



Les Nouvelles de la Famille Doucet

Newsletter of Les Doucet du Monde

August 2015

INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

Carol James Doucet, President

103 South Ridgeway Drive, Lafayette, LA 70503, USA
Phone (337) 984-6879
E-Mail carold@doucetfamily.org

Patricia Doucette Hayes, Secretary

49 Stoneridge Cres., St. Davids ON L0S 1J1, Canada
Phone (905) 727-8600
E-Mail path@doucetfamily.org

Jacqueline Auclair, Treasurer

20130 Cherry Lane, Saratoga, CA 95070, USA
Phone (408) 255-6319
E-Mail jackiea@doucetfamily.org

INTERNATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

Jeannine Doucett Caissie

17771 Peppard Drive, Ft. Myers Beach, FL 33931 USA
Phone (239) 454-5110
E-Mail jeanniec@doucetfamily.org

Gail Doucette Christensen

11512 Black Horse Run, Raleigh, NC 27613, USA
Phone (919) 848-3463

Lucien (Lou) Doucet

5 Acorn Lane, Lewiston, ME 04240, USA
Phone (207) 312-5889
E-Mail loud@doucetfamily.org

Norman E. Doucette, Jr.

400 Cross St. Unit 303, Winchester, MA 01890, USA
Phone (781) 729-9133
E-Mail normand@doucetfamily.org

Pauline Doucette Parker

6790 SE State Road 121, Morriston, FL 32668, USA
Phone (352) 465-3844
E-Mail paulinep@doucetfamily.org

Eleonora Doucette Turnage

304 S. Vista Drive, Sandia, TX 78383 USA
Phone (361) 947-0711
E-Mail eleanorat@doucetfamily.org

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Carol James Doucet
Gail Doucette Christensen
Alfred Christensen

WEBSITE

Lucien (Lou) Doucet, Webmaster

<http://www.doucetfamily.org>

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LDoucetDM/>

Message from the President

By Carol James Doucet

As we approach the final days of our Doucet family organization, it is important to note that Les Doucet du Monde will keep the Doucet Family website open as long as our funds permit it.

Besides the genealogy section, which is one of the best I've ever seen, there are other features that could prove interesting. If you are not familiar with our website, check it out at www.doucetfamily.org.

Les Doucet du Monde also has a Facebook page where Doucet descendants exchange messages.

Several persons deserve special mention for their service to the extended Doucet family. Dean Doucet was the first president of LDDM after the Doucet/Doucette reunion of 1999, which was held in Opelousas, Louisiana. Dean was proud to belong to the Doucet family. His energetic leadership led to the creation of a great genealogy section, which boasted over 60,000 entries on our website. He also was the webmaster of our website. He was editor of our Doucet family newsletter. I accepted the position of president, along with the responsibility for the genealogy section of our website, when Dean needed a respite. He passed away in May of 2013.

Edline P. Doucet worked with me as co-editor of our newsletter when we relieved Dean of that task. Her talent and dedication were obvious as can be seen in the new look she gave our newsletter. She did the computer work on the newsletter. Eldine passed away on August 17, 2013, a victim of cancer.

Jacqueline Auclair used her knowledge and skill as she served as our treasurer the entire post-1999 period. Over the years we were fortunate to be able to rely on Jackie's dedication and ability. Jackie was an enthusiastic member of the Doucet family, as proven by the fact that she attended the family reunions of 1999, 2004, 2014 and attended a Grand Réveil Acadien/Great Acadian Awakening in Lafayette, Louisiana in 2011.

Lou Doucet became webmaster and he and Dean worked together so that our website was not only outstanding but it was user-friendly. Dean entered the newsletters on our

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website as they were published. Lou was dedicated and attended Doucet reunions in 2004 and the 2014.

Patricia Hayes has been the dedicated secretary of our family organization. Besides handling the usual secretarial duties, she was able to use her gift as a bi-lingual person in her work for LDDM. Her knowledge of the French language was useful as she translated to English the materials about Germain Doucet that Mr. F. René Perron graciously sent to us. Pat, too, attended several Doucet reunions and the Grand Réveil Acadien of 2011.

Norman Doucette has been a board member of Les Doucet du Monde since its revival at the end of 1999. He furnished many articles for the newsletter. He and family members attended family reunions and the Grand Réveil Acadien. We had the pleasure of meeting Norman and his family at the 1999 reunion. (Because I was MC at the 1999 reunion, I did not get to meet as many Doucet cousins as I would have wished.)

Board member Jeannine Doucett Caissie attended the first Congrès Mondial Acadien held in southeast New Brunswick in 1994. She attended most Doucet reunions. Jeannine, along with her husband Paul and their son Bruce, came up with the idea of installing a plaque to recognize and honor Germain Doucet, Sieur de Laverdure, the first Doucet in Acadia, and then spearheaded a campaign to raise funds for the plaque. Bruce did a beautiful job of presenting the Germain plaque, which was placed in the church of Our Lady of Holy Hope in Castine, Maine. The church stands over the site of Fort Pentagouet where Germain Doucet served from 1635 to 1645, before going to the new Port Royal, which was in what is now Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia.

Pauline Doucette Parker has been a dedicated board member. We appreciate her suggestions on issues as we guided the family organization to serve the whole Doucet family. Pauline is another bi-lingual board member.

Gail Christensen used her skills and took over the work of editor of our family newsletter in 2013, along with her husband Alfred. They have maintained the professional look of our newsletter, "Les Nouvelles de la Famille Doucet".

Eleonora Doucette Turnage's pride in her heritage and her enthusiasm and dedication were obvious over the years as she attended Doucet reunions and the 2911 Grand Réveil Acadien. She, too, furnished articles for our newsletter.

I must mention that the greater part of the articles which appeared in our newsletter since 1999 were submitted by our board members. They wrote articles and furnished others that had appeared in various publications.

Merci beaucoup to our board members.

It has been a great experience working with such a dedicated board.

I wish to thank also the other Doucet cousins who have been board members and/or have contributed articles for the newsletter.

Available on LDDM Website

The biography of Germain Doucet, written by our President Carol Doucet, and the video of the dedication of the Germain Doucet plaque in Castine, Maine are now available on our website.

To order either the "BIOGRAPHY OF GERMAIN DOUCET" (available in either French or English), go to <http://www.doucetfamily.org/GermainBioBook>.

To order the Germain Doucet Plaque Dedication Video, prepared by Lucien (Lou) Doucet, go to <http://www.doucetfamily.org/Dedication>

Join Our Facebook Page



Les Doucet du Monde has an excellent page on Facebook. 252 people have joined the group. Will you?

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/LDoucetDM/>. If you click Join the Group, your request will be sent to the webmaster for approval and thereafter you may post to the page, as many other "cousins" have.

Know Your Heritage

By Carol James Doucet

We encourage all Doucets descendants to learn as much as you can about your ancestry.

Some Doucets are of Acadian descent and live in regions where you are in the majority. Others are a significant minority. Others are alone or almost alone in one little corner of the world.

In Louisiana, many Doucets are of Acadian descent. And a good number in the Doucet family are descendants of Pierre Doucet of Alabama, as we like to call him to distinguish him from the Acadians.

Learn more about your culture – the food, the music, customs, festivals, celebrations, etc. - in various areas. With the aid of the Internet, searches for information on such matters is very easy.

Be proud of your ancestry. Enjoy learning, celebrating, and sharing your knowledge and experiences concerning the culture.

Family

By Eleonora Louise Doucette-Turnage

The most important thing in my life is family. Since 1976, when I began to do genealogical research, my paternal Doucette lineage has proven to be very interesting; mostly because of the members of this family with whom I have been so fortunate to befriend and become close to over the years. Through the internet, I joined LDDM which provided many opportunities for research and connecting to other members of this wonderful family.

In 1999, I planned to attend the CMA (Congrès Mondial Acadien) Doucet Reunion in Lafayette, Louisiana, only a day's drive from my home in Texas. However, a family situation took precedence and I couldn't go. (My husband, Jack, became ill and needed my daily care.) I was unable to attend the CMA 2004 as well. Sadly, in 2005, Jack passed away. In order to fill the void in my life, I devoted all my time to family and continued doing research of my paternal and maternal lineages.

On the internet, I connected with many Doucets doing the same. Being a member of LDDM, I exchanged emails with Pauline Parker, Jackie Auclair, Lou Doucet, Lucille Langelier and Norman Doucette; some were close cousins! We exchanged information for our family trees. With their help, I was making progress with my Doucet family tree and was very content. Their input put me on the right track.

In the summer of 2009, I asked my sister Edith and her husband William Raun to attend the CMA Doucet Reunion in Grand Anse, New Brunswick with me. I was so happy to be able to finally meet the Doucets with whom I had been corresponding

for so many years. We had a wonderful, memorable time. I shall never forget the warm welcome we received, the supper and la recontre at the home of Rolande's grandfather in Roberville, the Bathurst Heritage Museum, the reunion itself with the speech by Steven White, Jeanne Doucet Currie singing "Doucet, Doucett, Doucette", Carol Doucet playing his harmonica and the dancing. The best was the time spent meeting and talking with all the Doucets who attended. It was the best week, which I fondly remember. From the reunion, we traveled through New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, visiting the places that meant so much to me, Grand Pré especially! Unfortunately, we were unable to visit Port Royal, another place I wanted to visit.

The next year, on August 15, 2010, was the dedication of the Doucet plaque in Castine, Maine at the church of Our Lady of Holy Hope. Paul and Jeannine Caissie worked very hard to make this all come to be. I am so proud to have been a part of this event. I invited my second cousins, Theresa Doucet Watkins of Laconia, New Hampshire and Lucille Doucet Langelier of Lewiston, Maine to go with me to the dedication. It included a beautiful Mass followed by the dedication done by Bruce Caissie and filmed by Lou Doucet. I enjoyed seeing members of our family again. From there, the three of us took a trip to Québec to visit the places where our ancestors once lived. Another memorable trip!

In 2011, Carol and Eldine encouraged us to join them for the Grand Reveil Acadian in Lafayette. I was thrilled! I had never been to the city, so when I was driving to Carol and Eldine's home, I had to go down Doucet Street – so exciting! We all had a wonderful time there. Carol and Eldine were excellent hosts –attending the events and in their home. They have always shown me a very pleasant and informative experience every time I visited them in Lafayette.

A year before the CMA 2014 Doucet/Doucette Reunion in Grand Isle, Maine, I had arranged to rent a cabin on Cross Lake from August 9 for one week. I had intended to have my own family members to join me there, but only my sister Edith and her husband, Bill, were able to attend. We enjoyed driving through Southeastern Québec and then cut over to the Madawaska area in New Brunswick and northern Maine. We spent a lot of time driving around the area visiting the homestead farm of the Doucette family, the Mizpah sanctuary, a lovely quiet place to gather to support and comfort survivors of cancer, the Historical Society Museum in Grand Isle and the Acadian Village in Van Buren, Maine. On Wednesday and Thursday, the Doucet/Doucette Reunion in the Community Center in Grand Isle provided many activities and fellowship with other Doucettes. I finally was able to meet Judy Doucette! Lucie LeBlanc Consentino made a very informative and entertaining presentation on the history of the Doucettes and their settlement in the St. John River Valley in 1878. The next day, we attended the Arts and Crafts Fair in Madawaska Park where I met Dottie Hutchins, co-author of "Acadian Roots". On the last evening, we enjoyed the colorful and noisy Tintamarre. Leaving on Saturday, we intended to drive through Nova Scotia to

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visit Port Royal and surrounding area, then take the Nova Star ferry from Yarmouth to Portland, Maine and return to Edinboro, Pennsylvania, visiting cousins along the way. We were unable to do as planned due to bad weather; a very disappointing ending to a wonderful week in Maine and the CMA of 2014.

Thank you to all the members of LDDM. I have always been treated with respect, share a common bond and love with all of you. Let us stay in touch with each other. After all, family is the most important thing in your as well as my life!

What LDDM Has Meant To Me

By Carol James Doucet

The most important reward that I have reaped from belonging to Les Doucet du Monde is meeting and getting to know cousins of the extended Doucet family.

It was at the Doucet reunions that my wife Eldine and I met many Doucet cousins. We have kept in touch with a good number of them.

Les Doucet du Monde organized the Doucet family reunion of 1999 during the Congrès Mondial Acadien/Acadian World Conference in Louisiana, which our family attended.

In 2003 we celebrated the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial where there were representatives of LDDM. This gave us another opportunity to be active in a worthwhile activity.

Several years ago, I had reached an impasse in my research on my Doucet line. The many Michels and Pierres compounded by errors of some genealogists had led to many problems. It was because of the help that I received from Jackie Auclair, LDDM treasurer, that I correctly linked my first Doucet in Louisiana to his ancestors.

Being a member of LDDM has made it easier for me to find out that I am a descendant of Germain Doucet (born about 1641) who, based on DNA tests, was not the son of Germain Doucet, Sieur de LaVerdure, but was of American Indian ancestry. Germain of 1641 married a French woman and so did all of my Doucet ancestors down to one generation ago. I feel as French as any other Doucet descendant because my maternal ancestors bear names such as Landry, Pellerin, Babin, Martin, Comeaux, Breaux, Broussard, and Boudreaux. And French was my first language.

Dates in Acadian/Doucet Heritage

By Carol James Doucet

For persons of Acadian descent the following dates are significant:

- July 28, 1755, British Governor Lawrence signed the Deportation orders, putting in motion the Deportation of the Acadians.
- August 15 is the National Day of the Acadians.
- For all persons of French descent, the date July 14, 1789 is probably engraved in your minds, for that is the date of the beginning of the French Revolution.

Then there are also years in general which are significant, even if we cannot always remember the exact date of certain events. Here are several years and a brief note about each one:

- 1604 – The first French settlers arrive in Acadia and settle on St. Croix Island.
- 1605— The first successful settlement in Acadia, present-day Nova Scotia.
- 1632 – Razilly brings 300 men to Acadia “les trois cents hommes d’élite” -- Germain Doucet, Sieur de LaVerdure, is in this group.
- 1635 – Germain Doucet becomes captain of arms (“capitaine d’armes”) at Fort Pentagouet, which was in what is present-day Castine, Maine. He is stationed there until 1645.
- 1645 – Germain Doucet moves to Port Royal, now Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, after ten years at Fort Pentagouet.
- 1654 – The French are defeated and the French soldiers must depart from Acadia.
- 1755 – The Deportation of Acadians from Canada begins.
- 1764-1765 – Significant to persons of Acadian descent in Louisiana. Several ships with Acadian deportees are offered work in Saint-Domingue, present-day Haiti. Conditions are horrible. They leave and arrive in New Orleans. They settle in southwest Louisiana.
- 1785 – “Seven Ships” - significant to persons of Acadian descent in Louisiana. Acadians and a few others, who had married into Acadian families, arrive in Louisiana on seven ships and settle in southeast Louisiana.
- 1789 – French Revolution – Holiday is celebrated on July 14, Bastille Day, commemorating the beginning of revolution.
- 2003 – Royal Proclamation – Recognition by the British government of the fact that Acadians had been deported.

GRAND RÉVEIL ACADIEN 2015/GREAT ACADIAN AWAKENING

The people of South Louisiana welcome family and friends who want to celebrate and help maintain the culture, customs, traditions, and history of the Acadians. This celebration will be held October 3 through 12, 2015 in four Acadian regions. Lake Charles, Lafayette, Houma, and New Orleans will host events and celebrations, closing with a huge renewal of pride on the last day at Festivals Acadiens et Créoles at Girard Park in Lafayette.

After engaging a group of young Louisianians to prepare and participate in promoting Louisiana for the World Acadian Congress 2014, an awakening of their heritage was vividly evident.

Ray Trahan, president of Louisiane-Acadie, Inc., stated that the Acadians of the Acadian Peninsula of New Brunswick helped start a renaissance and an awakening of our younger generation's pride and interest in promoting the French language and culture of their ancestors.

We're asking Acadians and friends to join us in Louisiana to celebrate this unique, living culture.

Vive l'Acadie et vive la Louisiane!

GREAT ACADIAN AWAKENING/GRAND RÉVEIL ACADIEN 2015

Louisiane-Acadie appelle tous les Acadiens et se prépare pour le Grand Réveil Acadien (GRA) qui se déroulera du 3 au 12 octobre 2015 dans quatre régions de l'Acadiana, région comprise de 22 paroisses (contés) du sud de la Louisiane.

Pendant neuf jours les villes du Lac Charles, Lafayette, d'Houma, et de la Nouvelle-Orléans accueilleront des forums, rencontres, et célébrations. Elles se termineront par un considérable réveil de fierté acadienne pendant les Festivals Acadiens et Créoles au Part Girard à Lafayette les 10 et 11 octobre, 2015, et notamment par une grande parade montrant toute la diversité des traditions acadiennes.

Le Grand Réveil Acadien a été organisé pour appeler les descendants des Acadiens et en particulier la jeune génération, pour qu'ils se rendent compte que les Louisianais de souche acadienne vivent sous la menace de la perte de leur langue d'origine, le français, ainsi que leur culture.

Nous invitons les Acadiens et nos amis de se joindre à nous en Louisiane pour célébrer cette culture unique et vivante.

Vive l'Acadie et vive la Louisiane!

À la Recherche de la Parenté

Le secteur de généalogie du site web de Les Doucet du Monde (www.doucetfamily.org) comprend plus de cinquante mille données, grâce à notre ancien président, le défunt Dean Doucet, qui s'en occupait depuis 1999. Il va sans dire, il existe des "manques."

Nous prions les "cousins" Doucet/Doucett/Doucette de nous faire parvenir votre lignée, si vous ne l'avez pas encore fait.

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

Lucien (Lou) Doucet
5 Acorn Lane, Lewiston, ME 04240, USA
Phone (207) 312-5889
E-Mail loud@doucetfamily.org

Searching for Relatives

The genealogy section of the Les Doucet du Monde website (www.doucetfamily.org) now has over 50,000 entries, thanks to our late president Dean Doucet who handled the genealogy section from 1999 until his death earlier this year. Naturally, there are "gaps."

We are asking Doucet/Doucett/Doucette "cousins" to send us your genealogy line if you have not yet done so.

Whether it's three generations or 13, please send your line to:

Lucien (Lou) Doucet
5 Acorn Lane, Lewiston, ME 04240, USA
Phone (207) 312-5889
E-Mail loud@doucetfamily.org