



Les Nouvelles de la Famille Doucet

Newsletter of Les Doucet du Monde

December 2015

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Message from the President

By Carol James Doucet

Unfortunately, the Les Doucet du Monde family organization will come to an end at the end of 2015. This will be our last newsletter.

We plan to continue serving Doucet descendants and others who are interested in Doucet heritage by keeping our website active at www.doucetfamily.org. Our website has a great genealogy section.

Les Doucet du Monde will also serve interested persons with our Les Doucet du Monde Facebook page. We encourage Doucets to stay in touch with one another by this means. We encourage you to stay in touch with Doucet "cousins" whom we have met, have gotten to know, and with whom we have become friends.

It has been a privilege, an honor, and a pleasure to serve as an officer of the board of Les Doucet du Monde. I do not say adieu but au revoir.

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.

Memories

by Rolande O'Connell

What did LDDM do for me? LDDM has widened my world. At the same time, I learned that I had so many Doucet cousins who are relentlessly working at keeping their "Acadianness" and their French language alive.

My most beautiful experience was to work almost nine months prior to the 2009 CMA with our local committee of Doucet cousins for the Doucet Family Reunion in Grand-Anse. Most vivid in my memory, seven years later, is the meeting of our southern cousins at my great-grandfather's house in Ste-Louise. I will never forget that evening. If it had not been for those meetings, we would never have gotten to know you, and my son and daughters and I would never have gone to Louisiana this year either.

I hope that some of our newly found "cousins" and their families will come to the 2019 CMA in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

La mémoire

by Rolande O'Connell

Carol,

Ce que LDDM a fait pour moi est d'élargir mon monde et en même temps d'apprendre que j'avais des cousins et des cousines acadiens qui s'acharnent à garder leur acadienne et la langue française.

Ma plus belle expérience a été de travailler au moins 9 mois à l'avance avec le comité avec mes cousins et cousines à la rencontre des Doucette, Doucet, Doucettes du CMA 2009 et aussi de recevoir nos cousins du sud à la maison de mon arrière grand-père. Je n'oublierai jamais cette soirée-là. N'eusse été de ces rencontres en 2009, nous n'aurions pas fait ces belles rencontres et ne nous serions possiblement pas allés en Louisiane cette année non plus.

J'espère que toi et tes enfants viendrez nous voir au Nouveau-Brunswick en 2019.

Memories

By Jackie Auclair

"Wow, this is something I have got to get more information about!", I said as I read the article describing the upcoming Congres Mondial Acadian in Louisiana in 1999. There were to be over 50 reunions incorporating more than 70 Acadian families. Since I was into finding out big time about my Doucet lineage, this was probably the place to go. I had been in touch with several Doucet genealogists online and encouraged them to attend, too.

My husband, Gary, and I made our first trip to Lafayette, Louisiana, for this CMA and it was well worth it, as many long-lasting Doucet friendships were formed that year. If you've never experienced Southern hospitality, then take a trip to Louisiana, as this is a wonderful part of our great country. This CMA was exciting and very well done and everyone was full of laughter and hugs as we found others in our family tree. Even the extreme humidity of Louisiana in August did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of the people at this reunion.

At the end of the reunion, it was agreed that we should continue with Les Doucet du Monde, which had helped put our reunion together. It was at this point that I became involved and that involvement continues today in the job of treasurer.

Gary and I went on to attend the 2004 CMA in Nova Scotia, which was an amazing event as we got together with some Doucets who were my direct sixth cousins. Nova Scotia was where my Doucet lineage had begun. What fun! Next, the 2009 CMA in northern New Brunswick was where I found so many Doucet women who were short like me - I felt right at home. This reunion was such a marvelous time as this group really knew how to put on a party. Being welcomed into the Doucet home was such an honor as they greeted us with song and hugs. Sad to say, we had to miss the 2014 CMA due to a conflict in plans because of our 50th wedding anniversary, but God willing, we'll try and make the next one.

It has been my pleasure to have stayed involved for the last 16 years, as I have met such wonderful Doucet family members, and many of them have a warm place in my heart. Thanks for the memories, Les Doucet du Monde.

Memories

by Pat Hayes

It is with mixed emotions that I read this final news-letter. LDDM has been a part of my life for such a long time now and I have met some wonderful relatives and friends. But we all knew that the time had come since no one else stepped up to the plate.

I think it is wonderful that Germain Doucet II had Amerindian genes, as that means his descendants are all First Nations in North America. When you mix that with the European genes, we have "hybrid vitality".

Thanks to all of you for all your hard work, and especially to you Carol, who, with Eldine, inspired us for so many years.

Memories

by Jeannine Caissie

It has been an honor meeting and getting to know each and everyone of you for these past few years (maybe close to 10 years). I really hate to see our wonderful organization come to an end, but such seems to be a sign of the times we live in. The younger people don't seem to share our interests, and that's a real shame for them; they don't know what they're missing.

Maybe someday they'll "wake up", and realize what they have lost - the chance to find their heritage and appreciate what it means. Being Acadian is indeed a special privilege, because we have such a unique history, and one that seems to change as more and more information is gained by those experts who are working so diligently to discover more of our history and this latest information about our ancestor, Germain Doucet II (1641), who has now been discovered to have been an Amerindian. Some people seem to be bothered by this, maybe even ashamed, but I think it just adds to our history and knowledge. Was he adopted by Germain Doucet (1595) from a Mi'kmaq family? Or could he have been the result of a rape (or a romance) of one of Germain's relatives - his wife, or maybe his daughter? Will we ever know the truth and answer to that mystery? All of this adds to the "romance" of our interesting history. When you get right down to it, I think that the Natives were very helpful to our Ancestors. They learned a lot from each other, and the Mi'kmaqs were a peaceful tribe who taught our ancestors a lot about making use of their surroundings.

They learned a lot about native plants and special herbs and medications and their use to help them survive. The Acadians made friends of the Natives, with a view to converting them to the Catholic religion, and this friendship certainly was a help when the Deportation came, because these same Natives took in a lot of our people and hid them in the woods. They took them in and protected them, which really deepened the friendships.

I can remember when I was a child seeing travelling bands of Natives coming through the villages in Memramcook, NB and they would usually be given food and clothing, etc. by my relatives and their friends. I think that was a result of those friendships that were made throughout history. They would come to the back door, and each of the families would give them whatever they could spare, and maybe share what they were cooking for supper, whereupon the natives would leave peacefully after expressing their gratitude. They even had their own church in the area, if I remember correctly, where they practiced their brand of the Catholic religion. When I asked my grandmother why everyone was generous to them, she told me it was because of our shared history, and our people wanted to show them their gratitude. It was a way of paying them back for what they and their ancestors had done to help our people.

I value our friendships with all my Doucet "cousins" and I'm really glad to have known all of you, and I hope we can someday get together again.

Personal Message

By Carol Doucet

Our Doucet family organization, Les Doucet du Monde/The Doucets of the World, has included all Doucets. Many Doucet descendants have as their first Doucet ancestor in Acadia Germain Doucet, Sieur de La Verdure, born about 1595, who arrived in Acadia in 1632. Some are descendants of Pierre Doucet of Alabama, as we used to refer to him because he was a French soldier in Alabama who eventually settled in the Opelousas area of Louisiana. Those two groups make up a great portion of Doucet descendants in North America.

Of course, there are some Doucet descendants in France whose ancestors were deported from Acadia to France and settled there. Some Doucets were in Louisiana before the Deportation of the Acadians. Needed are researchers who will determine their source.

Another large group of Doucet descendants can trace their family tree to Germain Doucet, born about 1641 in Acadia. DNA tests of some male descendants of this Germain Doucet indicate that he was not French and was not a descendant of Germain Doucet, Sieur de La Verdure. Experts claim that there is enough evidence to prove that Germain Doucet (1641) was not the son of Germain Doucet (1595), but was Amerindian, aboriginal. However, some Doucet descendants in this lineage have tested as European, not aboriginal or Amerindian.

In August 2012, Marie Rundquist wrote an article titled: "C3b Y Chromosome DNA Test Results Point to Native American Deep Ancestry, Relatedness, among United States and Canadian Study Participants". In this study, she determines that Germain Doucet (1641) was Amerindian.

My Doucet ancestors are descended from Germain Doucet (1641). They are Laurent (c. 1669), Laurent (c.1696), Michel Laurent (1722) who came to Louisiana in 1765, Pierre (c.1756), Jean-Pierre (1783), Pierre Zephirin (1805), Gerassin (1833), Valsin (1861, Edouard (1908). This means that I am a direct descendant of Germain Doucet (1641), an Amerindian, probably a Mi'kmaq. The great majority of my Doucet ancestors married French Acadian women. Therefore, I am a "métis", a person of mixed blood, in my case, Amerindian and Acadian.

My Doucet ancestors shared the hardships, the life, the language of the Acadians. Michel Laurent and his family arrived in Louisiana with the Beausoleil Broussard group in early 1765. Once in Louisiana, my Doucet ancestors blended in with the Acadians, speaking their language, sharing their heritage, their culture, their customs.

The only culture that I've known is the Acadian culture and its history. French was my first language. Now we are called "Cadiens" in French and "Cajuns" in English.

I am proud to claim Acadian ancestry. I am part of the small minority of Acadian descendants in Louisiana who can speak French.

Now, I must start another study to learn much more about the history of my Mi'kmaq ancestors of Maine and Nova Scotia. Like so many other Doucets in South Louisiana and Northern Maine, I am a "métis", Acadian and Amerindian.

I want to add another personal point, not out of personal pride or vanity but as one person from the Doucet family who shares the Acadian ancestry and language. During the Cold War, I served as French translator/interpreter in the United States Military Liaison Mission Potsdam (1963-1964). As such, my job was to translate classified information which the French Military Liaison Mission shared with us concerning their observations and reconnaissance of Soviet military activities in communist East Germany. As a Doucet and an Acadian, I am very proud of this, for I was the only American service personnel performing those duties during my tour of duty in USMLM. Thanks to my Acadian upbringing, I spoke French. I polished our language in high school and university studies, which prepared me for my military service.

Like many other Doucets of Amerindian and Acadian descent, I have enjoyed the beauty of the Acadian culture without knowing that, indeed, I am also of Amerindian descent.

There is a Facebook page titled: "Our DOUCET DNA Journey" where Doucet descendants share information and seek help in order to better know their lineage and history.

And, of course, there is the great Les Doucet du Monde website at www.doucetfamily.org filled with much genealogy information and a wide variety of other topics concerning the Doucet line.

We feel very much enriched from knowing so many Doucet cousins.

CMA 1999



CMA 2004



CMA 2009



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:

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5 Acorn Lane, Lewiston, ME 04240, USA
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