

Les Nouvelles de la famille Doucet

(October 2000)

Bonjour to all Doucet/Doucette cousins of the world:

As we prepare for the next LDDM Reunion in 2004 in Nova Scotia, we ask for your support and membership. We are also looking for fresh ideas and enthusiastic people to serve on the board which presently has a few vacancies, such as vice president, secretary and board members. We have a fun group from all over North America and invite you to join.

Presently we are looking for someone in Nova Scotia to organize the "Doucet" reunion. The Louisiana 1999 reunion was a great success. We came from near and far, met cousins we never could imagine we had and had a terrific weekend. People in the organization are all willing to help, however, we need someone in the area to plan and organize. If that is you or you know someone who is interested, please contact someone of the board.

You will find some websites included in this newsletter. If you have a website or know of any others who do, please write or e-mail us to let us know so they can be published in the next newsletter. Also, if you have any bulletins or Doucet points of interest, please submit what you have to us, if you wish.

Do you have a "Doucet" reunion happening for the summer of 2001? What a great way to recruit new members. Be a family leader and make them feel welcome to join. We had about 500 people at the Louisiana "Doucet" reunion. Lets make 2004 bigger and better.

We need your help!

I would like to take the time to thank Richard, our past president, and his wife Bobbi with their huge team from the Louisiana Chapter who worked so hard for the last reunion in Opelousas, Louisiana, to make it so successful. I didn't have the opportunity to meet all the wonderful people who were on the committees, but you know who you are and

THANKS

Darlene Nielson

Les Doucet du Monde Family 2000 - 2001

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Les Doucet du Monde Family Web Site and Other References and Sources

Les Doucet du Monde website:
www.doucetfamily.org

Membership Application for Les Doucet du Monde
www.doucetfamily.org/information/memapp.htm
or use link under Information at Les Doucet du Monde website

Other references or sources
(also see Links page of Les Doucet du Monde website)

Michele Doucet - Manager of: Descendants of Germanin Doucet LaVerdure List
(this site is no longer available)

Michele Doucette's Acadian GenWeb site
www.geocities.com/Heartland/Acres/2162/

Michele Doucette's Website
www.geocities.com/Heartland/Meadows/2700/

Fred Union's Doucet Website
community-2.webtv.net/Union7/DoucetFamily/

SYMPATHIES TO EDWARD DOUCET FAMILY

On July 21, 2000, the Louisiana Chapter lost one of its board members. Edward, of Port Barre, was very active in LDDM from its inception. Despite his failing health, he was a source of help in preparing for the August 1999 Doucet family reunion and indeed attended and helped with the reunion.

We extend our sympathies to his wife, Judith, and his family.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE LES DOUCET DU MONDE LEADERSHIP

(in alphabetical order)

JACKIE AUCLAIR

I am your treasurer, and will continue in this position for another year. Volunteering and being electing to this spot was right up my alley since my working profession was Accounting. Gary, my husband of 36 years, and I are originally from the State of Maine, but have lived in Saratoga, California, for the last 28 years. Saratoga is a bedroom community of Silicon Valley and is located 45 miles south of San Francisco in the foothills of the Santa Clara Mountains. Very pretty area. We have raised three boys here, and also have three wonderful grandchildren. Genealogy was always an interest to me, but not until I retired about six years ago did I seriously start gathering information. My mother is the Doucet and was born in New Brunswick, as were her father and mother. I hope all of you are making plans to attend the next Doucet reunion in 2004 in Nova Scotia. The reunion in Louisiana in 1999 was so great and I am anxiously awaiting the next one. Hope to meet many new cousins!

CAROL JAMES DOUCET

As President of the Louisiana Chapter of LDDM, I am a member of the International Board. In July 1999, I retired after teaching French at the high school level for 34 years. My wife Eldine and I have four children and four grandchildren. Living in Lafayette, the capital of French Louisiana is great.

I've traced my ancestors seriously for about 20 years. Three generations of Doucets born in Acadie, Michel (1702), Michel (1733) and Pierre (1758) arrived in Louisiana in the 1760's. They settled in the prairie region of Southwest Louisiana (not all of Louisiana is swamp). My wife's Prejean ancestors also came to Louisiana at about the same time.

I enjoyed beaucoup the Doucet reunion in Louisiana in August of 1999. Being emcee was an added pleasure. Let's work to make CMA 2004 in Nova Scotia just as great!

DEAN DOUCET

I was born in Covina, California, on 14 September 1950, but grew up in Louisiana. Our family moved to Arizona in 1961. After high school, I attended college for a year, then served a two-year mission for my church in New Zealand. Upon returning from my mission, I enlisted in the US Army. Just prior to going into the military I met my wife Debra. We were married after basic training on April 15, 1972, and moved to Massachusetts. Our first son, Grandison, was born there. Our second son, DeVere, was born in Arizona while I was attending a military school in Indiana. Brandon and Joleen were born in Kentucky.

After a short stay in Alabama, we were off to Germany, and added Spencer and Miles. I always enjoyed going to Switzerland, a little place of heaven on earth. Of course, part

of the fun was being able to drive 100 mph on the autobahn and not having to worry about being stopped by the police. While in Germany I was responsible for the operation of a family history /genealogical center. Upon our return from Germany, we spent two and a half years in Louisiana, and April was added to our family. I requested to be assigned to Louisiana so that I could be close to my grandfather. In 1984 I departed the military to return to college. I obtained a degree in Political Science from Arizona State University, and we added Zachary to the clan. Several years later we had our final blessing, Colton. During the last two and a half years we have been blessed with five grandchildren.

My first love is my family, both those living and those deceased. I have been involved in doing genealogy and teaching genealogy for the past 25 years. Some of my favorite times are spend in libraries searching for that elusive ancestor. I have been able, as many of you have, to trace my ancestry back to Germain Doucet, Sieur de la Verdure.

I currently am a paralegal for the Arizona Child Support Enforcement program. I continue to spend time doing genealogy and I teach an adult Sunday School class. My love is my family and teaching. I am thankful for the opportunity and privilege to serve this great Doucet family.

GAETAN DOUCET

Presently retired after 35 years of involvement in education, I am a resident of Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. I am biligual, French and English, and hope to see a French language section of LDDM in the near future. I am and have been a very active member of my community in health care and most recently in the restructuring of our municipal government.

My interest in genealogy started soon after my father's death. He had rarely spoken of his family history to us but as we went through his belongings, we found old handwritten documents that have a short, but incomplete, genealogy of our ancestors. With this information and the help of many on the internet I was able to build my genealogy line. This work put me in contact with many Doucet descendants who worked at organizing the Louisiana Congres Mondial Acadien for the Doucet family.

I attended the 1999 CMA in Louisiana where I met some very wonderful, hard working, dedicated people who are responsible for making this organization work. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to be involved in this project.

MICHELE DOUCETTE

Hello. My name is Michele Doucette and I hail from Truro, Nova Scotia. I first became involved with Les Doucet du Monde in 1997 when Richard Doucet of Church Point, Louisiana, contacted me with respect to attempting to develop a website to reach persons from all over the world prior to CMA 1999. Although unable to attend this 1999 gathering of the Acadian populace, I continue to remain strong and steady in my attachments to LDDM. To date, I am proud to be a Board Member of our family organization. With regards to my genealogy, I have been more than successful in tracing my roots back to those early Port Royal days.

I had the pleasure of meeting Stephen White at the Universite de Moncton several summers ago. Mr. White's Dictionnaire Genealogique des Familles Acadiennes (1636 a 1714) has also enabled me to assist other persons in making definitive connections to our LDDM family. My interest in all things of an Acadian nature also spurred me into taking action with respect to my Acadian GenWeb site (see above). I look forward to hearing from cousins near and far.

NORMAN E. DOUCETTE JR

I was born on June 19, 1951, and have lived in Winchester, Massachusetts, most of my life. Winchester is located about 10 miles north of Boston. I became interested in genealogy during 1991. I work for the Winchester Department of Public Works and one of my secretaries, Marianne Signe Erickson Doucette, asked me if I knew my family tree. I said no, but that I could probably find some information. I did the obvious and had

copies of my grandfather's and great-grandfather's death certificates made. They both died in Winchester in 1959 and 1956, respectively. I went to the library and copied obituaries from the *Winchester Star* for both. My great-grandfather's notice listed his parents, his living children and two living sisters.

My great-grandfather was Ramie J. Doucette (1862-1956) and his father was Jean Arnou Doucette (1834 - 1897). I brought this information to Marianne Doucette. She had Jean Arnou Doucette on her list with eight children. My grandfather Ramie was missing. I am a second cousin, once removed, to Marianne's husband, Gordon Walter Doucette. Gordon's uncle, Byron Doucette of Reading, Massachusetts, who is 88, has been researching at the Argyle Municipal Historical and Genealogy Society in Tusket, Nova Scotia during many yearly trips to the archives. Their web site (Argyle Township Courthouse and Archives) is <http://yen.library.ns.ca/~ipatcha/>. They have an informative quarterly newsletter called the *Argyle*. They also sell many publications on Acadina families and history, some of which is only available at their site. I met Byron Doucette last year with Marianne Doucette and my mother, Mary Doucette. He was still working two days a week in Reading. He is my first cousin, twice removed. I have visited the Courthouse for information and to purchase publications during my 1993 and 1996 visits to Nova Scotia. I usually vacation in the Clare Region. The website for Clare - French Acadian Shore is <http://www.munisource.org/clare> and has many local links. The South Shore Tourist Association website is also a good source of links to the Yarmouth to Halifax region. It is: <http://www.ssta.com>.

I attended the Doucet Family Reunion in Louisiana last year with my wife Linda and daughter Samantha. We stayed in Lafayette, Louisiana, for four days and had a great time attending the family events and sightseeing (see article below). We look forward to CMA 2004 in Nova Scotia.

JAMES GABOURY

I was born in Princeton, Wisconsin, in 1935. Currently I live in New Berlin, Wisconsin, but will soon be moving to Lafayette, Louisiana. I have lived in the Milwaukee area most of my life, except for three years I was in the Army (1955 - 1958). I married at the age of 30.

My late wife and I had been married almost 33 years when she passed away in 1998.

At the Doucet Reunion in August of last year I met a distant Doucet cousin (female) of the Cajun variety. We became friends by e-mails to each other and later by phone calls and fewer e-mails. This year I drove down to Lafayette four times. The last time is when the purpose of my visit was to find a place to live, which I did, hence, I will soon be having a new address.

My Doucet/Doucette line is as follows:

Germain Doucet
Pierre Doucet and Henriette Peltret
Mathieu Doucet and Anne Laure
Joseph Doucet and Marie Anne Bourque
Jean Baptiste Doucet and Marie Richard
Jean Doucet and Marie Anne Vigneau
Jean Doucet and Marie Louise Levaseur
Joseph Doucette and Julie Heroux
Mary Claire Doucette and George Gaboury
Peter Israel (Joseph) Gaboury and Emily Marie Huber
James Daniel Garoury and Carol Ann Berkey

DARLENE NIELSON

My name is Darlene Nielson from beautiful British Columbia. I am a member of the LDDM International Board who has volunteered to do the mail out for the 2001 renewals and this newsletter.

My grandmother, Maria Doucet, is my link to the Germain Doucet family. My great grandfather, Joseph Doucet, father of Maria, moved his family from the St Joseph de

Mekinac area near Trois Rivieres, Quebec, to St Paul, Alberta, in 1910, where he farmed and raised his young family. I was born in St Paul, Alberta. My father and mother moved to Edmonton, Alberta, where I grew up with my two brothers.

I married, then moved to Los Angeles, California, in 1965, and when we returned to Canada, we came to the Vancouver area. My children, Shane, Troy and Lisa, were born here in British Columbia. Troy and his wife gave me two beautiful grandsons, who absolutely **spoil** me.

My daughter, Lisa Petry, and I have traveled to Louisiana to meet with all our Doucet cousins at the August 1999 reunion. It was an absolutely wonderful time. We met cousins we had been online with plus many more. The Louisiana hospitality was terrific as was the food. We made lasting relationships, exchanged data and have spectacular memories of the reunion.

I am looking forward to the next reunion in 2004 in Nova Scotia. Plan to join us.

My Doucet line is: Germain - Pierre - Mathieu - Joseph - Jean Baptiste - Jean Baptiste - Olivier - Zephirin - Joseph - Maria - Cecile Belzil - Darlene (me)

FRED UNION

My name is Fred Union and I have been "addicted" to genealogy for about 20 years now. While I was in the Air Force and was stationed in Washington, DC, I visited the National Archives, looking through all the information that they had and that was it. I was hooked on genealogy. I was born and raised in Ashland, Massachusetts and now live in Roseville, California. My Doucet connection is through my maternal great grandmother, Mary Anthony Doucet, who was born in 1867 in New Edinburgh, Nova Scotia and settled in Massachusetts in 1886.

My Doucet line is: Germain - Pierre - Rene - Francois - Joseph - Pierre - Louis - Mary

SAMUEL DOUCET

Samuel Doucet's biographical sketch will appear in the next newsletter.

LOUISIANA CHAPTER NEWS

COVERED DISH MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL

Members and their families and prospective members are invited to the Covered Dish Membership Social on November 25, 2000, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 917 N. Main Street, Opelousas. There will be music (and dancing) as well as genealogy. Join the fun and invite your Doucet relatives to come along. Bring your own drinks and a dish (sufficient to serve ten) to share. LDDM will furnish the meat.

Also, bring along your genealogy information to share. There will be group leaders for sessions on the Germain Doucet (Acadian) and Pierre Doucet (Mobile, Alabama) lines. We will also have a session for beginners. If you are getting started, it would be helpful if you can provide the name of someone in your direct line from about three generations back.

Membership applications will be available for those who are not yet members and wish to join.

Fellow LDDM members from outside Louisiana, if you're visiting Louisiana at Thanksgiving, come join us. We'd love to have you and, as we say in Louisiana, "Laissez les bons temps rouler!"

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP WELL RECEIVED

Our genealogy workshop this past August at the Opelousas Library was quite successful. Approximately 15 persons attended and shared information about their Doucet ancestors and did research. Traveling the furthestest was International Board Member Jim Gaboury (he

was in Lafayette visiting a fellow LDDM member and joined us for the day). We plan to have another genealogy workshop in August 2001.

BOARD VACANCIES FILLED

Three positions on the Louisiana Board have been filled. Richard and Bobbi Doucet resigned as Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively, and the recent death of Edward Doucet vacated a board seat. We are happy to welcome Judge Ned E. Doucet as Vice President, Lillie Doucette Loftin as Secretary-Treasurer, and Becky Lavergne as a board member. Continuing to serve are President - Carol J. Doucet and Board Members - Mim Bordelon, Dr. Lucius Doucet II, and Donna Manuel. All members serve until December 21, 2001.

A SUCCESSFUL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE AND FUTURE PLANS

Our 1999 membership drive proved quite successful. We presently have 50 memberships in the Louisiana Chapter. Many thanks to our Louisiana Board Members who serve as a calling committee to contact members in their local area and were able to provide a personal touch to our recruiting efforts.

Please be prompt in returning the Membership Renewal Form which is enclosed with this newsletter. Next year, we plan to have meetings in different parts of the state: February - Catfish Shack in Lafayette, May - probably in Jennings, August - Genealogy Workshop (place undecided) and November - probably another covered dish social.

REPORT ON 1999 LDDM REUNION

by Norman Doucette

Hello Cuzins.

My wife Linda, daughter Samantha and I had a great time in the Lafayette and Opelousas areas of Louisiana last weekend from Thursday afternoon August 5th thru Monday evening August 9th. We met with many of our fellow Michele Doucette net cuzins at the Doucet Reunion in the Yambilee Building in Opelousas, Louisiana on Saturday and Sunday.

Jackie Auclair called me at my motel Friday night to say that a few people were going to get together and go to a Cajun restaurant. We met with Jackie and Gary Auclair from Saratoga, California, Darlene Nielson and daughter Lisa Petry from Delta, British Columbia, Gaetan and Loretta Doucet and Jackie Lalende from Sudbury, Ontario, at Shoney's Motel in Lafayette. Our hosts that evening were none other than Richard and Bobbi Doucet of Church Point, Louisiana, the organizers of the Doucet Reunion. We ate together at Landry's Cajun Restaurant off I-10 in Henderson. Richard and Bobbi ordered a Cajun platter as an appetizer for all in the party to share. Then each of us ordered our main courses of the many delicious plates offered on the extensive menu.

Others that we met on Saturday and Sunday from the list included Shiela (Doucette) and Mark Sundland and family from Spring, Texas, Dean Doucet and family from Apache Junction, Arizona, James Gaboury from New Berlin, Wisconsin, and Jeanne (Doucet) and Richard Landry from Church Point, Nova Scotia (who said they drove down for the three weeks of events). I am sorry if I missed any others at the reunions or misspelled any names.

Our trip down was uneventful from Boston. We left on American Airlines at 7:00 am and arrived in Dallas about 11:00 am. We then flew to Lafayette on American Eagle after the longest walk through two American Airlines terminals that I have ever taken in an airport to reach a flight. Monday at 8:45 am we were supposed to take an American Eagle flight back to Dallas. But, after five tries to start a reluctant engine the pilot had us get off the plane that we had sat in for almost an hour with no air conditioning and high humidity. We were lucky enough to get the last three seats on a noontime Continental Express to Houston and a 2:00 pm flight to Boston, arriving at 6:00 pm.

While waiting at the airport we spoke to Shirley Thibodeaux LeBlanc who chaired the Thibodeaux Family Association. She said that she was sending off some Thibodeaux relatives that had stayed at her home for the reunion and that she would be attending the LeBlanc Reunion with her husband. I will detail more of my family's weekend in Louisiana in an later e-mail. I will be developing my pictures this week.

PS: Maybe for future newsletters we can have a website column. I had a few of interest in my initial e-mail.