



Les Nouvelles de la Famille Doucet

NEWSLETTER OF LES DOUCET DU MONDE

JULY 2003

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Message from the INTERNATIONAL president

By Carol Doucet

We are only in the middle of the year, but already it's time to address renewing our membership in LDDM. We have had a 33% increase in membership this year and I feel we will continue to grow as the reunion in Nova Scotia next year approaches. Take advantage of the opportunity to give a gift membership or two and also invite family members who have not kept up their membership to renew. Refer to the membership form that is enclosed.

Use the enclosed nomination form to nominate persons to serve you as officers and board members of LDDM in 2004 and 2005. Later, the ballots will be sent out in a separate mailing.

One of the accomplishments during the past 18 months is the designing of our LDDM logo. Now you can wear it on a t-shirt. Enclosed is an order form for LDDM t-shirts. When we have the minimum order of 24 shirts, we will have the shirts printed. Submit articles to your newsletter. You'll notice that articles deal with history, culture, family, genealogy lines and activities in which LDDM members participated.

Now is the time to begin making plans and arrangements to attend Congrès Mondial Acadien 2004.

AS OF JULY 1, 2003, THERE ARE 397 DAYS LEFT UNTIL THE DOUCET/DOUCETTE REUNION IN CHURCH POINT, NOVA SCOTIA ON AUGUST 2, 2004

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Deadlines for submitting material are: January 31 for February issue, May 31 for June issue and September 30 for October issue.

WEB SITE

Dean Doucet, Web Master

<http://www.doucetfamily.org>

**ELECTIONS ARE COMING UP -
WE NEED YOUR TALENTS!**

By Dean Doucet

Les Doucet du Monde has been operating on less than a full staff of officers and board members. We need to have energetic, dedicated members "step up to the plate" and provide service to the family organization.

Very little time is actually involved in being an officer or a board member in LDDM. What is really needed is individuals who are willing to share ideas and provide their views on issues that pertain to the family organization and its members.

The international board meets four times a year in a secure chat room. Meetings last about an hour and a half. In preparing for the meetings, the board members exchange e-mails to submit ideas for the agenda. Between meetings we send e-mails back and forth to discuss issues that arise.

On the chapter level, officers and board members are responsible for planning and carrying out activities (meetings/socials) for their chapter. The Louisiana Chapter has two activities per year. It is hoped that the Acadian/Canadian chapter will soon have enough members in one given area in order to have socials or reunions.

The election process is beginning. You will notice a nomination form included with the newsletter. You can nominate yourself to run for a position in LDDM leadership or convince someone who you know would be a good prospect.

So, *s'il vous plaît*, get involved. Help plan activities.

Most questions that you may have about the positions can be obtained by reviewing our by-laws at the www.doucetfamily.org. Click on "Information about LDDM", then select "By-laws." Or you may contact any member of the current board. Their names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses can be found under "Information about LDDM" by selecting "Leadership Roster."

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.

SEARCHING FOR THE PARENTS OF ALEXANDRE DOUCET WHO MARRIED CELESTE COMEAU ON JUNE 3, 1850 (OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA COURT HOUSE RECORDS, MARRIAGE NO. 765). ALEXANDRE WOULD POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN BORN AROUND 1830.
SEND INFORMATION TO WILTON DECUIR AT WJDECUIR@BELLSOUTH.NET



LOUISIANA CHAPTER NEWS



ADNE PRESIDENT VISITS LOUISIANA

By Carol Doucet

Glenda Doucet-Boudreau, President of ADNE (L'Association des Doucet de la Nouvelle Ecosse), the organization that is planning the Doucet reunion in Nova Scotia in 2004, visited Louisiana with her husband, Stanley in mid-April.



Eldine and I and our son drove Glenda and Stanley to Prejean's Restaurant where we met Becky Lavergne (Louisiana

Chapter President), Vercie Wilkins, Wilridge Doucet, Nelda McManus and George Doucet and his wife Barbara for a great meal. Great company and a great meal – *c'est magnifique!*

Glenda explained the Doucet reunion schedule and the general activities during the weekends as part of the third Congrès Mondial Acadien.

The next morning, we drove Glenda and Stanley to Becky's home for breakfast. Becky showed us many of her photos of the 1999 reunion which was held in Opelousas, LA.

At noon, Glenda was interviewed on KLFY TV Channel 10 in Lafayette, where she invited Doucets of Louisiana and all other Acadians to join our Acadian cousins

next year in Nova Scotia for Congrès Mondial Acadien 2004.

Glenda suggested that persons planning to attend the Congrès Mondial 2004 begin making plans now. By autumn, the hotels and motels should be ready to accept reservations. Some families in Nova Scotia will be opening up their homes to CMA visitors. Also, the University of Sainte-Anne in Church Point (where the Doucet reunion will be held) will make dormitory rooms available to visitors.

**** Pictured left to right: Vercie Doucet Wilkins, Becky Lavergne, Stanley Boudreau, Glenda Doucet-Boudreau, Wilridge Doucet and George Doucet**

LETTER FROM GLENDA

Dear Editor;

I was very fortunate this spring as business brought my husband and I to New Orleans, Louisiana and the two very kind individuals Eldine and Carol Doucet invited us to go discover the Lafayette area.

As president of l'Association des Doucet 2004: Rencontre de famille I was thrilled to have supper with ten enthusiastic Germain Doucet descendants to discuss the 3rd World Acadian Congress to be hosted by the province of Nova Scotia in 2004 and more specifically to talk about our Doucet/tte reunion to be held on Monday August 2, 2004 @ Université Ste. Anne in Church Point, Digby County in the south western part of Nova Scotia; a car drive of 3 hours from Halifax, 45 minutes from Yarmouth, 30 minutes from Digby and 2 hours 15 minutes from Grand-Pré. As we ate crawfish étouffé, crabs, gumbo and jambalaya it became apparent that these generous, fun loving people and my husband and I were becoming good friends. The next morning Rebecca (Becky) Lavergne, President of the Louisiana Chapter hosted breakfast. We enjoyed looking over her MANY pictures of the 1999 Doucet reunion.

Carol Doucet, as the International President, had organized for me to be a guest on TV KLFY 10 "Meet Your Neighbor" program. I took advantage of the 2 minutes air time to invite all Doucet descendants to the 2004 reunion. We visited churches, flower gardens and the Saint Martinville area, all under a blue sky and in WARM weather (hot compared to NS in April). Our host and hostess were fabulous. One of our final activities in the area was to have my picture taken under the " Rue Doucet Rd." sign. All too fast, it was time to leave. We met strangers and said good-bye to friends. This is what Family Reunions are all about. Hope you can join us in Nova Scotia in 2004.
 Glenda Doucet-Boudreau and Stanley Boudreau

**LOUISIANA PURCHASE
 BI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
 By Carol Doucet**

On Saturday and Sunday, June 14 and 15, 2003, the Louisiana Chapter of LDDM participated in the Louisiana Purchase Bi-Centennial celebration held at the Rayne Civic Center. This event was organized by CAFA (Confédération des Associations de Familles Acadiennes), a group which is very dedicated to the preservation of the French language and customs in Louisiana. CAFA serves as a liaison between Louisiana family organizations and the group which is planning CMA 2004.

LDDM and three dozen other Acadian families and several commercial organizations had booths. Becky Lavergne (Louisiana Chapter President), her sister Catherine Capello, Eldine and I took turns at the Doucet booth.

On a large display board, we had a map of Acadia and France showing the deportation and migration routes. Emphasized were the two main groups of members of LDDM, the descendants of Germain Doucet of Acadia and of Pierre Doucet of Alabama to show that the Doucets were in Louisiana before the territory changed hands in 1803.

The middle panel of the board had the Louisiana Purchase Bi-centennial logo and a map of the United States with the Louisiana Territory outlined. On the map we had pins indicating areas (states, provinces, and other countries – England) where LDDM members reside. At the bottom were flags of the states included in the territory.

The right panel highlighted Congrès Mondial Acadien 2004 with a map of Nova Scotia showing where the Doucet reunion and major events will occur. The schedule of the Doucet reunion was also on the panel.

Becky had two large panels with photos from the Doucet reunion during CMA 1994 and CMA 1999.



Drawing as much attention as our large display boards were our Doucet genealogy books, genealogy charts, newsletters and CMA material. We had a new LDDM brochure and membership forms for LDDM and ADNE.

As at almost all large gatherings in South Louisiana, there were great music, great food and great comedy to be enjoyed by all.

Vaughane Madden, Executive Director of CMA 2004, and several other representatives from Nova Scotia attended the celebration.

The opening ceremonies were most impressive. The flags of the countries which have governed Louisiana and then the flags of the 15 states of the Louisiana Territory were processed to the front of the stage as the name of each state, the date it became a state, and the name of the present governor were called out, along with the names of the flag bearers (four of whom were Doucets). Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana and Jim Petitjean, Mayor of Rayne, extended official greetings.

On Sunday morning, many of the participants attended a Mass celebrated in French.

	
<p>Dr. John Doucet and Carol discuss LDDM and CMA 2004</p>	<p>Carol chats with Vaughne about CMA 2004</p>



Carol and Eldine Doucet, Catherine Capello and Becky Doucet enjoying the party atmosphere.



Becky and Carol waiting to greet visitors to the LDDM table

ACADIAN HISTORY RELIVED

By Carol Doucet



On Sunday, June 15 at 2:00 p.m. ceremonies were held at St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church in St. Martinville, LA commemorating events in the lives of Acadians.

Activities, organized by the Acadian Memorial, began with a procession of men carrying banners of the 32 families who had members in the Grand-Pré church when deportation orders were read to them in 1755. Amongst the persons in the church were Jean Doucet and Antoine Doucet. Carol Doucet, President of LDDM, carried the Doucet banner. Bishop Michael Jarrell and Father Austin Leger, pastor of St. Martin de Tours Church led the procession into the church.

The slamming of the church doors after Colonel John

Winslow's entrance reminded one of the slamming and locking of the doors of the St. Charles Catholic Church in Grand Pré on September 5, 1755. John Albert Landry, dressed as Colonel Winslow, read the deportation orders to the men. "—all of the French inhabitants...will be removed." After the reading of those fateful words, the men hung their heads and prayed in silence.

Also part of the ceremonies was the blessing and dedication of a full-sized replica of the deportation cross which stands near the Grand-Pré church. The cross is 20 feet tall, 8 feet wide and weighs 800 pounds. It stands in the Meditation Garden next to the eternal flame behind the Acadian Memorial. At the same time, Acadians gathered in the Grand-Pré church in Nova Scotia to rededicate the original cross in a similar ceremony.

The cross commemorates events of early September 1755, when ships began to assemble off the coast near Grand-Pré to receive hundreds of Acadians transported in longboats. These Acadians were forcibly exiled from their ancestral lands and scattered in foreign lands.

In 1924, a large iron cross was dedicated at the point of embarkation almost a mile from the Grand-Pré church.

The cross in St. Martinville is the first of ten that will be put in places where Acadians exiled from Grand-Pré were sent after their exile or "*grand dérangement*." Other crosses are planned for places of exile on the Atlantic Coast in both the United States and Canada, and in France, England, the Caribbean and Quebec.





L'ASSOCIATION DES DOUCET DE LA NOUVELLE ECOSSE

INVITES YOU TO THE 2004 DOUCET REUNION

The Doucet Family Reunion will be held on August 2, 2004, at the University of Sainte-Anne, Church Point, Nova Scotia. The tentative program is as follows:

- 10:00 am - Registration, opening of booths for genealogy and souvenirs.
- 11:00 am - Mass at the Sainte-Marie Church (tallest wooden church in North America) followed by opening ceremony.
- 12:00 noon - Lunch in University Sainte-Anne cafeteria, as well as food court outside. There will be a "living cemetery" and lessons on making "rappie pie" with taste test.
- 1:00 pm - Presentation on genealogy, as well as swimming for parents and children.
- 2:00 pm - Concert featuring local dance troupe, *La Baie en Joie*
- 3:00 pm - Conference, Acadian corner, and Acadian center
- 4:00 pm - Music 8:00 pm - Bonfire at the Lighthouse The program is being produced under the direction of Glenda Doucet Boudreau and Alain Doucette

For more information contact:

L'Association des Doucet de la Nouvelle Ecosse

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For a free Nova Scotia "Doers and Dreamers" TravelGuide, go to <http://www.destinations-ns.com/forms/guide.asp>.

THE ORDER OF GOOD CHEER A Taste of History Submitted by Jacqueline Auclair

Proposed by Samuel de Champlain in the winter of 1606-07, this social club provided good food and good times for the men at the French colony of Port-Royal, known today as the Habitation. They hoped to improve their health and morale during the long winter.

Although the Order of Good Cheer was a great success, it was active only one winter. Two first-hand accounts describe the activities; Champlain wrote briefly on the Order while Marc Lescarbot, a lawyer who spent that winter at Port-Royal, provides more detail. **What was it?** Every few days, supper became a feast. On a rotating basis, everyone at the table was designated "Chief Steward." Marc Lescarbot reports:



This person had the duty of taking care that all around the table were well and honourably provided for. This was so well carried out that, though the epicures of Paris often tell us that we had no Rue aux Ours (this street, still in existence in Paris, was the street of the rotisseurs, or sellers of cooked meat). Over there, as a rule we made as good cheer as we could have in this same Rue aux Ours and at less cost. For there was no one who, two days before his turn

came, failed to go hunting or fishing, and to bring back some delicacy in addition to our ordinary fare. So well was this carried out that never at breakfast did we lack some savoury meat of flesh or fish, and still less at our midday or evening meals; for that was our chief banquet, at which the ruler of the feast or chief butler, whom

the savages called Atoctegic, having had everything prepared by the cook, marched in, napkin on shoulder, badge of office in hand, and around his neck the collar of the Order,...after him all the members of the Order, carrying each a dish. The same was repeated at dessert, though not always with so much pomp. And at night, before giving thanks to God, he handed over to his successor in the charge the collar of the Order, with a cup of wine, and they drank to each other.

The men of the Order were those who dined together at Poutrincourt's table. They would have been key figures and/or at least congenial types with whom Sieur de Poutrincourt would care to dine. Thus the members of the Order of Good Cheer were likely prominent men in the colony. Membertou and Messamoet, Mi'kmaq chiefs in the area, were frequent visitors.

Adding to the atmosphere and the air of festivity, Lescarbot writes, "we always had twenty or thirty savages, men, women, girls and children, who looked on at our manner of service. Bread was given them gratis (free) as one would do to the poor."

Fare for the table The gentlemen were able to procure a wide variety of meals including fowl (mallards, geese, partridges and other birds), moose, caribou, beaver, otter, bear, rabbit, wildcat, and raccoon.

Custom and preferences change over time. In the new world, beaver was a delicate meat like that of mutton. Today, few would consider mutton, beaver, moose or wild rabbit appealing because of their delicate taste. Other evidence too shows us that tastes change. Spices in the early 17th century were very popular. Some of the more commonly used spices then were pepper, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg. Herbs such as thyme, chervil, bay leaves and marjoram were familiar flavourings. A dish that the Habitation settlers might consider bland could well be strong or wild to our modern tastes.

Some good examples of modern dishes that might provide the flavour of a Good Cheer dinner follow: potage à la citrouille (pumpkin soup), angille à létuvée (steamed eel), esturgeon à la Sainte-Menehould (sturgeon), fricassée d'épinard (fricassee of spinach) topinambours en beignets (Jerusalem artichoke fritters), tarte à la chaire de pommes et de poires (apple and pear pie), and tarte de massepain (marzipan tarts).

Today, the province of Nova Scotia continues the tradition, sponsoring the Order of the Good Time. The order is unique in many ways: it collects no initiation fee, charges no dues, and never meets formally. Any visitor who has spent at least three days in Nova Scotia can apply to become a member. Certificates of membership are available through any Tourism Nova Scotia Visitor Information Center or by contacting the Nova Scotia Marketing Agency at (902) 424-4672.

(Source: Port-Royal Habitation web site)

A TASTE OF ACADIE REVIEW

By Michele Doucette

Herein lies another choice Acadian cookbook written by Marielle Cormier-Boudreau and Melvin Gallant. It comes in both French and English. Given my lack of readability regarding the native language of my Acadian ancestors, I had to opt for the English translation by Ernest Bauer.

If you've never heard of *fricot* or *poutine rapée*, it's not surprising. You won't find these words in most French dictionaries or in traditional French cookbooks. But travel through what was once Acadie and you'll discover that these savory dishes are a central part of an original North American French cuisine.

In A Taste of Acadie, Marielle Cormier-Boudreau and Melvin Gallant take their readers on a culinary tour of Acadie, sampling dishes from the Gaspé Peninsula to Cape Breton, from the northern tip of Prince Edward Island to the Magdalen Islands.

Here you'll be encouraged to savour a hearty pot-en-pot or one of dozens of variations on the meat pie (called *paté à la viande* by the Acadians). The adventurous will want to sample *paté à la râpée* with a crust made of grated potatoes or the ever-popular *poutine râpée*, one of the few French dishes to survive the transition to the New World.

For those with a sweet tooth, Cormier-Boudreau and Gallant feature desserts which use maple syrup and fresh wild berries including favourites such as *poutine à trou*, a tart mixture of cranberries, nuts and apples in a sweet pastry sleeve, and *pets de soeurs*, a simple biscuit with a puckered middle and a spicy Acadian name.

Complete with information on the many natural ingredients favoured by the Acadians and now available in many city markets, A Taste of Acadie offers a delectable glimpse of a unique culinary tradition.

Anyone wishing to purchase a copy of this book can do so vis-à-vis Goose Lane Editions in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. The book retails for \$16.95 Canadian and \$14.95 US. The noted ISBN is 086492-109-8.

It was originally published as La Cuisine traditionnelle en Acadie in 1978. For those wishing the French version, the noted ISBN is 2-7600-0145-8. This version was published by Les Éditions d'Acadie.