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Survival of a Family

The Family of Paul Guedry dit Jovial & Anne Mius d'Entremont d'Azit de Pobomcoup

by Marty Guidry

The Acadian deportations began in October 1755 and continued for eight years until the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1763.

Our ancestors suffered not only during these eight years as they struggled to keep their families together and their culture intact, but for the next 30 years while seeking a homeland and reviving the Acadian nation.

The children of Paul Guedry dit Jovial and Anne Mius d'Entremont d'Azit de Pobomcoup participated in

this difficult struggle and survived.

Paul Guedry dit Jovial, son of Claude Guedry and Marguerite Petitpas, married **Anne Mius d'Entremont d'Azit de Pobomcoup**, daughter of Philippe Mius, fils and Marie, an Amerindian, about 1720 in Acadia.

Paul Guedry, born in January 1701 at Merligueche, Acadia (present-day Lunenburg), and his wife do not appear to have been



deported. Paul Guedry was a superb coasting pilot - plying the waters between Merligueche and Baie des Espagnols, Ile Royale (today Spanish Bay near Sydney, Cape Breton Island).

Paul Guedry and Anne Mius d'Entremont fled

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Survival of a Family

Update The Family of Augustin Guidry & Jeanne Hebert

by Marty Guidry

In the Summer 2005 (Volume 3, Issue 2) edition of "GENERATIONS" we discussed the family of Augustin Guidry and Jeanne Hebert. At the very end of the article on page 9, we noted that in 1763 Guil-

laume Mervin and his family embarked on the frigate L'Aigle for an unknown destination.

Eileen Avery of Santa Barbara, CA recently researched this family for a lecture she gave in February 2005. She

kindly sent us additional information on the Mervin family. Thanks, Eileen, for sharing this with us.

When Guillaume Mervin and his family departed St. Malo,

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to Baie des Espagnols about August 1750 to escape the increasing repression of the English.¹ It is here that we find the last known record of Paul Guedry - the 17 February 1755 annulment of the marriage of his daughter Marguerite to Toussaint-Marie de Lanoue, Sieur de Bogard, a French officer at Fortress Louisbourg.²

At the time it was illegal for a French officer to wed a lady with Amerindian blood. Because of her mother's heritage, Marguerite Guedry was one-quarter Amerindian; therefore, the commander of Fortress Louisbourg annulled the marriage and sent the offending officer back to France.

Apparently during his coasting trips Paul Guedry returned to Merligueche frequently and was well known in the area. On 24 August 1754 William Cotterell at Halifax wrote to Colonel Sutherland, Commanding at Lunenburg, that 25 Acadians from Louisbourg escaped that country to avoid starvation and were temporarily at Halifax.³ Several of them were former inhabitants of Merligueche including the families of Pierre Guedry, Paul Boutin, Charles Boutin, Julien Bourneuf and others.

Mr. Cotterell mentions in the letter that they are 'nearly related to Old Labrador' and should be treated with kindness and helped to resettle at Lunenburg. It is strongly felt that 'Old Labrador' was actually Paul Guedry. Could 'Labrador' be an anglicized spelling of La Verdure - a 'dit' name of the Guedry family?

Paul Guedry and Ann Mius d'En-

tremont had eight children - six boys and two girls. All, but two of them, disappear from the record after 1752 and thus we do not know if they were deported. Since they resided on either Ile St. Jean (Prince Edward Island) or Ile Royale (Cape Breton Island) in 1752, if deported by the English, they would have left Acadia in 1758 after the fall of Louisbourg.

Judith Guedry, the oldest child of the family, was born in late 1722 under very unusual circumstances. In the early summer of 1722 the Indians of Maine waged a war against the English in New England to retaliate against the English seizing their highest chief Joseph d'Abbadie de Saint-Castin and destroying their village Nanrantsouak - even burning the church and rectory.

Governor Shute of Massachusetts issued a declaration of war on 25 July 1722 - a war known by several names including The Three Years War, Rale's War, Lovewell's War, and Governor Dummer's Indian War.

The English Governor of Acadia, Richard Phillips, was at Canso when Governor Shute declared war. He immediately sent troops along the East Coast of Acadia including Merligueche where he recovered English vessels and imprisoned Indians and Acadians. Among those captured by the English were four sons of Claude Guedry and Marguerite Petitpas - Claude, Philippe, Augustin and Paul. Perhaps the Acadians were imprisoned because of their strong ties to the Micmacs - both through intermarriage and through friendships.

The Guedry families first were taken to New Hampshire and then to Boston where they remained in captivity until 1723. Judith Guedry was born in Boston during the latter part of 1722 and returned to Acadia when the English set her parents free in 1723.⁴

On 12 November 1737 Judith married Jean Cousin, captain of a merchant-ship and pilot for the king at Louisbourg. He was the son of Guy Cousin and Charlotte M. Although the marriage was recorded at Grand-Pre, the document states that Judith Guedry lived at Merligueche.⁵

In 1750, attempting to escape the English persecution, they left Merligueche and settled on Ile Royale, a French colony. On 3 Apr 1752 Jean Cousin, his wife, and their four young children (Benomy age 9, Marie la Branche age 7, Jean Baptiste age 5 and Marie Madeleine age 2) were living near Judith's parents at Baye des Espagnols where they had grown a large quantity of beans and turnips and owned five to six arpents of fallow land. They had one ox, two pigs and six fowl as well as a boat.⁶ We find no further mention of this family in the records.

Jacque Guedry dit Grivois, born in 1724, married Brigitte Lejeune about 1745. She was the daughter of Pierre Lejeune and Jeanne Benoit. In June 1751 Jacque Guedry departed Merligueche with his wife and three daughters (Marie Joseph age 5, Victoire age 3 and Marie age 1) for the French colony of Ile Saint-Jean. He settled at Bedec (today Bedeque, Prince Edward Island) where we find this

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L'Ouragan de la Cheniere Caminada de 1893 *(The Hurricane of Cheniere Caminada of 1893)*

by Marty Guidry

In August and September of this year two of the most devastating hurricanes ever to make landfall in Louisiana severely impacted the entire Gulf Coast destroying the coastal region of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and the upper coast of Texas. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (Categories 4 and 3 respectively at landfall) hit the far eastern and far western coasts of the state - severely damaging the entire coastal Acadian region of Louisiana.

Many of our Guidry family were displaced by these hurricanes and suffered significant property damage to their homes, automobiles and land. Fortunately, we have not learned of any that suffered injury or death. With modern technology, national and regional meteorologists observed the approach of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, accurately predicted the locations of landfall and encouraged folks in their paths to evacuate. Most did and hundreds of thousands of lives were saved including those of hundreds of Guidry's that live in the coastal region.

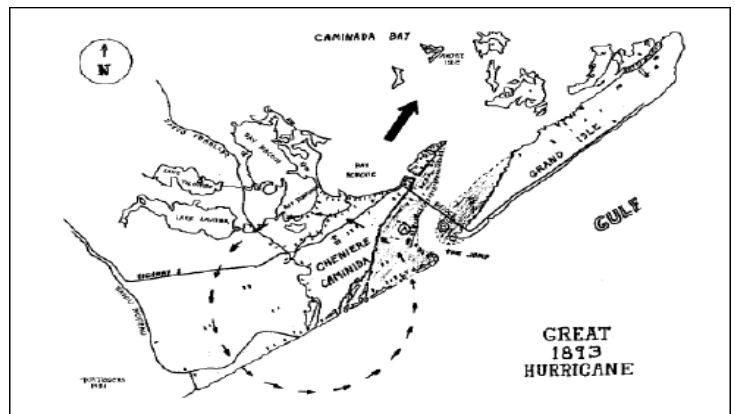
One hundred and twelve years ago another devastating hurricane visited the Louisiana Gulf Coast; however, at this time there was no way to know of its sinister approach. Even when the winds began gently blowing several hours before landfall, evacuation along the Louisiana coastal region was almost impossible.

Folks lived on coastal chenieres ("oak islands"; small areas of raised, sandy land surrounded by gulf and marshes). Usually there were no roads connecting the chenieres to the 'mainland' higher areas. Small boats were the vehicles of travel and of commerce. As the winds grew in intensity and rains began slamming into the small community, all folks could do was to gather together in the strongest homes and hunker down - hoping against hope that all would survive the storm.

Sunday, October 1, 1893 awakened as a most pleasant day at Caminadaville lying on a cheniere along Louisiana's southeastern coast - just across Caminada Pass from Grand Isle. The weather was cool and

somewhat windy with no indication of a hurricane lumbering slowing toward the cheniere. Even the tide was low due to the north wind. By 5:00 pm on this day the tide rose and the first large waves began pelting the shoreline of this fragile community.

The residents of Caminadaville quickly realized their peril and took what action they could - bringing their boats close to their homes and gathering in the larger,



sturdier structures. Caminadaville was a small coastal fishing community of 450 homes and nearly 1500 residents - many of whom were Cajun.

By 7:00 pm the water had risen to six feet in the community and was still rising when the giant wave hit the coast - filling the homes with water and reaching almost 16 feet in height. Houses collapsed, people grasped for anything near them for safety, mothers clung to their children, many were washed into the sea - screams could be heard throughout the night and the church bell tolled in the wind. Many expected all to perish that night, but the tolling of the bell gave those clinging to life something to focus on and they continued to fight to survive. Finally a lull occurred about 11 pm as the eye passed over Caminadaville, the quietness was eerie as the living assessed their situation and tried to find loved ones.

But was the storm really over? Suddenly the winds shifted from the east-southeast to the west-southwest with even greater ferocity and the giant wave returned from the marsh rather than the gulf - devastating anything remaining, but the bell kept tolling and the survivors kept struggling. At 3:00 am on Monday,

October 2nd it was over.

Quiet returned to Caminadaville - or what was left of this proud community of fishermen. Of the 450 homes standing the morning before - only four remained. Of the 1500 residents almost 800 perished - many never to be found. For the living the worse was yet to come.

Being isolated it would be four days before they would receive any help - medical, food or water. There were no telephones or radios in 1893 at Caminadaville and only one boat remained in serviceable condition. It was Wednesday before the Caminadaville lugger Good Mother limped to the dock in New Orleans and Captain Terrebonne reported the tragedy his people suffered. Relief efforts were quickly organized to save the survivors, bury the dead and aid the community.

Today little remains of Caminadaville - once a proud and growing cheniere fishing community. The land still supports fishing; however, it is camps, not homes, that stand there.

The Curole Home, having sheltered more than 80 survivors, was moved 15 miles up Bayou Lafourche after the hurricane and still stands today at the small community of Cote Blanche. Cote Blanche, meaning



‘White Coast’ after the new, white-washed homes, sprang up shortly after 1893 to house the relocating survivors of the hurricane - including one Guedry family. The bell of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church that tolled continually through the night and gave the survivors the courage to keep struggling today hangs just outside Lady of the Isle Catholic Church in neighboring Grand Isle - calling its parishioners to mass.

Residing at Caminadaville on October 1, 1893 were four Guedry families:

Joseph Theophile (Theophile) Guedry (born 25 December 1829), son of Joseph Leandre Guedry and Marcelite Suzanne Terrebonne, fisherman; his wife Melicere Azema (Azee) Theriot

Leopold Guedry (born 25 February 1857), son of Theophile Guedry and Azema Theriot, fisherman; his wife Celestine Terrebonne and their three children

Theophile Blanchard (Blanchard) Guedry (born 10 March 1864), son of Theophile Guedry and Azema Theriot, fisherman; his wife Armina Pizani.

Louis Guedry, his wife and their four children. [Louis Guedry may be Joseph Ulysse (Ulysse) Guedry (born 13 April 1853), son of Theophile Guedry and Azema Theriot, fisherman; his wife Lise Albertine Pizani, son Eusebe Guidry (born 14 August 1875), daughter Ulysia Guidry (born 10 March 1877) and their two younger children]

In Leopold Guedry’s home gathered seventy-five people. All, but two, perished that fateful day. One of the two survivors was carried almost six miles offshore by water and returned the next day famished for want of food and water.

Theophile Guedry and his wife Azee Theriot perished.

All five of Leopold Guedry’s family perished.

All six of Louis Guedry’s family perished.

Blanchard Guedry and his wife Armina Pizani survived the hurricane and probably resettled at Cote Blanche, LA.

Fifteen Guedry’s lived at Caminadaville as Sunday, October 1, 1893 dawned. Only two remained when the sun set on Monday, October 2, 1893.

References

- 1) Rogers, Dale P.; Cheniere Caminada - Buried at Sea (Dale P. Rogers; Thibodaux, LA, 1981).
- 2) Looper, Robert B.; Doucet, John and Charpertier, Colley; The Cheniere Caminada Story - A Commemorative (Blue Heron Press; Thibodaux, LA, 1993).
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Genealogy/History

Biography from 'The Historical Encyclopedia of Louisiana' Vol. II

MARIE LUCIEN GUIDRY, who came to Ama in St. Charles Parish some forty years ago, for more than four decades has taken a prominent and active part in the mercantile life of this community and also has an unusual record in the matter of public service.

In 1920, Mr. Guidry was elected a member of the Police Jury of St. Charles Parish and the best evidence of his long and faithful service in this highly important capacity has been his consistent re-election to succeed himself at each election since that time. Many of the present parish-wide improvements have been made during the twenty years

Mr. Guidry has been a member of the Police Jury and he has won and maintained an enviable reputation all over the parish by reason of his outstanding fairness in the distribution of monies spent for public works. Mr. Guidry has also worked untiringly for the development and improvement of the public school system and served from 1908 until 1920 as a member of the school board. The last eight years of his service on the school board Mr. Guidry was president of the board.

Marie Lucien Guidry was born in St. James Parish, Louisiana, on the ninth of November, 1881. His father was Lucien Guidry, also a native of St. James Parish, a carpenter and sugar planter. His mother, a member of a pioneer Southern Louisiana family, lived to be eighty years of age. Mr. Guidry obtained his early education in the schools of St. James Parish and when he was fourteen years old started work as a clerk in a mercantile store. He removed to St. Charles Parish in 1900 and the following year opened his own store at Ama and operated it for several years.

In 1903, Mr. Guidry was married to Miss Alice Champagne, who passed away in 1911. The four children of this marriage are Ethel and Hilda, Marie Lucien, Jr, and Wilmar Joseph Guidry. The second marriage of Mr. Guidry in 1916 was to Miss Clara Haydel of St. Charles Parish. They have

one daughter, Frances Estell Guidry, a graduate of Louisiana State University.

Mr. Guidry is an active participant in the civic affairs of Ama and is a member of the Woodmen of the World. His principal recreation is fishing. The family are communicants of the Catholic faith.

Note: The following family members are buried at Holy Rosary Cemetery, Taft, Louisiana

Alice (Champagne) Guidry 1883 – 1911, first wife of Marie Lucien

Joe Champagne 1845 – 1915 (father of Alice)

Marie Champagne 1846 – 1921 (mother of Alice)

Eliza Guidry 1846 – 1931 (mother of Marie Lucien)

Alcide Guidry 1874 – 1946 (brother of Marie Lucien)

Thelma Guidry Becnel 8 Oct 1917 - 8 Jan 1974 (?)

Claire Haydel Guidry 29 Jan 1896 - 10 Dec 1950 (2nd wife)

M. L. Guidry 3 Nov 1881 - 25 Sep 1955 (Marie Lucien)

Clare - 2005 Festival Acadian de Clare



In 1955, Acadians from the region of Clare, Nova Scotia, hosted a festival in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Acadian Deportation of 1755. The event has been held annually ever since. The most recent festival was held from July 30-August 15, 2005, marking the 50th anniversary of the festival, Canada's largest annual Acadian festival. Here are a few photos, followed by a description of the festival from Al & Simone Geddry of Saint Benoni, Nova Scotia:



From left to right: Wayne Thibodeaux (on fiddle) entertains the crowd; BeauPhare performs; The Basin Brothers from Lafayette, LA; Larry Miller & The New Pine Boys at the Roche Bleue; Simone & Al Geddry in colorful costumes at the Mardi Gras themed Fais Do Do; Simone, Al & Nathalie Geddry, having a great time.

If you'd like to view more photos and see the schedule of events, visit: <http://www.acadianfestivals.com>

More information on The Basin Brothers can be found on: <http://www.basinbrothers.com>

Read more about Larry Miller, musician and accordion builder, in the article from The Southwest Louisiana Express website at: <http://www.ucs.louisiana.edu/~yxs8143/larry.htm>

Al & Simone Geddry were our gracious hosts in Meteghan, NS in August, 2005. Many of you will remember that Al was one of our entertaining and knowledgeable tour guides.

Nathalie Geddry's premiere CD continues to climb the charts and can be purchased on her website: <http://www.nathaliegeddry.com>

Germaine Comeau has many photos from the festival which can be viewed as a slideshow at: <http://homepage.mac.com/germainecomeau/FaisDodo/PhotoAlbum9.html>

The 2005 Festival Acadien de Clare was an outstanding success. The confidence all of us got from the Congrès led to many new initiatives. The Festival ran in the same timeframe as last year, from the end of July to mid-August. Many of the venues, as well as their content, were improved. For instance, the quilt exhibition that many of you saw last year at Sacre Coeur Church in Saulnierville was greatly expanded. The artwork shown in these quilts was a marvel to see. Thousands walked through the church, which was always packed during the exhibition.

Another initiative was to highlight our Cajun ties. This spring some of us got together and decided we should have a float in the Festival parade. We also decided to organize a Fais-Do-Do for the first Saturday in August. Naturally, the theme of our float had to be Fais-Do-Do. Our float was a sensation. A dozen of us, led by Barry Ancelet, from Lafayette, all costumed and ready to 'courir le mardi gras', walked along the float and distributed thousands of beads. Barry showed us how to use the nose on the mask to great advantage when placing the beads around the necks of more than willing recipients!

The Fais-Do-Do, held at the Clare Social Club in Petit Ruisseau, was a blow out. From 5pm to 8pm we enjoyed jambalaya and shrimp étouffé while listening to local artists. Then the show really got under way with over 1500 people in attendance.

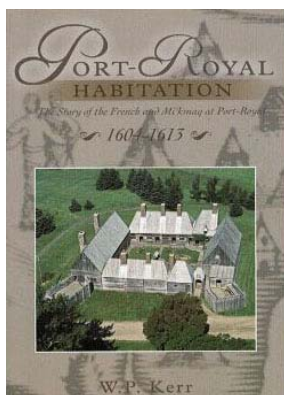
BeauPhare, a local group that plays Cajun music, opened. They got the crowd jumping and dancing. They were followed by the New Pine Grove Boys from Eunice, LA, who really energized the crowd. Then the Basin Brothers took over and people went wild. During this time a dozen of us in Mardi Gras costumes with beads were mobbed! People were so excited they actually tore beads from our hands. When Waylon Thibodeaux and his band from Thibodaux, La, took the stage the crowd was in a frenzy and Waylon fed them more. What a performer! To close the evening all performers joined together for a jam session, which ended in the wee hours of the morning. Clare had never seen anything like this!

So, you may ask is this all that happened during the Festival? No, but it was certainly the highlight of the festival. People are still talking about it.

We would be remiss if we did not mention that we met quite a few people from Louisiana and hope to see some of them again next year. We hope with all our hearts that the terrible disasters that befell Louisiana this year will not dampen your spirits and that, with time, your terrible losses will give way to a new, brighter future. If you can make your way to Clare in 2006 for the Festival Acadien de Clare, let us know and we will all be happy to help you – *laisser les bon temps rouler*.

Al & Simone Geddry

Book Nook



Port-Royal Habitation- The Story of the French and Mi'kmaq at Port-Royal 1604-1613

What is the real story of the French settlement of the Port-Royal Habitation in Acadie? How did the French and the Mi'kmaq forge their centuries-long alliance? How did the French survive their

first brutal winters on a colder, harsher continent?

W.P. (Wayne) Kerr tackles these compelling ques-

tions in *Port-Royal Habitation: The Story of the French and Mi'kmaq at Port Royal*, offering a fresh look at how the French developed a settlement in Acadie in the years 1604-1613.

Focusing on the daily life of the settlers and their relationship with the Mi'kmaq and other Amerindians, as well as the turbulent political, social, economic, and religious intrigues surrounding the settlement, this multi-faceted book sheds light on a critical period of Canada's early past. As well, it considers how the story of the French and Mi'kmaq at Port-Royal still influences our lives, four hundred years later.



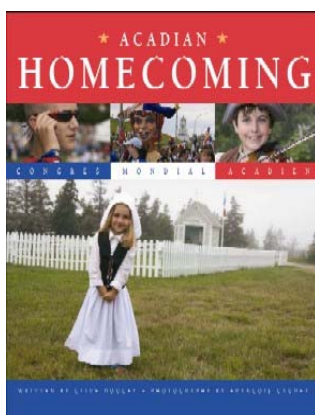
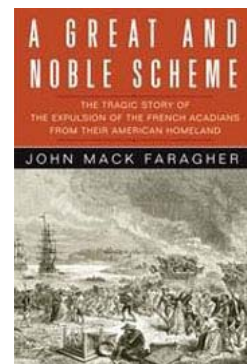
A Great And Noble Scheme by John Mack Faragher

On August 25, 1755, the *New York Gazette* printed a dispatch from the maritime province of Nova Scotia: "We are now upon a great and noble Scheme of sending the neutral French out of this Province, who have always been our secret Enemies....If we Effect their Expulsion, it will be one of the greatest things that ever the English did in America..."

At the time these words were written, New England troops were rounding up some 18,000 French-speaking Acadian residents ("the neutral French") at gunpoint and loading them onto transports, separat-

ing parents from children and husbands from wives. They were scattered throughout the British Empire. Thousands died and their lands were expropriated by Yankee settlers from New England.

Drawing on original primary research, John Mack Faragher tells the full story of this expulsion in vivid, gripping prose. Following specific Acadian families through the anguish of their removal, he brings to light a tragic chapter in the settlement of America.



Acadian Homecoming (2004)

Congrès Mondial Acadien
by Clive Doucet
photography by Francois
Gaudet

The Nova Scotia Congrès Mondial Acadien of 2004 represents the completion of a cycle, marking the four hundredth anniversary of the

first arrival of French-speaking settlers in Nova Scotia. The third and final stop in the trilogy of reunions

that have begun the reconnection of a community that was broken and scattered 250 years ago, the Nova Scotia Congrès will always be an important landmark in the history of the Acadian people. This significant milestone deserves a wonderful keepsake—and this souvenir book is the perfect way to remember this special event. Full-colour photographs provide a vibrant accompaniment to the personal recollections, interviews, family reunions, and community celebrations included in this volume. The excitement at reuniting with loved ones and rebuilding a united future has been captured within the pages of this volume, and will endure, along with the unshakeable spirit of the Acadian people.

cont'd from 'Survival' page 2

young family on 29 August 1752. They owned one cow, one heifer and four pigs and had a large garden.⁷ This is the last record that we can find of this family.

Born in 1730, **Jean Anselme Guedry dit Grivois** left Mer-ligueche with his family in August 1750 and on 3 April 1752 was living with his parents and siblings at Baie des Espagnols.¹ In 1755 at Ile Saint-Jean he married Marie LeBlanc, daughter of Joseph LeBlanc and Marie-Madeleine Lalande.⁸ With the fall of Louisbourg in 1758 and the expulsion of Acadians living on Ile Royale and Ile Saint-Jean, Jean Anselme Guedry and his family escaped to New Brunswick - possibly Ristigouche on Baie des Chaleurs.⁹ Subsequently they were captured by the English and imprisoned. The list of Acadian prisoners at Fort Cumberland (today's Fort Beausejour near Amherst, Nova Scotia) on 24 August 1763 contains the names of Jean Guedry, his wife Marie and their two sons Jean and Alexandre.¹⁰ They had been imprisoned for three years.¹¹ After their release from prison, Jean Guedry and his family settled at Iles St. Pierre et Miquelon where on 15 May 1767 we find Jean, his wife Marie, their two sons Jean (age 10) and Joseph (age 5) and their daughter Marie (age 3).¹² In this census they are listed as having come from Halifax.

The family's stay at Iles St. Pierre et Miquelon was brief as later in 1767 they sailed on the snow La Petite Fortune to Martin de Re on

Ile de Re near Rochefort, France. With Jean and his wife Marie LeBlanc were three sons - Jean, Joseph and Pierre (also called Jacques) - and a daughter - Marie.¹³ The census taken on 8 January 1770 lists Jean Guedry, Marie LeBlanc and their children Jean (age 12), Marie (age 7) and Jacques (age 3) among the families sent from Iles St. Pierre et Miquelon and currently living at Rochefort, France. Their son Joseph is absent from this roster and may have died since the family landed in France in 1767. The census notes that Jean Guedry was a prisoner for three years after the last siege of Louisbourg by the English.

At Rochefort, Jean was a shipwright and caulker and was employed at the old dock in town where he broke his back and remained crippled.¹⁴ Jean Guedry, Marie LeBlanc and their sons Jean and Jacques were living at Rochefort on 15 September 1772 where he was a carpenter, his wife spun cotton and his eldest son Jean was a carpenter's helper.¹⁵ On 20 July 1774 Marie LeBlanc, wife of Jean Guedry, became the godmother of young Marguerite-Adelaide Gautrot, daughter of Pierre Gautrot and Marie-Louise Duplessis, at St. Jean L'Evangeliste in Chatellerault, France.¹⁶ On the Second Convoy leaving Chatellerault for Nantes on 15 November 1775 were Marie LeBlanc and her 11-year old son Jacques. Listed as absent were Jean Guedry, her husband, and their 17-year old son Jean.¹⁷

In September 1784 Jean Guedry and Marie LeBlanc confirmed to

the Spanish government that they wished to establish themselves in Louisiana.¹⁸ Finally, on 11 June 1785 Jean Guedry, a caulker, his wife Marie LeBlanc and their sons Jean and Jacques Guedry, both carpenters, departed Nantes, France on Le Beaumont for Louisiana. On 19 August 1785 they arrived in New Orleans, LA.¹⁹ Shortly after arriving in Louisiana Jean Guedry and his family resettled in St. James Parish, LA where they remained until at least 1788.²⁰ Here their son Jean married Celeste Boudreau and they transferred land among their family. In the spring of 1788 flooding of their lands by the Mississippi River resulted in Jean Guedry and his son Jean each receiving 7 1/2 barrels of corn for subsistence. By 1791 Jean Guedry and Marie LeBlanc moved to Ascension Parish, LA where they initially settled on the east bank of the Mississippi River. Here they had 6 arpents of land, 150 quarts of corn, 2 head of cattle and 8 pigs.²¹ In 1795 they moved to the west bank of the river - settling near Valenzuela (south of present-day Donaldsonville, LA).²² Jean Guedry died about 1807 in Lafourche Parish, LA.²³

Marguerite Guedry briefly appears in the records when she married Toussaint-Marie de Lanoue, son of Toussaint de Lanoue and Marie-Madeleine Pressac on 11 Feb 1754. Toussaint-Marie de Lanoue was a French officer at Louisbourg and was in charge of the area around the Baie des Espagnols. At the time it was illegal for a French officer to marry a woman of mixed blood. Because

Marguerite's maternal grandmother was Amerindian, Marguerite Guedry was one-quarter Amerindian; therefore, the commander of Fortress Louisbourg annulled the marriage on 17 February 1755 and sent Toussaint Marie de Lanoue back to France.² Marguerite Guedry disappears from the record after this incident.

We first encounter **Joseph Guedry**, born in 1733, on 3 April 1752 when he appears as a 19-year old young man in the census of Ile Royale living at Baie des Espagnols with his parents and siblings.¹ Joseph Guedry was in one of the first groups of Acadians to reach Louisiana - arriving about 1765. We do not know exactly how or when he got to Louisiana; however, on 25 April 1766 he appears as single and a militiaman on the "Census and List of the Militiamen and Acadian Householders Recently Established at the Atakapas" and was living at "La Pointe".²⁴ There is speculation

that he came to Louisiana with the group of Acadians led by Joseph Broussard dit Beausoleil since he settled with them at "La Pointe". The "Atakapas" area is the region currently comprising St. Martin Parish and Lafayette Parish and "La Pointe" is near Cecilia, LA.

Joseph's stay in the Attakapas region was short as on 19 May 1767 he married Elizabeth Comeaux in St. James Parish, LA.²⁵ Here he would raise a large family and remain the rest of his life. Joseph Guedry settled on the east bank of the Mississippi River - probably near present-day Convent, LA. The list of militiamen serving in the First Company, Acadian Coast on 23 January 1770 includes 37-year old Joseph Guidry as a fusileer (i.e., rifleman).²⁶ From 1773 through 1787 Joseph Guedry appears at the baptism of five of his children, a witness at the marriage of his nephew Jean Guedry to Celeste Boudreau and in the selling of six arpents of land to his

brother Jean.²⁷ All of these occurred in St. James Parish, LA. On 2 November 1815 Joseph Guedry was buried at St. Michael Catholic Cemetery in Convent, LA - having lived to the age of 82 years.²⁸ Joseph Guedry was the first Guedry to arrive in Louisiana. An article about him appeared in the Winter, 2004 (Vol. 2 #1) edition of "Generations". It also can be found on the Guedry-Labine website under "Family History" articles.

Two other sons of Paul Guedry and Anne Mius d'Entremenot only briefly appear in the records.

Petit-Jean Guedry, born in 1743, and **Francois Guedry**, born in 1749, are with their family at Baie des Espagnols, Ile Royale on 3 April 1752¹; however, after that date they disappear from the records. The baptism of Francois Guedry is registered at Port La-joie, Ile St. Jean on 19 November 1749.²⁹

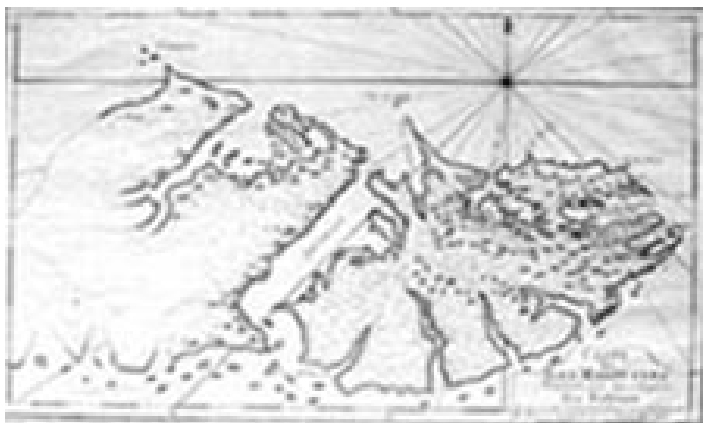
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France in 1763 on the frigate L'Aigle, they were determined to found a French colony on Iles Malouines (today, the Falkland Islands).^{1,2}



During this period the French made a number of attempts to found new colonies with the Acadians; however, most failed. The settlement of Iles Malouines, organized by the Frenchman Louis-Antoine de Bougainville, is counted among the failures. The expedition included two frigates, the L'Aigle and the Sphinx and included 20 single Acadian men and three Acadian families of which the Mervin family was one.

After an aborted sailing on 8 September 1763, when strong winds forced the ships to return to France, the expedition finally departed, less one Acadian family. They arrived at Iles Malouines on 31 January 1764. The Acadians found a bleak situation - an uninhabited island with no trees for building shelter and only peat for heating. They constructed a small fort (Fort Louis) on the north side of the bay and on 5 April 1764 the two frigates departed for France - leaving 29 Acadians on the islands.

Unfortunately the Spanish had a prior claim to the Iles Malouines and confronted the French about their new colony. In the interim, Bougainville organized a new expedition. It sailed from France on 6 October 1764 on L'Aigle with additional Acadians and arrived at Fort Louis in December 1764.

The initial Acadians had survived the winter rela-

tively well; however, the lack of wood was an ongoing problem.

The Spanish continued to press the French about the settlement and in January 1765 the French government conceded ownership rights to the Spanish government. During this time a third Acadian expedition departed for the Iles Malouines. With the return of the Iles Malouines to the Spanish, most, if not all, Acadians returned to France between 1769 and 1775.

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The Guedry-Labine Family Newsletter, GENERATIONS, serves as a focal point for family members to share and learn about us. To submit your ideas, articles or comments, please contact:

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