

Les Nouvelles de la famille Doucet

(January 2000)

Bonjour to all Doucet/Doucette cousins:

We welcome a new year, a new decade, a new millenium for the Doucet/Doucette family. Many things are and will be happening as we set our sights toward the future and the Second International Doucet Family Reunion in 2004 in the Acadian homeland of Nova Scotia.

Elections have been held to elect new officers at the international level and the chapter level. The family web site is just about up and running. We need to turn our attention to membership, both renewal of current membership and bringing in new members. With that, we also need to look at the continual collection of genealogical data.

New Officers

New officers were elected at the international level and at chapter level.

International Level

President: Dean Doucet, Apache Junction, Arizona
Vice President: Winston Boudreaux, Church Point, Louisiana
Secretary: Susan Spencil, Lake Arthur, Louisiana
Treasurer: Jackie Auclair, Saratoga, California

Members of the Board of Directors:

Richard Doucet, Church Point, Louisiana
Michele Doucette, Stephenville, Newfoundland
Darlene Nielson, Delta, British Columbia

Louisiana "Cajun" Chapter

President: Carol James Doucet, Lafayette
Vice President: Richard Doucet, Church Point, Louisiana
Secretary/Treasurer: Bobbi Doucet, Church Point, Louisiana

Board of Directors:

Mim Bordelon, Rayne, Louisiana
Edward Doucet, Port Barre, Louisiana
Lucius Doucet, Opelousas, Louisiana
Donna Manual, Brusly, Louisiana

Acadian and Francais Chapters

Note: Temporarily, the Acadian (English speaking non-Louisiana) chapter and the French speaking chapter will be combined until we can get membership increased and volunteers to run for office.

President: Gaetan Doucet, Sudbury, Ontario

We welcome these new officers as we say Thank You to those who have served to bring LDDM to this point. I asked each new officer and board member to write a short biographical sketch. It was the intent to print them as part of this newsletter, but in trying to save space (and you having a nine page newsletter to read) they will be printed in the next newsletter.

Web Sites

The web site is coming along very well. We are in the process of making the necessary arrangements with the internet provider to bring it on line. Unless something changes, the web site address will be: www.doucetfamily.org This is pending final approval of the domain name. I do not know what individual's expectations will be. At the present time, the web site consists of over 50 web pages that equate to between 225 and 250 typewritten pages. The majority of this relates to genealogical data. The web site will be straight forward, without any whistles and bells.

We also have a Doucet site at www.myfamily.com. All active members of the family who have an e-mail address will be provided access to the site. It already has a few pictures and other items on it. These two sites will work to complement each other.

Membership

Membership in Les Doucet du Monde that was to expire on 31 December 1999 was extended until 28 February 2000. That means that it is now time to renew our membership for the year 2000.

Membership will be \$15.00 US (\$22.00 Canadian) per household/address.

As noted in the last newsletter, the monies collected will be budgeted as follows:

A percentage or set amount will be set aside each year for use on Reunion 2004.

A percentage or set amount will be set aside each year for "office supplies" such as paper and postage to mail the newsletter, etc.

A set amount will be set aside for the maintenance of the LDDM web site.

A percentage or set amount will be returned to each chapter, based on

membership, to use for chapter activities.

The percentage and amounts have not been determined at this time, but will be dependent upon the amount of monies raised from membership renewals and new memberships.

It is important that we retain those who currently are members of LDDM. Equally important is to locate our Doucet/Doucette cousins who are not members of LDDM and encourage them to join. The expenses as outlined above will remain relatively the same each year. So, the more members, the less the annual membership fees will be. Please be involved in encouraging family members to join LDDM.

Attached are two membership forms. Please use one to renew your membership and make copies of the second form to give to relatives who are Doucet/Doucette descendants so that they can join.

Please note that the membership form asked you which chapter you would like to be affiliated with. This is important as we try to build up the Acadian and French speaking chapters.

Also note there is a place for an e-mail address. We are aware that some members do not have access to e-mail. However, if you do (either your own or a close relative/friend) please include your e-mail address. One of the purposes is that we will use e-mail wherever possible to reduce the expense of mailings. This leaves more monies for chapter activities.

One other point. From past mailings and e-mails, we have found that some have moved and/or changed their e-mail address. Please keep us informed of these changes so that you don't miss out on what is going on in the Doucet/Doucette family. We don't want you to get lost to us.

Genealogy

All of the genealogical data that was submitted for the 1999 reunion has been received by me. Since it is in paper format it will take some time to get it input into a central database. Please be patient as we put together what has been gathered. The data will, however, be placed on the web site before it is input into the database. That way, individuals will have access to it.

If you have submitted genealogical data and want to confirm that it has been received, you may write or e-mail me. If you have not submitted any genealogical data, please get it ready to submit in either paper format or GEDCOM format, or both. The data may be forwarded to me at the address at the end of this newsletter.

One of our greatest challenges is to assist our cousins who have not been able to find their place in the Doucet/Doucette family tree. Someone holds the key that will enable another to become attached to their roots. That someone may be you. We have asked individuals to submit a five generation ancestral chart. But what we really need is the data behind the chart, the brothers and sisters of those listed, and who they married. These are the keys needed by others. In this light we ask each of you to please submit any genealogical data that you may have.

This brings up another issue: privacy. As I have labored to enter the genealogical data in my possession into the web site format, I asked myself how much should be entered. I initially felt that data on individuals born after 1920 should not be entered to protect their privacy. However, I have reconsidered my feelings and decided to enter all of the data. I felt that it was important for those living, especially the children, to see themselves on the web site and how they fit into the family tree. The whole purpose of LDDM is to build an appreciation for the Doucet family heritage. That heritage includes our children. Sometimes they require a visual reminder of who they are. Personally, it has been a joy to me to sit with my youngest children (11 and 7) and show them their place in the family tree. Of course, if anyone objects to their specific information being shown, I will delete it (except for their name). However, I would hope that each of you will be understanding and desire to share your part of the family tree with other family members as we all grow together as cousins.

I would like to add a couple of items for you to consider when submitting your genealogy.

1. Please double check names and make sure you submit full legal names rather than nicknames or shortened forms of a name. Is his name really Bob or is it Robert?
2. >All females should be referred to by their maiden name. This helps to eliminate confusion as to who is being referred to.
3. All surnames should be in all capital letters. This helps to avoid confusion as to whether a name is a surname or a middle name.
4. When writing dates, never use a number for the month. For example, is 2/3/1897 the third of February or the second of March. Different countries use different formats for dates.
5. If at all possible, include a complete place name, to include the county, rather than just a city and state or province.

What's Coming Next?

I pose this question to each reader of this newsletter. It is your newsletter. What would you like to see in it? Please drop a note or e-mail and let us know what you would like to see.

We are sensitive to the fact that all do not have computers and do not have access to the internet. A lot of information will be put on the family web site, as noted above. Due to size limitations, we will not be able to copy the whole site into these newsletters (right now the web site is the equivalent of over 225 pages of 8 ½ by 11 inch paper).

My address is:

Dean Doucet
2063 W. Windsong
Apache Junction, Arizona 85220

My e-mail is: cajunhouse@mindspring.com.

I hope to hear from you.

A Personal Note

I consider it a privilege to be associated with each of you in this great family organization. We have witnessed its beginnings and try to envision the future.

One of my concerns is that some will not want to renew their membership because we aren't having a reunion this year (or possibly next) on the scale of the 1999 reunion. However, it is important that each member remain actively involved in the organization. We will have some activities, such as a contest to develop a logo for LDDM and for each of the chapters. There will be things to share. Most important will be to share our friendship with fellow family members. We will welcome new members and will want them to share with us. To each of you, please keep your membership current each year.

I have had a personal desire for many years to see one central database built of all the genealogy that could be accumulated for all of the Acadian/Cajun people. As we work to build the Doucet database (which obviously will include individuals from other Acadian/Cajun families) it will be a beginning toward this goal. We will work with other Acadian/Cajun families to share genealogical data between the families. All will benefit. Please share with us what data you have. As noted above, you may have the key that another needs to unlock the doors to their roots in this great family.

Building the web site has been a real joy. I can't wait until it is actually up and running and all can see it, and see themselves in the genealogical data. It will continue to grow, and hopefully will be a source of joy to each of you.

Thank you for your support. May we all work together for the betterment of the Doucet Family organization.

Dean

[The newsletter had a copy of the Membership Application attached. It is not included here since it is available elsewhere on this web site.]