

# **Les Nouvelles de la famille Doucet**

**(September 2001)**

## **MEETING**

The LDDM board held it's fall meeting on August 25, 2001. This meeting took place in the chat room at the Doucet family site. Discussion centered on upcoming elections, dues for next year, our current web site, this newsletter, and miscellaneous items. Since board members are scattered here and there, a chat room is an ideal way to conduct a board meeting. It has been done a number of times, and works very well.

## **MEMBERS**

As with any group, we are having some growing pains, and really would love to see the membership become greater in 2002. Our biggest group is located in Louisiana and they are very active. Of course, that is where LDDM got its start, and where we had a great reunion in 1999. We should take pride in the fact that we have been able to continue LDDM since the reunion, and hopefully will get more members to come on board. Let your relatives know about LDDM, or perhaps give them the gift of a membership for a birthday, Christmas, etc.

## **DUES**

Dues have been set at \$15.00 for the next year and \$22.50 for those out of the US. Dues should be submitted by October 31, 2001. There is a form at the end of this newsletter to submit to join for 2002. Please continue to support your family organization.

## **CONGRES MONDIAL ACADIAN**

For those of you who attended the Doucet reunion in 1999 in LA, you will recognize CMA as the umbrella organization that the reunion fell under. Congress Mondial Acadian is up and running for the 2004 reunion, and Susan Doucet Comeau, Saulnierville Station, Nova Scotia has started the ball rolling on the Doucet reunion. At present, there are thirty-nine Acadian families listed on the CMA Internet site that will be holding reunions between July 31 to August 15, 2004. We're certain more families will sign up. We know 2004 seems far away, but we are already heading towards the end of this year, so start your planning early. If Nova Scotia does as good a job as Louisiana did, and we are certain they will, then it should be a great time for everyone.

## **LOUISIANA CHAPTER NEWS**

Meetings for 2001:

February. Luncheon meeting. Speaker presented a slide show on the many diverse Mardi Gras traditions of several small towns in rural Southwest Louisiana (Le courir du Mardi Gras).

May: Genealogy research.

August - Discussion of problems encountered by French immigrants from Alabama to Louisiana led by Donna Manuel.

UPCOMING: November 4th. at noon. Covered dish luncheon. Bring genealogy charts and pictures, and share family stories. Submit a copy of your genealogy chart ahead of time to Carol Doucet, 103 South Ridgeway Dr., Lafayette, LA 70503

The Louisiana Chapter submitted the following places and sources to do research on genealogy and history in LA: Parish libraries, parish court houses, Catholic churches for religious records. St. Martinville, Opelousas, Lafayette churches and court houses for older records. The Baton Rouge Diocese archives. University of Louisiana at Lafayette library (Louisiana Room) for historical records. Acadian Memorial in St. Martinville (web site: <http://www.acadianmemorial.org>). Fr. Donald Hebert's "Southwest Louisiana Records" and "Southeast Louisiana Records". Carl Brasseaux's books on the Acadians.

Donna Manuel of the LA Chapter has chosen to share her article on the Alabama French Marine Immigrants 1763-1766, and it is published later on in this newsletter. Donna mentions Fr. Donald Hebert's "SW LA Records", v. 1-A, 1-B, 2-A, 2-B and 2-C; has grandparents listed on baptismal records. This helps put the correct "Pierre" into the correct family! Pierre is the subject of her article. It is good reading, and we thank Donna for her contribution. If anyone else has anything they'd like to see in the newsletter, please send it along to a board member.

## FAMILY TIES

Our Doucet web site, ([doucetfamily.org](http://doucetfamily.org)) has many generations of Doucet family members, but just in case yours is not there, we are publishing some of the lines of our members. Maybe you will be able to connect that way. We'd like to publish your lines as well, so send them along. Board member Fred Union has submitted a genealogy chart that is included on a separate page further on in this newsletter.

Submitted by board member Darlene Nielson: [darlene@direct.ca](mailto:darlene@direct.ca)

### Direct Descendants of Olivier Doucet

- 1 Olivier Doucet b: June 15, 1808 in Trois Rivieres, St. Maurice, Quebec
- . +Marie-Anne dit Labarre Genest b: Abt. 1817 m: July 26, 1836 in Bécancour, Nicolet, Quebec Father: Francois dit Labarre Genest Mother: Marie-Louise Rheau
- .... 2 Zéphirin Doucette b: May 22, 1837 in Bécancour, Nicolet, Quebec d: August 16, 1908 in St. Joseph de Mékinac, Quebec
- ..... +Philomène Provencher b: Abt. April 1840 m: May 16, 1859 in St. Edouard Parish, Gentilly, Nicolet, Quebec d: March 14, 1928 in St. Maurice, Champlain, Quebec Father: Joseph-Charles Provencher Mother: Marguerite LeBlanc
- ..... 3 Joseph Doucet b: April 01, 1868 in Trois Rivieres, St. Maurice, Quebec d: May 11, 1947 in St. Paul, Alberta
- ..... +Lumina-Marie Drolet b: February 18, 1873 in Mont Carmel, Trois Rivieres, Champlain Co., Quebec m: January 15, 1894 in Notre Dame du Mont Carmel, Trois Rivieres, Champlain Co., Quebec d: January 02, 1968 in St. Paul, Alberta Father: Charles-Edward Drolet Mother: Marie-Elisa Laperriere
- ..... 4 Marie Blanche Rose Anna Doucet b: May 03, 1896 in St. Joseph de Mékinac, Champlain Co., Quebec d: January 17, 1988 in St. Theresa's Hospital, St. Paul, Alberta
- ..... +Ernest Belzil b: November 09, 1887 in St. Jean de Dieu, Riviere du Loup, Quebec m: October 13, 1914 in St. Paul de Metis, Alberta d: December 22, 1955 in St. Paul, Alberta Cause of death: Heart Failure Father: Rosaire Belzile Mother: Hermaline Roy-Lauzon
- ..... 5 Cécile Marie Belzil b: December 21, 1922 in Owlseye, Alberta d: May 25, 1999 in Misericordia Hospital, Edmonton, Alberta Cause of death: Cervical cancer
- ..... +Roy Raymond Maksymiuk b: March 29, 1921 in St. Paul, Alberta m: April 05, 1942 in St. Paul, Alberta d: May 31, 1984 in Misericordia Hospital, Edmonton, Alberta Cause of death: Cancer Father: Mike Maksymiuk Mother: Anna Burak
- ..... 6 Darlene Monica Maksymiuk b: August 22, 1943 in St. Theresa's Hospital, St. Paul, Alberta

## INQUIRIES

We know many of you post inquiries on the internet sites for Doucet information, but for those that are not on the internet, if you have inquiries, please forward and we will try and get them in the newsletter and also on

the net for you. Send to any board member or to me at the address at the end of the newsletter.

We have one member with an inquiry as follows. Please contact Sam Doucet . His e-mail is bars@cfweb.net

Seeking data on Theodule Doucet b. Feb 23, 1836 death date? buried where?

Was married to Marie Zulma Lavergne (b. May 8, 1838)

They had eight children:

Joseph Theodule, b. July 5, 1857

Alicia, b. June 21, 1860

Pierre O'Neil, b. July 14, 1862

Augusta (Gustave) b. Jan 29, 1865

Aras, b. July 9, 1867

Christoval, b. Sept 2, 1870

Emelitia, b. June 14, 1874

Onesime, b. Feb 8, 1877

## TIDBITS FROM WILLIAM I. DOUCETTE OF CONN.

ORIGIN (ETYMOLOGY) OF THE WORD DOUCETTE (Etymology is one of Bill's Hobbies)

Assumptions

1. A word was spoken before ever written
2. The spelling of the word is not important due to the different dialects (tribes) which later gave different spellings of the same word.
3. The pronunciation & number of syllables are important.
4. The words must be an old word (one which describes something for the first time).

DOU CETTE = two syllables

Prefix Dou, Do, Du, = A, THE

Suffix TE at end of word = The French Feminine quality of the NOUN (a person, place or thing)

NOUN = CET = root word for CETACEAN

(CET. Latin = WHALES)

cetatacean = belonging to the cetacea, an order of aquatic, chiefly marine mammals including whales, porpoises, etc.

French meaning of the word DOUCETTE/DOUCET:

A gentle person

A small or little gentle person

Substitute person with Mammal!

Conclusion: Are whales and porpoises considered gentle mammals of the sea?

I believe they were among our earliest ancestors, and we as mammals, who lived by the sea were described as Doucette's for the first time.

Now that is food for thought. William also sent information about a wine called "de Ladoucette". It's a Pouilly-Fume and it's from AU Chateau DU Nozet, Pouilly-s-Loire (Nievre) France. He had purchased some at a liquor store, but says distribution is selective. Look for it. It would be fun to give as a gift to other Doucet family members, or to display on your own holiday table.

## FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

Below is the required yearly accounting of the legal corporation known as LDDM.

Balance in Account as of Jan. 1, 2001		\$1290.48
Income to date (Dues)	+	597.04
Expenses (Web site, postage, fees, LA Chptr) -	-	314.10
Balance to date		\$1573.42

## **NOMINATIONS**

This year requires that we hold elections and nominations are open to all members. Any paid member may run for any office, and we do need your help. If you think you would like to work on the board, please let us know. All positions are open though some of the board members are willing to continue in their post, and will be on the ballot being sent out at the end of Sept. We have had no vice-president, or a secretary for sometime, and would love to have someone step up to bat and fill these positions. Most positions are quite easy. Please consider joining the board or nominating someone you think would be willing to help. (See nomination form at end of newsletter). Please obtain permission to nominate any candidate. No need to nominate someone who isn't willing to do the job. Also only one person per household can hold office, so keep that in mind when sending in your nominations.

[The newsletter had a copy of the Membership Application attached. It is not included here since it was a time sensitive form.]

## **CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The following people are your current board members:

President: Dean Doucet

Treasurer: Jacqueline Auclair

Louisiana Chapter President: Carol James Doucet

Acadian Chapter President: Gaetan Doucet

Board of Directors: Michele Doucette, Darlene Nielsen, James Gaboury, Sam Doucet, Fred Union, Norman Doucette

## **THE ALABAMA FRENCH MARINES IMMIGRANTS 1763-1766**

### **Three Generations of Pierre Doucet & Marie Pagot**

#### **A Work In Progress**

**By: Donna Corley Manuel**

France and Canada both supplied the newly founded forts in the Illinois Country/LA Territory with men. "LA Troops-1720-1770" by W. Deville tells us when they were discharged or died, but not when they arrived and who sent them. "French Troops in Miss. Valley & Gulf Coast, 1745" by Deville tells us that by that time the first and second generations of Creoles had already been born. In 1751 the increase of French Troops went up to 37 companies.

The transfer of Louisiana from France to England due to the Treaty of Paris in 1763 forced the French residents of Mobile, Fort Tombekbe, and Fort Toulouse to choose between submission to English rule or relocate to another French colony. Director General D'Abadie was in charge of this movement.

In October 1763 the garrison at Fort Toulouse, proved difficult to remove primarily because of the second-

generation soldier-settlers who manned the fort and had extensive blood and business ties with the local Creek Indians. Fort Toulouse was established in 1717 and by 1763 there were about 30 houses that formed a small village outside of the walls of the stockade, per Johnny Andrews in his book, "Fort Toulouse Colonials".

The Indians also opposed the removal of the French from Fort Toulouse, but this was overshadowed by the threat of possible violent confrontations with the English. The English commander demanded French guarantees against Indian raids on English occupation forces. When D'Abadie protested that he was powerless to control the Creek Nation, the English Major threatened to arrest as Prisoners of War the Fort Toulouse garrison "if they descended to Mobile before the English garrison arrived there". Since D'Abadie lacked means of supporting the garrison, he ordered the men to "abandon the post" preferring to see them Prisoners of War than to allow them to die of hunger at the fort" so the plan was to leave only 20 men to man the fort till the arrival of the English. But the powerful Creek tribe refused to permit the English occupation of Fort Toulouse, so in early Dec. 1763 the entire group of Fort Toulouse settlers went to Mobile in the company of two Creek chiefs and their "principal warriors". Wonder what the Creek tribe did?? You have to remember, the Forts in Alabama were not there for protection FROM the Indians, and they were there to keep the English from spreading into that area. So the soldiers were very friendly with the Indians, there was little fear of them and the Indians were much help in teaching survival techniques. Some took Indian wives

Once in Mobile the displaced Frenchmen faced the choice, either submit to English rule or relocate. If they wished to relocate, they would be transported with their slaves, and other movable property at "royal expense" and upon arrival at their destination, the colonists would be given land grants equivalent to the Alabama properties which they had abandoned. Lands along the Mississippi River's West Bank and the land grants to be as near as possible to New Orleans and other existing posts such as Allemands (the German Coast) and Pointe Coupee. In addition, the crown promised material assistance particularly tools to clear the concessions, as well as a daily ration "for one year after arrival in the colony". The resettlement policy seemed destined for success!

Except, when Director General d'Abadie was in New Orleans in late June 1763, he found the government demoralized, corrupted, understaffed, and the governmental warehouses and treasury nearly empty. This was a bad situation that was made worse by the new arrivals in 1764, and by the first large destitute group of Acadians who arrived in New Orleans in April 1765 from St. Dominique. They were followed by 48 more Acadians a month later and a rumor that one thousand more were on the way. This really strained the system, a system that France had not supported with supplies because of the changes in governments back and forth. Wonder just how much help any of the new arrivals received? For sure it was little and very hard going for the first year.

Most former Fort Toulouse residents including the Doucet, Fontenot, LaFleur, Lagrange, Brignac, Sylvesters and Bonin families chose to migrate to French Louisiana. They arrived in New Orleans aboard the "Salomon" in early January 1764, then in early March they arrived in Pointe Coupee (The son of Pierre Fontenot & Marie Louise Doucet, Jean Baptiste Fontenot's, baptismal record is dated 6 March 1764, St. Francis Cath. Ch. of Pointe Coupee). They didn't stay long and moved on to the newly established Opelousas Post whose underdeveloped areas were more like their former frontier environment. What happened to the promises?

Approximately 50 Alabamans settled on the Right Bank (West Bank) of Bayou Courtableu near present day Washington. They were a distinct community and were enumerated as such in the 1766 Census found in Jacqueline Vidrine's "Some Late 18th Century Louisianians", p 126-127. In late 1764 the arrival of the Gregoire Guillory family of Mobile increased their numbers. Guillory had an order dated 31 November 1764 whereby he was permitted to choose a tract of land and settle himself thereon. He chose the abandoned "vacherie" of Francois Prevost dit Collet and in mid Feb 1765 the grant was confirmed by the Superior Council (Am. State Papers II p 644,813, 826, 832)

Guillory, like the other Alabama refugees did not remain on his original grant. He settled on Bayou Boeuf. The others occupied lands along Bayou Cocodrie, and its tributaries and by 1782 their holdings were scattered from Grand Prairie to Prairie de Cannes and Prairie Bayou Chicot.

A list of these soldiers-turned-settlers is posted here. It is a Muster Roll for the Fort Toulouse Garrison dated 1 March 1762. And a listing from the 1766 Louisiana Census with those that did indeed come to Louisiana from Fort Toulouse.

[ Source:"Fort Toulouse Colonials 1717-1823", by Johnnie Andrews, Jr. ,1987-- his source: AC, D2c,52:n.p.-- Archives Nationales,Colonies, Paris, SeriesD2c(Colonial Troops)LA, vol.52 Compagnies LA),1758-1764.

MUSTER ROLL FOR THE FORT TOULOUSE GARRISON - - March 1, 1762 (page26-27)

Officers		
Lanoe		
La Grandcour		
Beaudin		
	Sergeant	Company
Le Kart		Grandmaison
	Corporal	
Pierre Doucet dit Maurice		Murat
	Durmmmer	
Jean Bureau dit La Violette		Monberaut
	Gentleman Cadet	
Achard		Dautrive
	Cadet	
Villiers		Grandmaison
	Fusilliers	
Demoly		
David		
Gisclair		Grandmaison
Alexandre Royeaux		Chavoye
Guilliaume Pivotau		
Pierre Fontenau		Grandpre
Jean Baptiste Jacques		
Pierre Andre LeFleur		Grandchamp
Louis Bonlange		
Jean Lagrage		Grandchamp
Pierre Luquet dit St. Eustache		
Pierre Renaud		
Antoine Bonin		
Jacques LaFleur		Bonnuille
Jean Baptiste LaFleur		
Jean Meois dit L'Etonnant		
Francois Boissenot		
Jean Louis Fontenau		Favrot
Simon Brignac		Pontalba
Jean Baptiste Lamber		
Michel Brignac		Aubry
Philippe Fontenau		
Joseph Fontenau		DeTrent
Jacques Brignac		
Louis Pagot		Villemont
Antoine Bonin		Dutillet
Pierre Lamare		Populus
Claude Cervraise		Legotrais
Jacques Labutte		Derazola
Henry Fontenau		

Simon Doucet	Artaud
Joseph Cervraise	Villiers
Mathurin Casseberque	Monberaut
New Troops Serving as Volunteers Without Pay	
Pierre Luquet, fils	Monberant
Paul Bonin, fils	
Philippe Fontenau, fils	Monberaut
Louis Boissinot	

Source: "Some Late 18th Century Louisianians, 1758-1796", by Jacqueline Voorhies; her source; A.D.S., Legajo 2595 (Archivo General de Indias at Seville - microfilm copies at Library at UL, Lafayette, LA)

CENSUS OF MILITIAS & OF INHABITANTS OF THE COLONY OF LOUISIANA , 1766 (page 107)

Cortablau's Company - - - Allibamont & The Coast of the Old Opelousas

New Opelousas on the Right Bank (page 127)

Juan Louis Fontenau	Pedro Fontenau
Carlos Labot	Widow Maris Bissan
Joseph Fontenau	Santhiago Brignac
Baptiste Fontenau	Miguel Brignac
Henrrique Fontenaut	Widow Louisa Henrrique
Pedro Doucet	Juan Andres Lafleur
Simon Doucet	Santhiago Lafleur
Baptista Lafleur	Phelipe Fontenau

Acadians (page 128)

Pedro Pitre	Pedro Savoye
Pedro Thibaudeau	Joseph Guenard
Carlos Coumau	Widow Maria Savoye
Joseph Saunier	Miguel Coumau
Olivier Saunier	Pedro Pecalvel ?
Miguel Cormier	Madam Furien
Joseph Cormier	Madam Manne
Pedro Richard	Juan Baptista Hebert
Victor Richard	Widow Maria Thibaudau
Carlos Juan Saunier	Silano Saunier