directors wholeheartedly supports the idea of the plaque.

Since Germain Doucet is the ancestor of all Doucets of Acadian descent, we feel that many of his descendants would be proud to say that they had a part in the erection of the plaque. If you wish to donate, please send a check in U.S. funds to Jacqueline Auclair, LDDM Treasurer, 20130 Cherry Lane, Saratoga, CA 95070, USA. Make the check payable to Les Doucet du Monde and in the memo section, indicate "Germain Doucet plaque."

## PLAQUE COMMÉMORANT GERMAIN DOUCET

Jeanne et Paul et leur fils Bruce ont suggéré qu'on érige une plaque commémorant notre ancêtre Germain Doucet, Sieur de La Verdure, qui est arrivé en Acadie en 1632. De 1635 à 1650, il était capitaine de l'armée de D'Aulnay et commandant du Fort Pentagöet situé dans la ville actuelle de Castine dans l'état de Maine.

La plaque sera érigée dans l'église Our Lady of Holy Hope qui fut construite au-dessus du fort.

Ils ont la permission d'ériger cette plaque, et ils en ont écrit le texte.

La plaque coûtera 300 dollars U.S.

Jeanne et Paul, membres de Les Doucet du Monde, ont demandé l'appui de l'exécutif, et ils ont indiqué que la plaque sera présentée par LDDM. L'exécutif a vite exprimé avec enthousiasme son appui total.

Puisque Germain Doucet est l'ancêtre de tous les Doucet/Doucett/Doucette de descendance acadienne, nous pensons que beaucoup de ses descendants seraient fiers de pouvoir dire que, eux, ils ont fait leur part dans ce projet. Si vous désirez faire une donation, veuillez envoyer un cheque, en dollars américains, à: Jacqueline Auclair, LDDM Treasurer, 10130 Cherry Lane, Saratoga, CA, 95070, USA. Prière d'indiquer "Germain Doucet plaque" à la section mémo du chèque.

GERMAIN DOUCET  
First Commandant of Fort Pentagoet  
1635-1645  
Presented To The Parish Of  
Our Lady of Holy Hope  
Castine, Maine  
By  
His Descendants—"Les Doucet Du Monde"  
August 2010



**PRE-REUNION ACTIVITIES**

On Thursday night we were entertained at a Pre-Reunion Party. The New Brunswick group welcomed us by singing “Viens voir l’Acadie.” Then followed a sumptuous meal and more group singing and even Cajun dance lessons. During the day Friday Rod escorted us on a tour to the Bathurst Heritage Museum and the mayor’s office.



Rod  
McConnell  
and  
City Manager  
of Bathurst  
André  
Doucet



Acadian decorations were everywhere—yards, houses, in church. The statue above right was carried in procession for the midnight Mass in Grande-Anse to celebrate National Acadian Day on August 15.





Featured speaker Acadian Genealogist Stephen White was sponsored by LDDM. He gave a very informative talk on Madeleine Doucet.



We were honored with a visit from Germain Doucet, Sieur de La Verdure



LDDM booth was very busy helping with genealogy and distributing LDDM promotional membership



LDDM member Jeanne Doucet Currie and husband Wayne were featured entertainers. Of course, they had a back up band. Note the two at right above—our own Norm Doucette and Bill Raun.



The Silver Haven Cloggers of Beresford, NB provided Acadian-style entertainment. Carol Doucet and Wayne Currie brought a touch of Louisiana with Cajun selections on the harmonica and 'tit-fer



**HERE'S THE GANG!**

Eleanor Turnage, Gary Auclair, Jacqueline Auclair, Norman Doucette, Jr., Linda Doucette, Bill Raun, Edith Raun, Eldine Doucet, Carol Doucet, Jeannine Caissie, Paul Caissie



## DOUCET DU MONDE : HEUREUX ET PRIVILÉGÉS

Publié le jeudi 17 septembre 2009

Hebdchaleur.ca

Une douzaine de membres de l'association familiale Les Doucet du Monde s'est rendue à la baie des Chaleurs pour participer à la rencontre des Doucet/Doucett/Doucette les 21 et 22 août. C'est à Grande-Anse dans la Péninsule acadienne au Nouveau-Brunswick, que la trouvaille a eu lieu.

Nous tenons à remercier le comité organisateur de la rencontre qui a travaillé dur - activités de financement, rencontres, publicité, planification, etc. -- de sorte que tout s'est déroulé d'une façon admirable. Grâce à la programmation diverse et la présentation de Stephen White, généalogiste sans pareil sur les Acadiens, la réunion a été une vraie réussite.

Les Doucet du Monde est heureux d'avoir eu le privilège et l'honneur de patronner la présentation de M. White -- son discours en français puis en anglais, suivis d'une période de questions.

Oui, nous avons ressenti la chaleur de la baie, mais beaucoup plus importante, la chaleur avec laquelle nous avons été accueillis, comme si nous étions des dignitaires. Nous ne pouvions ne pas nous sentir très spéciaux. Pour cela, nous demeurons reconnaissants.

Tout a commencé par la soirée à Robertville où le chant de «Viens voir l'Acadie» résonnait déjà quand notre convoi, guidé par Rod, le mari de Rolande Doucet O'Connell, est entré dans la cour. Après un accueil fantastique, nous avons pris notre souper, préparé par maints «cousins» et «cousines». Une sérénade de beaux chants acadiens a suivi. Nous envoyons un grand merci à Rolande qui a planifié et organisé la soirée, la visite au bureau du maire de Bathurst, et la visite au Musée d'Héritage où nous avons eu le privilège d'examiner des documents précieux sur les Doucet de la région, y inclus Pierre et Charles Doucet, celui-ci ancêtre de Rolande.

Un grand merci à Rod qui nous a guidés, moi et ma conjointe Eldine, chez-lui pour que nous puissions les remercier en personne au nom de notre groupe, «charrer» un petit brin, et commencer à mieux se connaître. Rod était notre «ange gardien» qui nous a guidés en ville pour nous indiquer le lieu où nous devions nous rassembler pour qu'il nous conduise à la maison où allait avoir lieu la soirée, et c'est lui qui nous a dirigés au bureau du maire et ensuite au musée.

Un membre de Les Doucet du Monde dit, en parlant de la rencontre, «que les participants étaient fantastiques et si chaleureux; c'était agréable de faire la connaissance de tant de cousins et cousines!» Voilà un très bon résumé des sentiments de notre groupe.

Un autre membre écrit que parmi les dernières paroles de son père, il a exprimé son désir de retourner chez lui à Bathurst, au Nouveau-Brunswick. Elle s'est résolue de s'y rendre pour lui. Rencontrer sa cousine et échanger des photos furent une grande joie pour elle.

Carol Doucet  
Vice-président,  
Les Doucet du Monde  
Lafayette, Louisiane

## LES DOUCET DU MONDE

Published Tuesday, September 29, 2009

TheNorthernLight.canadaest.com

A dozen members of the family organization Les Doucet du Monde (LDDM) travelled to Grande-Anse last month to participate in the Doucet/Doucett/Doucette reunion, held Aug. 21 and 22 as part of the World Acadian Congress.

Thanks to the diversified program, the hard work and dedication of the organizing committee, and especially a presentation by genealogist Stephen White, the reunion was a true success.

He spoke especially about the history of Madeleine Doucet who was one of the persons affected by the deportation since her husband and children were deported without her.

Yes, we did feel the warmth of the Bay of Chaleur, but more importantly we felt the warmth of being welcomed like dignitaries. It made us feel very special. Thursday evening began with a gathering in Sainte-Louise, next to Robertville, where the singing of "Viens voir l'Acadie" ("Come See Acadia") was already resonating when our convoy, led by Rod O'Connell, husband of Rolande O'Connell, entered the yard.

We send to Rolande our special thanks for planning and organizing the party which followed, the visit to the office of the mayor of Bathurst, and visit to the Bathurst Heritage Museum where we were privileged to be able to examine precious documents on the Doucets of the region, including Pierre Doucet, one of the founding fathers of the area.

A hearty thank you to the O'Connells who invited by wife Eldine and me to their home so that we could thank them in person, chat a bit, and to know them.

Rod was our guardian angel as he led us back to town and indicated the restaurant where the whole group was to meet later that afternoon. Rod gave of his time to lead our convoy to the mayor's office and the museum.

Once again, to the organizing committee, we say merci beaucoup pour un travail superbe. Thanks very much for a great job!

One member of LDDM says, in speaking about the reunion, that the participants were a great, warm group, and how much fun it was to meet so many cousins. That is a very good summary of the feelings of all members of our group.

Another member wrote that one of the last things her father said to her was, "I wish I could go home just one more time." She resolved she would go for him.

We hope to meet again at the World Acadian Congress Doucet reunion in 2014, which will be held in the Madawaska region of New Brunswick and the adjoining regions of Quebec and the state of Maine, U.S.A.

Carol Doucet  
Vice President  
Les Doucet du Monde  
Lafayette, Louisiana



# LOUISIANA CHAPTER NEWS



## "WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE CAJUNS?"

*[EDITOR'S NOTE: At the Fesivals Acadiens in Lafayette, LA, I was speaking in French with a friend who is a professor of French at LSU. I noticed that a gentleman nearby was very interested in our conversation. I invited him to join in and he expressed his interest in Acadian history and culture. It is a great pleasure to include an essay which Professor Stavn wrote. In our correspondence, he added that a friend of his stated that his essay also describes the spirit of the Acadians in Canada.]*

This question was posed to me on a recent trip to France where I was presenting research results at an international scientific meeting and I wanted to take the opportunity to travel a bit in western France and see one of the villages that the Acadians emigrated from in the early 1600's. As I was going through customs upon my arrival in Paris I was conversing with another passenger who was from Louisiana. She was talking about her excitement over traveling in France and seeing some of the places where Napoleon had been and visiting historical exhibits about him. I replied that I was excited about seeing where the Cajuns came from. Her response was the question above. We were separated into different lines at customs before I could reply to her question.

But her question has gotten me thinking about my abiding interest that after quite a few years shows no signs of abating. You can start with why is anybody interested in anything? I often tell friends and family that every time I go to Louisiana I learn something new, interesting, and often wonderful about the Acadians and their Cajun descendants.

My impression of the old Acadians of Nova Scotia is that in many ways they were the first Americans (1604) who came to a new land and worked hard to establish their position in life. Their status was determined by how hard they worked, not by their relationships, by blood or otherwise, with those who were powerful or established as in the old world. They fled the bloody and ruinous religious wars of Europe at that time for a new life. When they got to this new land they found ways to live on the coast of old Acadia as fishermen and farmers. They were able to live peacefully with the Indians (Native Americans) who wanted only to maintain their hunting lands in the interior forests. The Acadians did not have to kill others to accomplish their goals and their place in this new land. Many words from Native American languages found their way into Acadian French.

As old Acadia became a political football between France and England the Acadians became very independent and adept at running their own affairs since the flag of the supposed central government changed continuously. All they asked of whoever was the govern-

ment at the time was to be left alone to work hard and be productive farmers. As the Acadians prospered by their hard work the temptation became too great for the British Governor Lawrence to grab off this land when he became powerful enough. And old Acadia became Nova Scotia.

Many know of the tragedy of the "Grand Dérangement" perpetrated by Lawrence and immortalized by Longfellow in the poem "Evangeline." It took many years and many hardships before the Acadians arrived in Louisiana. The colony was actually controlled by Spain at that time. The Spaniards, however, had no great interest in the colony and if the people in the colony wanted to maintain the French language and French ways that was fine with them. The Acadians, many languishing in English jails or living in France essentially on the dole, were invited to Louisiana and given land grants by the Spanish king. The Acadians jumped at this opportunity. In France the former freemen of North America were living as peasants under aristocratic privilege. They hated it.

In the New Acadia of Louisiana the Acadians maintained their peaceful and friendly relations with the Native American tribes. The Native Americans in turn taught the Acadians how to survive in this new subtropical land where they still maintained their existence as fishermen, farmers, and cattlemen. At least one tribe, the Houma, still speaks French to this day. During the American

Revolution Spain sided with the American cause and Spanish military units fought off British attempts to capture the Gulf Coast and Baton Rouge. Acadians fought with the Spaniards as volunteers. The descendants of these Acadians qualify as members of the Sons and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Acadians of Southwest Louisiana were able to maintain a separate French-speaking culture long after the Louisiana Purchase because they were so isolated by the swampy country. Many immigrant groups came into the area, Irish, Germans, English, Spanish, and others who eventually married Cajun French women. They had to speak French therefore! All of these outside groups were accepted by the Acadians and contributed strongly to the emerging Cajun culture as Barry Ancelet, of Univesity of Louisiana at Lafayette, insists. In the first half of the nineteenth century very few Acadians had slaves. If they did have slaves they were working in the fields with them, side-by-side. After emancipation Black Creoles continued to live in the area and developed a culture parallel to the Cajuns. Much was exchanged between these two groups by way of music and the church. The church may have had a white section and a black section but all were administered to by the same priest.

Going into the 20th Century the word Acadian becomes transformed into Cajun reflects the fact that southwest  
*(Continued on page 8)*

*Continued from page 7)*

Louisiana is no longer strictly "Acadian" as the group that still exists in Canada. "In Louisiana, not all French are

Cajuns and not all Cajuns are French." The Cajuns developed a rich musical culture and they all enjoy dancing. The musical culture, based on French folk music, borrowed from all the traditions around the Cajuns: Native American, Spanish, Anglo-Saxon, African, and others. It is always great to see the old at dances who can show the youngsters a step or two, the very young children dancing with their parents, and every age-group in-between.

I am just giving impressions here in the attempt to answer the question of why I am so interested in the Cajuns. There are so many groups mentioned in history because they imposed their will and their culture on other peoples by warfare and killing. Napoleon and Alexander the Great come to mind. Will Cuppy once observed in "The Decline and Fall of Practically Everybody" that, "Alexander, on of Philip of Macedon, killed more people of more different kinds than any man up to his time. Therefore they call him Alexander the Great." What interests me about the Cajuns and Acadians is that they were and are a gentle people who asked only to be left alone so they could work hard and be productive. And when the work was done they would play hard. They tried to cooperate with their neighbors rather than fighting with them. In their semi-isolation they developed their Cajun French language that truly impresses me with its incredible number of terms of endearment. And what has kept them going for so many years is closeness of family, their openness to others, and their willingness to learn from other groups.

My question is, "Why would anyone not be interested in such a wonderful group of people as the Cajuns?"

Robert Stavn  
Biological Oceanographer  
University of North Carolina  
at Greensboro

## **POURQUOI VOUS VOUS INTERESSEZ AUX CAJUNS?**

*[NOTE DU RÉDACTEUR: Pendant que je parlais, en français avec une amie qui est professeur à Louisiana State University, j'ai remarqué qu'un monsieur tous près s'intéressait à notre conversation. Je l'ai invité de nous rejoindre. Il a exprimé un grand intérêt à l'histoire et la culture des Acadiens. Dans une lettre il a ajouté qu'une de ses amie lui a confié que son essai décrit non seulement l'esprit des Cadiens en Louisiane mais celui des Acadiens du Canada. C'est un grand plaisir d'inclure un essai qu'a écrit le professeur Stavn.]*

On m'avait posé cette question pendant un voyage récent en France où j'ai présenté des résultats de mes recherches à un congrès scientifique international. Au même temps j'ai voulu profiter de l'occasion pour voyager

un peu dans la France de l'ouest et de voir un des villages dont les Acadiens ont émigré au début du 17<sup>e</sup> siècle. En passant par le bureau de la douane à mon arrivée à Paris je parlais avec une autre passagère qui était de la Louisiane. Elle était très contente de voyager en France, de l'occasion de voir où Napoléon avait été et de visiter des exhibitions historique sur lui. Moi, j'ai répondu que je m'étais excité à l'occasion de voir la région dont les Cajuns sont venus. Sa réponse était la question ci-dessus. Nous nous sommes séparés dans des queues différentes à la douane avant que j'ai eu à répondre à sa question.

Mais sa question m'a forcé de penser à mon intérêt au demeurant qui, après des années, ne montre pas de signes de diminuer. On peut commencer par «pourquoi s'intéresse-t'on à quiconque?» Je dis à mes amis et ma famille bien souvent que chaque fois que je visite la Louisiane j'apprends quelque chose de nouveau, d'intéressant, et souvent merveilleux sur les Acadiens et leurs descendants, les Cajuns.

Mon impression des vieux Acadiens de la Nouvelle Écosse c'est, qu'en beaucoup de façons, ils étaient les premiers Américains du nord (1604) qui sont venu à un nouveau pays et ont travaillé dur pour établir leur état de vie. Leur état était déterminé par leur bonne volonté de travailler dur, pas par leur parenté, de sang ou d'autre, avec les gens établis ou puissants comme dans le vieux monde. Ils ont fuis les guerres religieuses, sanglantes et ruinantes, de l'Europe à ce moment là pour une nouvelle vie. Quand ils sont arrivés à ce nouveau pays ils ont trouvé les manières de vivre à la côte de la vieille Acadie

comme des pêcheurs et fermiers (comme dans le marais Poitevin). Ils pouvaient vivre pacifiquement avec les Indiens (Américains natifs) qui voulaient seulement maintenir leur territoire de chasse dans les forêts de l'intérieur. Les Acadiens n'ont pas dû tuer les autres pour accomplir leur buts et leur état dans ce nouveau pays. Beaucoup de mots des langues indiennes trouvèrent leur place dans le français acadien.

Comme la vieille Acadie devint un ballon du jeu politique entre la France et l'Angleterre les Acadiens sont devenus bien indépendants puisque le drapeau du prétendu gouvernement central changeait continuellement. Tous ce qu'ils demandaient au gouvernement central à ce moment là c'était de les laisser tranquilles pour qu'ils puissent travailler dur et être de fermiers productifs. Comme les Acadiens prospéraient par leurs travaux durs, la tentation par le gouverneur britannique Lawrence de s'emparer cette terre était trop grande quand il est devenu assez puissant. Et la vieille Acadie devint la Nouvelle Écosse.

Beaucoup de gens entendent parler de la tragédie du Grand Dérangement perpétré par Lawrence et immortalisé par Longellow dans le poème Evangeline. Il fallut beaucoup d'années et beaucoup de privations avant que les Acadiens arrivent en Louisiane. En réalité l'Espagne dirigeait la colonie à ce moment là. Les espagnols, cependant, ne s'intéressaient pas à la

*(Continued on page 9)*



(Continued from page 8)

colonie, si les colons voulaient maintenir la langue française et les manières françaises, il n'y aurait pas de problèmes. Les Acadiens, beaucoup d'entre eux languissant dans les prisons anglaises ou pour la plupart au chômage en France, étaient invités à la Louisiane et avaient été donnés des subventions de terres par le roi espagnol. Les Acadiens sautèrent sur cette occasion. En France, les anciens hommes libérés de l'Amérique du nord vivaient comme paysans sous les privilèges aristocratiques. Ils l'ont détesté.

Dans la nouvelle Acadie de la Louisiane les Acadiens maintinrent leurs rapports paisibles et amicaux avec les tribus indiennes. Les Indiens, à leur tour, apprirent aux Acadiens comment survivre dans ce nouveau pays sous-tropiques où ils maintinrent encore leur existence comme pêcheurs, fermiers, et éleveurs. Au moins une tribu, les Houmas, parlent encore français jusqu'à ce jour. Pendant la révolution américaine l'Espagne se mit du côté de la cause américaine et les unités militaires espagnoles luttèrent contre les tentatives britanniques de prendre la Côte du Golfe du Mexique et la ville de Bâton Rouge. Les Acadiens se sont battus avec les espagnols comme volontaires. Les descendants de ces Acadiens remplissent les conditions requises pour être membres de Les Fils et Les Filles de la Révolution Américaine (association sociale prestigieuse des descendants de combattants de la révolution américaine).

Les Acadiens du sud-ouest de la Louisiane pouvaient maintenir une culture francophone indépendante longtemps après l'achat de la Louisiane parce qu'ils étaient trop isolés par leur pays marécageux. Beaucoup de groupes immigrants arrivèrent dans cette région, les Irlandais, Allemands, Anglais, Espagnols, et des autres qui épousèrent les femmes françaises cajunnes. Ils devaient alors parler français! Tous les groupes de l'extérieur étaient admis des Acadiens et ils contribuèrent fortement à la culture cajune naissante comme l'affirme Barry Ancelet de l'Université de Louisiane à Lafayette (l'Université des Acadiens). Pendant la première moitié du dix-neuvième siècle bien peu des Acadiens possédaient des esclaves. S'ils en possédaient, ils travaillaient dans les terrains côté à côté avec eux. Après l'émancipation les créoles noirs continuèrent à vivre dans cette région et ils ont développé une culture francophone parallèle aux Cajuns. Beaucoup d'échanges se faisaient entre les deux groupes à travers la musique et l'église. L'église aurait pu avoir un quartier noir et un quartier blanc mais tous étaient servis par le même curé.

En entrant dans le vingtième siècle le mot Acadien s'est transformé en Cajun. Cajun reflète le fait que la Louisiane du sud-ouest n'est plus Acadien à proprement parler comme le groupe qui existe encore au Canada. «Dans la Louisiane pas tous les Français sont Cajun et pas tous les Cajun sont Français.» Les Cajuns développèrent une riche culture musicale et tous aiment danser. La culture musicale, basée sur la musique folklorique de France, emprunta de toutes les

traditions autour les Cajuns: indiennes, espagnoles, anglo-saxonnes, africaines, et autres. Il est toujours magnifique de voir les vieillards aux bals qui peuvent montrer à la jeunesse des bonnes danses, les jeunes enfants dansants avec leurs parents, et toute tranche d'âge au milieu.

Ici je donne seulement des impressions dans la tentative de répondre à la question de savoir pourquoi je m'intéresse tant aux Cajuns. Il y a tant de groupes mentionnés dans l'histoire parce qu'ils imposèrent leur volonté et leur culture sur d'autres peuples par la guerre et le meurtre. Napoléon et Alexandre le Grand viennent à notre esprit. Une fois Will Cuppy fit observer dans le livre «The Decline and Fall of Practically Everybody» que «Alexandre, fils de Philippe de Macédon, tua plus de peuples de genres différents que n'importe quel homme jusqu'à son temps. Alors, on l'appelle Alexandre le Grand.» Ce qui m'intéresse sur les Cajuns et les Acadiens c'est qu'ils étaient et sont encore de gens doux qui demandaient seulement d'être laissés tranquilles pour travailler dur et être productifs. Et quand le travail était fini ils jouaient dur. Ils essayèrent de coopérer avec leurs voisins plutôt que lutter contre eux. Dans leur semi-isolément ils ont développé leur français cajun qui m'impressionne par ses mots de tendresse incroyablement nombreux. Et ce qui les a maintenu depuis tant d'années c'est leurs rapports de famille soudés, leur ouverture aux autres, et leur volonté d'apprendre des leçons des autres.

Ma question c'est,

- Pourquoi quiconque ne s'intéresserait-il pas à un groupe de personnes aussi merveilleux que les Cajuns?

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#### MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE

Dear Santa:  
Don't bring me new dishes.  
I don't need a new kind of game.  
Genealogist have peculiar wishes.  
For Christmas I just want a surname.

A new computer would be great  
But it isn't my desire of life.  
I've just found an ancestor's birth date,  
Now I need the name of his wife.

My heart doesn't yearn for a ring  
That would put the Hope Diamond to shame....  
What I really want is a much cheaper thing:  
Please give me "Mary's" full name.

And to see my heart sing with you





# ACADIAN/CANADIAN CHAPTER NEWS



## HEARTFELT GRATITUDE

**Man saved/Quick action recognized  
by Michael Staples**

**Published October 2, 2009, dailygleaner.com**

John Bielli couldn't be more grateful.

That feeling of thankfulness was front and centre Thursday as the 59-year-old watched while four of his Bell Alliant co-workers were honoured for their role in saving his life.

Bielli suffered a major heart attack on the job earlier this year and almost died.

"It's really nice to be standing here perpendicular, rather than horizontal," Bielli said to a chorus of laughter. "The right people were in the right place at the right time."

Fredericton residents Denis Cormier, **JEAN-YVES DOUCET** and Goolie Brewer, along with R. J. MacNeil from Sydney, N.S., were honored by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of New Brunswick with the organization's Heart Hero Award for their role in keeping Bielli alive.

The Saint John resident was working in the Fredericton area 12 weeks ago when he fell ill.

Thanks to quick action and CPR, the four men were able to resuscitate Bielli and get him into the care of health professionals.

He said he will always feel a special bond with the employees.

"I'm pretty grateful," he said. "I am glad we did something for them."

Bielli, who had heart surgery after his attack, hopes to be back on the job in November.

"It was close, very close," Cormier said in looking back at the day his friend collapsed. He wasn't looking very good there for a while."

Cormier said he was humbled by the Heart and Stroke Foundation award.

"It was actually the second award I received today. The first was seeing John here. I would just like to thank them and thank him for being here."

DOUCET said he's pleased his friend is in the land of the living.

"I am glad to have John back with us," he said. "We were working since March together and he was my partner all the time."

DOUCET said his father had a heart bypass two weeks before Bielli went down, and seeing it all again brought back a flood of bad memories.



Bell Alliant cable technician John Bielli, centre, is surrounded by the four men who helped save his life when he had a heart attack at work. From left are: JEAN-YVES DOUCET, CABLE TECHNICIAN; R.J. MacNeil, lineman; Bielli; Goolie Brewer, access network provisioner; and Denis Cormier, customer service representative.

Brewer said he feels fortunate everyone was in a position to help.

"He could have had the same thing happen to him on the road that morning," he said. "It didn't happen until he got to the job site and there were people there who had some training and were able to help him."

MacNeil said looking at Bielli is proof that prayers are answered.

Ron Forsythe, regional manager with Bell Alliant, said he's proud of his employees.

To see them able to utilize safety training to the extent where it helped save a life is satisfying, he said.

"I am sure when they took it (CPR), they thought they would never use it. But to be able to say they used it on a fellow co-worker, and made a difference that he could be here today, is tremendous."

Angie Thibodeau of the N.B. Heart and Stroke Foundation said the Bielli incident confirms that the message being put forward by her organization regarding the importance of knowing CPR is being listened to.

## *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.*

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Looking for information about JOSEPH SIFFORD DOUCET, b. 1875 in New Edinburgh, Digby County, Nova Scotia. Died in 1921.

Son of JOSEPH SIFFROID DOUCET and (unknown) LEBLANC.

Married ALMA LOMBARD.

Siblings of JOSEPH SIFFORD DOUCET

BERNIE DOUCET (m)

JAMES DOUCET (m)

FELIX DOUCET (m)

GIFFARD DOUCET (m)

THERESA DOUCET-STANLEY (f)

JENNIE DOUCET-BLINN (f)

DELLIE DOUCET-BLIN (f)

DOUCET is sometimes spelt DOUCETT in their records.

If you have any information, please contact Carol Doucet at [carold@doucetfamily.org](mailto:carold@doucetfamily.org) or Pat Hayes at 1 Lougheed Court Aurora ON L4G 5K8 Canada