



Les Nouvelles de la Famille Doucet

NEWSLETTER OF LES DOUCET DU MONDE

JULY 2010

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MESSAGE FROM The PRESIDENT

By Dean Doucet

Dear Cousins,

As this newsletter goes out we are preparing for a momentous occasion. On August 15th a plaque will be unveiled in Castine, Maine, recognizing and honoring our great forefather Germain Doucet. This plaque will be placed in Our Lady of Holy Hope Catholic Church, which was built at the same location as Fort Pentagoet, which was commanded by Germain. This created a perpetual memorial to him, one that we should all be proud of. Our special thanks to the Caissie family for the inspiration to have a plaque created to honor our forefather.

At the same time that we honor Germain I hope that each of you will take a few moments and also remember and honor his descendants, who became also our forefathers. Although Germain was the first to come to North America, without each of his descendants we wouldn't be here. Each of them is also important in our lives.

I likewise hope that each of us will make the effort to talk about our heritage and our ancestors with our family members and friends. We appreciate our ancestors, but what about our children and grandchildren. This is a great opportunity to introduce them to Germain if they haven't previously been aware of him.



PRESENTATION OF GERMAIN DOUCET COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE

Les Doucet du Monde members will present a plaque honoring Germain Doucet to Father Scott Mower, Administrator of Our Lady of Holy Hope Parish in Castine, Maine.

The presentation is planned for 3:00 p.m. on August 15, 2010, which is Acadian Day, Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the patron saint of the Acadians.

Father McDonough, a priest who lives in California, and who is a direct descendant of Germain Doucet (8th generation, we believe) plans to be present.

We want to express a special thanks to the Caissie family—to Bruce for suggesting this project, to his mother Jeannine who contacted Father Mower, made arrangements and contacted Father Mower, made arrangements and who contributed

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most of the material for the article, and to his father Paul who designed the plaque.

A grand merci to all who contributed to this project. Merci beaucoup to the LDDM members and their families who will represent us at the presentation. (The church is located at 137 Perkins Street, Castine, ME).

The following article was sent to newspapers.

GERMAIN DOUCET, SIEUR DE LA VERDURE

“Les Doucet du Monde,” Doucets of the World, (<http://www.doucetfamily.org>), a family organization which promotes pride in the French heritage, saw a need to honor our Acadian ancestor, Germain Doucet, Sieur de La Verdure, who was commandant of Fort Pentagoet in present day Castine, Maine, from 1635 to 1645.

“Les Doucet du Monde” was established in October of 1997 to prepare for the family reunion which was held during the “Congrès Mondial Acadien”, World Acadian Congress, in Louisiana in 1999.

Following the success of the family reunion, the desire grew to continue the family organization, gathering additional genealogical information, having extended family activities, and building a greater appreciation of those who have walked before us.

A group of over fifty members and their families attended the Doucet reunion in 2004 in Church Point, Nova Scotia.

“Les Doucet du Monde” was proud to sponsor noted Acadian genealogist Stephen A. White’s presentation at the 2009 Doucet reunion in Grande-Anse, New Brunswick.

A commemorative plaque honoring Germain Doucet will be presented to Our Lady of Holy Hope Church in Castine, Maine, to assure that Germain’s memory will be preserved, as it pertains to his 10 years of service at the fort. The church was erected over the site of Fort Pentagoet.

Arrangements have been made with Father Mower to formally present the plaque to him, as Pastor of the church, on August 15th, the national day of Our Lady of the Assumption, who is Patron Saint of the Acadians. Father Mower, in accepting this plaque from “Les Doucet du Monde”, has agreed to attach it at the entrance of the newly renovated church, for all to see.

Several members of “Les Doucet du Monde” are planning to attend the ceremony of the formal presentation on August 15th, at a time to be announced. It is hoped that several members of the parish will also be there for the presentation, and they are kindly invited to do so.

Germain Doucet dit La Verdure, who was born about 1595, and is said to be from Couperans in Brie, France, ar-

rived in Acadia in 1632 with the Commander Isaac de Razilly and the three hundred « hommes d’élite”, hand-picked men.

Germain Doucet was a Captain of Arms in the small army of D’Aulnay, a lieutenant under Razilly. He was probably accompanied by his wife whose name is unknown, his son Pierre, and a daughter, Louise-Marguerite or Marguerite-Louise-Judith.

After the Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye was signed on March 29, 1632, Cardinal Richelieu commissioned Razilly, a Knight of the Order of Malta, to retake possession of Acadia from the English. Two ships, the *Espérance-en-Dieu* and the *Saint-Jehan*, left from Auray in Brittany, France on July 23, 1632.

On September 8, 1632, the group arrived at La Hève (La Have, Nova Scotia), where they constructed fort Sainte-Mariede-Grâce.

Within three months of their arrival, Razilly sent D’Aulnay to retake Port Royal, which was still occupied by the English. Doucet, who would always be D’Aulnay’s faithful friend, accompanied him on this mission. At Port Royal, the English colonists who wanted to leave the colony and return to England were boarded on the *Saint-Jehan* and were sent first to La Hève. Germain Doucet then accompanied the *Saint-Jehan* to England to return the English colonists. From there, Doucet returned to France, where he met D’Aulnay aboard the *Espérance-en-Dieu*, and they returned to Acadia with new French colonists.

In 1635, D’Aulnay was ordered to retake possession of Fort Pentagoet at the western end of Acadia, in present day Castine, Maine, from the English. Once again, Germain Doucet accompanied D’Aulnay [this time with his family]. After the fort was retaken, D’Aulnay returned to Port Royal and left Doucet in command of a small garrison of about twenty men. The English soon sent a detachment from Plymouth, Mass. To try to retake the fort, but the French, under the command of Germain Doucet, successfully repelled the attack.

Razilly was governor of but part of Acadia. The rest of the colony was governed by Charles de La Tour. La Tour and Razilly coexisted in Acadia on peaceful terms, but in late 1635 Razilly died suddenly, leaving his position as governor of his part of Acadia to his brother, Claude de Razilly. Unwilling to leave France, Claude de Razilly delegated his powers to Charles Menou D’Aulnay. Soon after D’Aulnay succeeded to this post, relations with La Tour deteriorated, in part because of a confusing geographic division of the colony between the two governors by the King of France. By 1636, this quarrel had degenerated to open warfare, and La Tour demanded that D’Aulnay give up the post at Pentagoet commanded by Doucet. D’Aulnay and Doucet refused to do so and proceeded to make plans to reinforce the fort. A small party sent from Pentagoet to Port Royal for provisions, which well may have included the commander Doucet, was captured by forces loyal to La Tour and held prisoner. But soon after La Tour was defeated and captured following a naval engagement with the vessel of D’Aulnay.

In 1645, after the death of Isaac Pessely, the commander of Port Royal, Doucet was named commander of its garrison.

By 1647, the forces loyal to D’Aulnay had consolidated their power over the colony, and La Tour was forced to take

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refuge in Quebec. However, in May, 1650, D'Aulnay died from exhaustion when his canoe overturned in the Rivière du Moulin. [Some persons claim that he drowned, but a statement by a priest claims that his head was above water when he was found.] D'Aulnay's widow, Jeanne de Mottin, and Germain Doucet executed D'Aulnay's possessions.

In 1651, Jeanne de Mottin married her husband's rival, Charles de La Tour, and through this marriage La Tour retook possession of the colony. Doucet signed as a witness to their marriage, and La Tour left him in command of the garrison at Port Royal.

In July, 1654, despite the fact that England and France were at peace, Major Robert Sedgewick of Boston attacked and took La Tour's fort at Pentagoet, and proceeded immediately to lay siege to Port Royal. Doucet and his men resisted the attack for 16 days; however, faced with an opponent superior in numbers and armament, Doucet was finally forced to surrender Port Royal to Sedgewick and the English. Doucet and his wife were taken prisoner and were ordered to return to France. [According to Stephen White, there is no evidence that Germain Doucet and his wife did return to France.]



DOUCET FAMILY RECOGNIZES HISTORICAL ANCESTOR

By Juliana L'Heureux

(The Portland Press Herald, Portland, Maine, July 19, 2010)

A Franco-American Doucette memorial to honor the family's first ancestor is planned on Aug. 15, in Castine, Maine, at Our Lady of Good Hope Church.

Members of the Doucette Family Organization named Les Doucet du Monde (Doucets of the World) welcome relatives and history enthusiasts to attend the ceremony planned to memorialize Germain Doucet, Sieur de La Verdure, who was their North American founder and a French military officer.

Doucet will be recognized by the family association for his historic leadership as the commanding officer of the French military post at Fort Pentagoet. The fort was located at the western end of the colonial French colony of Acadia, near Castine.

A plaque will be dedicated at a ceremony after the Mass of the Feast of the Assumption. Father Scott Marow will preside at the ceremony.

Norman Doucette of Winchester, Mass., is helping to organize the ceremony. He learned about the history of his family's first ancestor after visiting the website www.germaindoucet.com/home. He says the spelling of the Doucet name changed to Doucette, probably around 1856 when it was inscribed in the Sainte-Anne-du-Ruisseau parish register in Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia.

In 1987, an archaeological portrait of the Acadian Frontier including reference to his ancestor Doucet was published titled "The French at Pentagoet 1635-1674." It was a joint project by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the New Brunswick Canada Museum.

Carol and his wife Eldine edit the family's newsletter. They live in Louisiana. He is writing a biography of Germain Doucet who was born in 1595 in an area of France called Couperou en Brye. In 1632 he arrived in Acadia with Isaac de Razilly (1587-1635), who was the French lieutenant governor of Acadia from 1632-35, when he unexpectedly died. Their purpose for going to Acadia was to reclaim Port Royal which was occupied by the British.

Doucet was among 300 "hommes d'elite" or hand-picked men authorized by the French government to reclaim the Acadian French settlements north of Pemaquid. Reclaiming Acadia and ordering the British out of the territory was agreed to as part of the March 29, 1632, Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye. After Razilly's death, Doucet joined his friend [Charles de Menou d'Aulnay](#) (1604-1650), who eventually succeeded Razilly as governor of Acadia. Doucet was given the responsibility of accompanying British settlers from Port Royal back to England if they chose to leave. He used this opportunity to go to France where he recruited French settlers to return with him to Port Royal. Doucet returned to Port Royal with his wife and children. Although his wife's name is unknown, his children were a son named Pierre and a daughter Louise-Marguerite or Marguerite-Louise-Judith.

In 1645, Doucet became the commanding officer of Fort Pentagoet, a French stronghold and trading post. The Doucette family believes the location of the memorial plaque they will present is on or near the site of Fort Pentagoet.

The Aug. 15th ceremony date in Castine was requested for the memorial dedication because Our Lady of the Assumption is the patron saint of the Acadians.

Doucet served at Fort Pentagoet during a time of relative peace, but the fort was nevertheless attacked in 1654, by Major Robert Sedgewick, of Boston. Doucet and his men resisted the attack for 16 days but were outnumbered. Doucet and his wife were taken prisoner after the surrender. Although they were ordered to return to France, no evidence exists of them leaving, according to a genealogy report written for Doucet du Monde, by Stephen White, an Acadian genealogist.

Information about the Castine event is available at the website www.doucetfamily.org

EDITOR'S NOTE TO JULIANA L'HEUREUX:

Les Doucet du Monde wishes to say to Juliana L'Heureux, *merci beaucoup* for covering the Doucet/Doucette family's presentation of the plaque honoring our Acadian ancestor, Germain Doucet, Sieur de La Verdure, who was born about 1595. You did a great service to so many of Germain's descendants by publicizing this very special event.

Unfortunately, after the capitulation of Port Royal in 1654, Germain and the other soldiers were forced to leave. He was not able to spend his final years in beautiful Acadie with his four children and their children.

MEET YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Jeannine Caissie

I was born in Moncton, NB Canada on April 1 (no jokes about April fools, please...I've heard them all my life!). My father died when I was only six months, and my aunt and uncle later adopted me. I kept my father's name of Doucett, despite being adopted by a family by the name of Allain. My father's family came from Tignish, P.E.I. My mother was a Bourque, whose family came from Memramcook, N.B. (My mother's great-uncle was Father Andre Bourque, who composed the song "Evangeline," and many other songs known and sung throughout Acadia). Living in Moncton, I grew up completely bilingual, comfortable in both the French and English languages. Upon graduation from high school, I worked as a secretary for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, then for the Royal Canadian Air Force, both in Moncton and Calgary, Alberta.

On a trip to the US, I met Paul Caissie who was stationed in Bangor, Maine with the US Air Force, but whose home was in Waltham, Massachusetts. I never returned to Canada to live. We married in 1956 and have raised four children. We have six grandchildren.

In Massachusetts, I worked a few part-time jobs, and when our youngest child was old enough, I began work as a secretary/bookkeeper for Title 1. By the time I retired fifteen years later, I was Coordinator for the Title 1 program in the Marlboro School Department. After Paul retired from teaching industrial arts and later special education in vocational schools, we moved to Fort Myers, Florida. We spend our summers in Sedgwick, Maine, where we have a summer home. Two of our children now live in Florida near us, and two still are in Massachusetts. Paul and I love camping, traveling—especially cruising in the Caribbean and in Europe—and I also enjoy reading, painting, writing, and singing in our church choir and in a Kookie band.

Since we are both proud Acadians, Paul and I have traveled to every Congrès Modial held since the very first one in 1994 in Memramcook, and God willing, we plan to go to Edmundston/Madawaska in 2014. Because of this interest in genealogy and history in our Acadian heritage, we, along with our son, Bruce, founded the Acadian Cultural Society in 1985, currently based in Fitchburg, Mass. It is through our interest in Acadian history that I became acquainted with LDDM, when we attended the CMA in Louisiana in 1999, and met Carol and Eldine Doucet. I am very proud to have been asked to serve on the Board, and do my very best to help in any way that I can.

Eleonora (Ellie) Doucette Turnage

Like all Doucets, I am descended from Germain Doucet, who came to North America in 1632. And on my mother's side I can trace my ancestors back many generations to their arrival in the New World in 1620.

My father's ancestors went to Quebec, and then my grandparents emigrated from Quebec to New Hampshire in the 1800s to find work in the mills during the Industrial Revolution. My father, Aimé Henri Doucet, was the third of their four children born in New Hampshire, but when they moved to Hyde Park, Massachusetts, the spelling of the name was changed to Doucette.

My ancestors on my mother's side came from Scotland, England, Wales and Ontario. I have traced her ancestors through two Mayflower passengers, John Howland and Frances Cooke. Her father, Charles Izard, emigrated from Ontario before 1771.

During World War I, my father met my mother at a dance "for the boys in uniform." They moved to Edinboro, Pennsylvania in 1922 where he joined the faculty at the State Teachers College. I was born there, the next to last of their seven children. As of this date, we are all surviving and range from ages 73 to 85.

After graduating from college, I married Jack Turnage from Texas. He worked in the oil industry until his retirement in 1998. In 1960, after a few years of teaching in Pennsylvania, I joined my husband in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, where we lived for two years. I opened a school for English-speaking children from grades one through eight. In 1962, we went to Colombia, South America, where I started another school for English-speaking children from grades one through twelve. In 1964, we transferred to Venezuela, South America. During our eleven years there, I taught and served as principal of the first four grades in an American School that went through eighth grade. In 1975, we returned to the United States and bought our first home in Portland, Texas. I continued teaching and raising our three daughters while my husband went to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Indonesia to work. By 1998 when he retired, I had already retired and our daughters were all married. We now have seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

My husband, Jack, became ill in 2001 and passed away in 2005. I continued to live in our home in Portland until 2008, when I moved to our cottage at Lake Corpus Christi.

I now enjoy traveling and doing research on the family trees. I have met and made friends with many wonderful members of my family in Wales, England, Canada and the United States. There is so much satisfaction in doing family research; I love every minute of it. It was wonderful to meet and join the Doucets in New Brunswick last August. I had corresponded with many but to finally know them was a truly enjoyable experience. To be asked to join the Board was not only humbling but also an honor. I look forward to working with such a super-great group of Doucets.

IT'S ALL RELATIVE

By: Pat Hayes

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 Lougheed Court, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 5K8, Canada.

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Our member, Norman R. Doucet, sent me the attached picture .

It is a picture of their family (2 sons, (near father) and one daughter on the left of picture, and of course, grandchildren, taken on their 50th wedding anniversary last Sept. 2009 in Somersworth, New Hampshire.

Norman is the son of Leonide Eloi Doucet & LilianCarrier, and he married Jeannette LaPointe on Sept. 26, 1959 in Berlin, New Hampshire.

—Jacqueuline Auclair



ACADIAN/CANADIAN CHAPTER NEWS



JEANNE DOUCET CURRIE PASSED AWAY
(The Chronicle Herald.ca, June 23, 2010)

JEANNE DOUCET-CURRIE, 61, Annapolis Royal, NS passed away suddenly on June 20, 2010 in Halifax, NS. Jeanne was born September 28, 1948 in New Edinburgh. She was the daughter of George and Alexandrine (Thériault) Doucet. After retiring from teaching, Jeanne rediscovered her love and passion for her Acadian music, language and culture. Her literature and her music will be her ongoing legacy. She was well known for her “joie de vivre” and her wonderful zest for life. Jeanne influenced all who saw her perform and left them happy and tapping their toes. Wherever she went she left a trail of smiling faces. She was known for having a very giving nature to her family, her friends and her community. Jeanne will be greatly missed by her treasured husband of 38 years, Wayne; son, Jeff Currie, Guelph, Ont.; daughter, Renée (Dean) Kozak, Fort Saskatchewan, Alta; granddaughter, Avery Kozak; parents, George and Alexandrine Doucet, New Edinburgh; sisters, Anne Saulnier, Saulnierville; Georgette (Bill) MacDonald, Oakville, Ont.; Pauline Doucet (Bob), Port Williams; and Christine (Bill) Davison, Parrsboro; brother, Michel (Diane) Doucet, New Edinburgh; along with numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.



Comments from LDDM Members

Bonjour Carol,
Est-ce que tu savais que Jeanne Doucet Currie était malade?Moi je ne le savais pas. Si tu vas voir au Chronicle Herald + Currie Doucet Jeanne, tu vas apprendre qu'elle est décédée le 20 juin à Hifax. Je regrette d'être la personne qui te l'apprend. Par contre je sais que tu la considérais comme une bonne amie et qu'elle était membre de LDDM. Elle va manquer à beaucoup de monde, ça c'est sûr. Tu la mentionnais dans ton courriel de cette semaine. Je suis désolée.

—Rolande O'Connell, New Brunswick

It is a shame to lose a loving talented person who we have met at the reunions. Jeanne and her husband Wayne were family to us. We had a special good-bye with them in Grande-Anse last year. Their performances in Church Point, Nova Scotia and Grande-Anse, New Brunswick were all about family, culture and having fun. Jeanne will be missed by all of us in the Doucet Family.

—Norman Doucette, Massachusetts

I certainly was pleased to have met her this past summer and the Emails that we shared after the reunion. It is always so sad to have this happen, especially to family

—Eleanora Turnage, Texas

This is such shocking news She has contributed much

to our diverse Canadian culture.

—Pat Hayes, Ontario

Bonjour, Wayne,

Rolande Doucet O'Connell from the Bathurst area let us know about Jeanne's passing away on the 20th of June

We send our condolences and prayers. Eldine and I, and Robert and Michelle enjoyed so much our visit with you and Jeanne in 2008. We will never forget your hospitality, your generosity, your friendship. The two of you were super.

Those of us who are fortunate enough to be married to a beautiful person are grateful.

We have many fond memories of meeting Jeanne in 2004 at the family reunion, corresponding with the two of you, enjoying our visit with you a couple of years ago, and then seeing the two of you during the reunion in 2009.

Wayne, you are fortunate to have so many friends.

—Carol, Eldine, Robert, Michelle, Louisiana

WOW!!! c'est tout un choc d'apprendre le décès de notre chère Jeanne...j'en suis bouleversée!!!

Je n'étais pas au courant. Je viens de lire sa nécrologie. J'ai de la difficulté à croire que notre chère Jeanne si vivante et si pétillante qui a fait soulever la foule de DOUCET à notre rencontre l'an dernier n'est plus. En visionnant son site "facebook" quelques semaines passées nous pouvions admirer son premier petit-enfant je crois.

Nos prières sont avec la famille.

—Odette Comeau-Doucet, New Brunswick



My favorite picture of her. Jeanne, her sister Pauline, and husband Wayne at 2004 Doucet reunion.

—Lou Doucet, Maine and Florida

Mais voyons madame

Par Rolande O'Connell

Au début août 1982, Rod, moi, et les enfants sommes en vacances à Terre-Neuve. Nous avons accosté à Port aux Basques, il y a une dizaine de jours et voyageons dans notre Camper Volkswagen. La température est belle. Tout le monde est de bonne humeur. Comme nous l'avions planifié avant de partir de la maison, lorsque nous arrivons à Fortune nous prenons un petit traversier pour piétons pour aller à l'Île Saint-Pierre. Le voyage est plutôt « houleux. » Sean et moi avons un peu le mal de mer. Aussitôt arrivés à Saint-Pierre, nous sommes guéris.

Nous nous installons à l'Hôtel Champlain et ensuite allons explorer. Nous déambulons dans les ruelles. Notre nez nous conduit directement dans une boulangerie-pâtisserie aux odeurs de beurre, sucre, et chocolat. Nous ne pouvons résister aux croissants fraîchement cuits, dégoulinant de chocolat. Nous les dévorons en un rien de temps. Ça me fait penser à la chanson de Joe Dassin, « Le petit pain au chocolat. »

Tous les matins, il achetait son petit pain au chocolat, ya ya ya, ya.

J'essaie toujours de ramener un livre de recettes des endroits où je voyage. J'entre dans une boutique de souvenirs. J'adresse la dame derrière le comptoir. « Bonjour Madame. Je cherche un livre de recettes des Îles. » Elle me répond : « Nous f'çons (faisons) la cuisine française ici Madame. » Je me ré-essaie: « Vous n'auriez pas un recueil de recettes typiques des Îles Saint-Pierre et Miquelon? » Déjà irritée et haussant le ton, elle réplique « Mais voyons Ma-da-me, je vous ai dit que nous f'çons la cui-si-ne fran-çai-se ici. » « Hop-là! » Je me dis : « Rolande, respire par le nez; on a changé de pays. » Ça fait plus d'une semaine qu'à Terre-

Neuve j'entends : « So sorry dearie, we don't have any. » (Je regrette ma chère dame, nous n'en avons pas. » Je sors de la boutique la mine pas mal câgout, ⁽¹⁾ comme dirait quelqu'un de par chez nous. Mes enfants, qui me connaissent bien, rient et en riront encore maintes fois en racontant cette anecdote.

À la fin des années 90, Sean me fait cadeau du livre: *Recettes des Îles Saint Pierre et Miquelon*, avec l'inscription écrite de sa main « *Mais voyons madame, c'est la cuisine française, ici!!!* » En 1988 lors de l'édition, Marc Plantegenest, président du Conseil général de Saint-Pierre et Miquelon avait écrit dans la préface du livre: *Jusqu'à présent, en matière d'art culinaire, aucune publication n'avait été diffusée.*

La Saint Pierraise avait donc raison!!! Elle n'en avait pas de livre de recettes des Îles.

⁽¹⁾ Mot utilisé par chez nous signifiant mine piteuse ou pitoyable.

Close to Home: Identity crisis reduces Francos' visibility

BY JULIANA L'HEUREUX / LES FRANCO AMERICAINS
(Portland Press Herald, Portland, Maine, November 11, 2009)

Franco-Americans make up about 30 percent of Maine's population. U.S. census reports from 2000 calculate 11.8 percent of all Americans claim French heritage.

Nevertheless, Franco-Americans in Maine and New England are often unaware of their roots. I receive more mail about this issue than any subject other than *tourtiere* (French-Canadian pork pie). Even knowing how the French historical connection to Maine began with the brief settlement of St. Croix Island in Calais in 1604, Franco-Americans still debate their identity.

Readers such as retired University of Maine French teacher James Herlan say the expression "Franco-American" is exclusive. Rather, he suggests the term should include all French Americans.

Others simply want to know where to find their special family histories, whether it was from Quebec (Quebecois) or French Acadia, with roots in the Canadian Maritimes. Some seek clarity about the difference between being of French-Canadian descent and a Franco-American. This difference is becoming less clear with cultural assimilation. Two Maine Franco-American Franco-Americans offered some insight into the identity issue. Norman Beaupre of Biddeford is a Franco-American writer and professor emeritus from the University of New England. He says the question has bothered him for many years.

French Americans are less visible than other similarly sized ethnic groups. Perhaps their assimilation into the U.S. mainstream has inhibited the development of a French American identity.

"Franco-Americans could simply have a knowledge deficit about their identity brought about by their quick assimilation into the American culture," says Beaupre. On the other hand, identifying oneself as Franco-American could be an outdated value, he says. "We don't take the time to celebrate the old traditions," he says.

When Beaupre grew up in Biddeford, his Franco-American family took time to visit with relatives living in other places. This extended family connectedness is not happening anymore, he says. Yet, Beaupre firmly emphasizes the reality of the Franco-American identity. "We do exist," he says. "We have an identity. It's historical and it's real, whether people want to identify with it nor not."

Franco-American playwright Greg Chabot was rehearsing with "du monde d'a cote" theater troupe, for performances of "Les Sacres Monologues/The Lost Monologues" scheduled at 3:30 p.m. Thursday and 6:30 p.m. Friday at Jewett Hall of the University of Maine in Augusta when I caught up with him for an opinion.

Chabot grew up speaking French in Waterville. He is an alumnus of Colby College. Chabot says Franco-Americans are hard workers who have not always taken time to reach out to their surrounding communities.

"Franco-Americans may have lost connections with their historical identities because their protective communities were

like small cultural fortresses," he says. In other words, the "little Canadas" were close-knit, but isolated. As a result, without access to modern communications, Franco-Americans did not have the opportunities to learn about people outside of their communities, which included other Francos. They even lost touch with their relatives.

Waterville's Franco-Americans share a slightly different heritage from those living in other Maine towns. Many Waterville Franco-Americans migrated to the area from Aroostook County and spoke the French they grew up with there. Also, by living in Waterville, they remained closer to their families than others who migrated from Quebec, says Chabot.

Franco-American workers found jobs in the Waterville area in cotton and woolen mills and also in the paper factories. Although the textile industries eventually closed or moved away, the paper factories continue to employ Franco-Americans living in Waterville and Rumford.

Undoubtedly, this identity discussion will continue as long as people of French heritage access the internet and international Web sites to research their historical roots.

Juliana L'Heureux can be contacted at: juliana@mainewriter.com

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Professor studying decline of French language in Maine

BY JULIANA L'HEUREUX/LES FRANCO AMERICAINS
(Portland Press Herald, Portland, Maine, July 15, 2009)

French was once widely spoken in Maine's cities and towns. Now it's only occasionally heard, except in the St. John Valley. Claire Quintal, a Franco-American writer and retired professor, has some opinions about why this is happening.

U.S. Census data from 2000 shows French is the most common language after English in Maine. Likewise, 25 percent of Maine's residents identify their heritage as French-Canadian or French.

Maine's Franco-American heritage is evident by picking up any local telephone book to check out the pages of French names. Numerous Maine heritage sites boast French origins, like Acadia National Park and Bowdoin College. French history predates the arrival of the English in New England by 17 years.

Maine and New England's Franco-American heritage is inherited from immigrants from Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Acadians began arriving in 1755, as a result of Le Grand Dérangement, or the brutal expulsion of the French from Nova Scotia by the British.

Immigration from Quebec was spurred by America's industrial revolution of the last two centuries. Maine's proximity to Canada's French-speaking provinces aided the decision made by thousands of French-Canadians to leave their homes for economic reasons to find work in the United States.

(Continued on page 8)

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Quintal is a bilingual writer and retired professor from Assumption College in Worcester Mass., who grew up in Central Falls, R.I., speaking French. She is editor of the anthology "Steeple and Smokestacks -- A Collection of Essays on The Franco-American Experience in New England." In the summer, she lives in York.

At one time, the French language was the key component of the Franco-Americans' identity, after their devout practices as Roman Catholics, Quintal writes. But the French language is waning because Franco-Americans who grew up speaking French before they learned English are aging.

Perhaps native French speakers are declining because they came to New England too early, Quintal believes.

' "We were here before efforts were in place to protect our bilingual heritage," she said. "We were left to learn English on our own. Voter registration was in English only. Learning English was a matter of economic and social survival."

More damage was done to inhibit the language when Franco-Americans were wrongly told they did not speak real French, says Quintal.

This language myth prevails to this day. It contributes to the reluctance many Franco-Americans feel about speaking the French they learned at home with their parents and grandparents.

Quebecois French is something like speaking English with a Boston or Texas accent. It's still French -- whether it's spoken in Haiti, Africa, the Far East, Quebec, Maine or Paris. Undoubtedly, a mixture of Francophone regions developed special accents and colloquialisms, which is the same for English and Spanish. "Spanish speakers are reasonable about language variations," said Quintal. "They do not make a fuss about regional accents."

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LOUISIANA CHAPTER NEWS



July 28, 2010—Day of Commemoration

Join the Acadian memorial for an afternoon of commemoration:

Induction of Bernie David, Louisiana representative of the Mi'kmaq Nation into the Acadian Museum Hall of Fame "Living Legends." Program co-hosted by the Acadian Museum of Erath and held at the Acadian Memorial in St. Martinville.

Ceremony for the Métis and Mi'kmaq nations.

St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church French Service and Mass to remember the day the Deportation Order was signed.

National Day of the Acadians (August 15th)

Schedule:

Acadian Memorial, 121 S. New Market St., St. Martinville, LA

The Acadian Memorial will host a day of activities in celebration of Fête Nationale des Acadiens (National Day of the Acadians). Ceremonial raising of the Acadian flag, children's stories, theatre and special presentations will take place. Free admis-

sion. The day concludes with the annual procession with family banners to St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church for a French Mass.

10:15a.m. ~ Ceremonial flag raising and chorus at City Hall, across the street from Acadian Memorial

10:30 a.m. ~ Film: *Story of the Acadians* at the Cultural Heritage Center Media Room

11:00 a.m. ~ Roslyn Fouin: Children's stories/book signing, 2nd floor Acadian Memorial

12:00 p.m. ~ BYOP (bring your own picnic) on the Teche Boardwalk & Gazebo

1:00 p.m. ~ Gayle Breaux Smith: Breaux ancestry presentation, 2nd floor, Acadian Memorial

2:00 p.m. ~ Ray Trahan: Presentation on Grand Réveil Acadien & L'Ordre du Bon Temps, 2nd floor, Acadian Memorial

3:00 p.m. ~ Théâtre Acadien costumed performance, 1st floor, Acadian Memorial

4:00 p.m. ~ Théâtre Acadien costumed performance, 1st floor, Acadian Memorial

4:50 p.m. ~ Gather family banners and assemble in Acadian Memorial garden

5:15 p.m. ~ Procession with banners to St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church, 201 Evangeline Blvd.

5:30 p.m. ~ French Mass at St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church

CHECK YOU MEMBERSHIP STATUS!

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 "2008" OR "2009", THAT MEANS YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID FOR THOSE YEARS. 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.

HELP OUR ORGANIZATION GROW BY GETTING A FAMILY MEMBER TO JOIN--AN UNCLE OR AN AUNT, A SIBLING, A COUSIN, ETC MEMBERSHIP CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM OUR WEB SITE: WWW.DOUCETFAMILY.ORG. PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU NOW HAVE THE OPTION OF PAYING FOR TWO YEARS AT A TIME. WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS CONVENIENCE.

WE HAVE MEMBERS FROM ALL OVER THE U.S. 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.

WANT TO USE PAY PAL FOR DUES PAYMENT?

If you would like to use Pay-Pal for online payment, please contact Treasurer Jacqueline Auclair @ jack-
iea@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

SEARCHING FOR RELATIVES

The genealogy section of the Les Doucet du Monde web site (www.doucetfamily.org) now has over 40,000 entries, thanks to Dean Doucet who has been handling it since 1999.

Naturally, there are "gaps."

We are asking Doucet/Doucett/Doucette "cousins" who went to the family reunion last August to send us your genealogy line if you have not yet done so.

If you did not have the pleasure of attending the reunion, to you, too, we say "Please share your genealogy information."

Whether it's three generations or thirteen, please send your line to:

Dean Doucet

1105 N. Dysart Road, No. 36, Avondale, AZ 35323, USA

Phone (623) 238-4717

E-Mail deand@doucetfamily.org

À LA RECHERCHE DE LA PARENTÉ

Le secteur de généalogie du site web de Les Doucet du Monde (www.doucetfamily.org) comprend plus de quarante milles données, grâce à Dean Doucet qui s'en occupe depuis 1999.

Il va sans dire, il existe des "manques."

Nous prions les "cousins" Doucet/Doucett/Doucette qui ont assisté à la rencontre en août de nous faire parvenir votre lignée, si vous ne l'avez pas encore fait.

Et si vous n'avez pas eu le plaisir d'assister à la rencontre familiale, à vous aussi, nous disons "partagez votre généalogie."

Que ça soit trois génération ou treize, nous vous prions d'envoyer votre lignée à

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Phone (623) 238-4717

E-Mail deand@doucetfamily.org

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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