

2022

*Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Astcur*

VOLUME 20  
ISSUE 3

# GENERATIONS

It is Fall 2022 and another issue of "Generations" just hit the press. It has several interesting articles that we believe you will enjoy. Special thanks to Allie Guidry for her terrific job of editing this issue and every issue for the last 19 years (since 2003)! We all owe her much gratitude for her superb years as editor.

Rev. Jean-François Petitpas of Québec has authored another outstanding article. In a very well researched and documented paper, Rev. Petitpas describes the life of Guillaume Petitpas and Angélique Sceau who suffered through not one, but three deportations between 1758 and 1797. Theirs is a fascinating, yet tragic story that will grip your attention.

For everyone who attended our Guidry and Hebert Reunion on 8 October 2022 in Rayne, LA you will want to relive a great day by reading the Recap of the Reunion. And for those that couldn't make it to Rayne, we think you will enjoy reviewing the Reunion and all that happened. It was a wonderful day for the 200 attendees – the largest Reunion during the Grand Réveil Acadien. And, we even had a surprise guest – the Guédry Rock that first appeared at our 1999 Reunion and has been absent for many years. Thanks to all that made the Reunion a success – especially our Chefs Barry Guidry, E. J. Guidry and Jay Guidry; our perennial Reunion crew Allie Guidry, Rachel Killingsworth and Jeff Killingsworth; our Band the La-To-Pea Ramblers, our two presenters Art Guidry of NY and Greg Wood of MD and many others mentioned in the Recap.

At the Reunion we inducted six new members to the Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Astcur Circle of Distinction. Read who they are and their outstanding contributions in bringing distinction to our Guédry and Petitpas families.

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## IN THIS ISSUE

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Our Book Nook has two excellent books for you to enjoy by the fireside this winter. Both are by Acadian authors. And don't miss the tasty recipes in Bon Appetit. Try them out and let us know if you enjoyed them. One of my favorite sections of each issue of "Generations" is Historical Tidbits. There are several very interesting newspaper clips from days gone by about our family throughout North America.

***Speaking of recipes – we are low on our supply of family recipes. Here's a plea to all the cooks out there. Send us one of your favorite recipes for Bon Appetit and let us all enjoy it.*** The variety of cooking in our family is amazing since we all live in different regions. Send your recipe(s) to [guidryRmartin@gmail.com](mailto:guidryRmartin@gmail.com).

Finally, our second plea. ***With the turn of the new year just around the corner it is time to renew your membership in Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Astéur.*** I believe we have the lowest dues of any organization - \$6/individual and \$10/family. Your dues are why we can have Reunions, publish the newsletter, have two family websites and do other activities for the family. Please consider joining our association or renewing your membership.

***Our next Reunion is 16-17 August 2024 in St. Alphonse, Nova Scotia.*** Jason & Rayanne Guidry of Halifax, Nova Scotia are organizing it and Marty Guidry is assisting. It will be outstanding as we return to our Acadian roots.

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# *every family has a story to tell*

### "ACADIANS WERE HERE"

Marie Rundquist, Greg Wood and Marty Guidry developed an internet travelogue on Acadian tourism in Maryland called "Acadians Were Here".

To view the site visit:

<http://acadianswerehere.org/>

Guédry & Petitpas Family Page  
<https://tinyurl.com/GuedryPetitpasfamily>

Guédry Genealogical Database  
<https://tinyurl.com/Guedry>

Guédry & Petitpas Facebook Page  
<http://tinyurl.com/guedry-facebook>

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**THE GUÉDRY AND HÉBERT REUNION - RECAP**  
**8 OCTOBER 2022**  
**RAYNE, LOUISIANA**

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With approximately 200 people attending, the Guédry and Hébert families had a very successful Reunion on 8 October 2022 at the Rayne Civic Center Ballroom in Rayne, Louisiana. Throughout the day folks reacquainted with old friends and met new ones as there were many long breaks in the agenda. Additionally, both families had very informative displays on family history and genealogy to study and enjoy.

One big hit was a piece of the Guédry Rock that made its appearance after being absent for several years. In 1999 the Guédry family successfully had a large granite boulder brought from Lunenburg, Nova Scotia to Louisiana just in time for the Guédry Reunion in Houma, Louisiana that year. In the 1600s and early 1700s the small hamlet of Merliguèche was located where today's Lunenburg now stands. Here a small group of Acadians made their home alongside a community of Mi'kmaq. Among the Acadians was the family of Claude Guédry and Marguerite Petitpas – our paternal ancestors. Folks at the 1999 Reunion enjoyed touching the Guédry Rock as a symbol of connecting with their paternal Guédry & Petitpas ancestors. At our Reunion on 8 October attendees enjoyed the same experience as they softly touched the piece of the Guédry Rock.

Acadian flags representing Acadians worldwide, the Cajuns of Louisiana and the Acadians of Maine and New England were displayed throughout the ballroom. Tables and decorations were adorned in the Acadian colors of red, white, blue and yellow.

As folks entered the ballroom, they registered and received a packet of gifts provided by the Acadia Parish Tourist Commission and Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur. They then mingled with other attendees, viewed the displays setup throughout the room and talked with authors and artists.

Marty Guidry, President of Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur, called the Reunion to order at 9:00 am with a brief welcoming to all. John Hebert, President of L'Association des Hébert du Monde, welcomed all the Hébert and Guédry cousins to the Reunion. Deacon Denis Francis LaCroix then offered a very moving opening prayer to set the tone for the gathering. A beautiful recording of the *Ave Maris Stella*, the Acadian National Hymn, filled the room as folks remembered the sufferings of our Acadian ancestors during the Deportations and Dérangement.

After a brief break the Cajun Band La-To-Pea Ramblers broke into a rousing two-step that had everyone tapping their feet and clapping. David Guidry on bass, Jimmy Breaux on drums, Jamie Bearb on fiddle and Brandon Degeyter on diatonic accordion mixed Cajun two-steps and waltzes throughout the hour. These accomplished musicians have played with some of the finest Cajun bands of south Louisiana. All are directly related to the Guidry family through their paternal and maternal roots and have Hebert connections also. Of course, it is difficult to find any Cajun in south Louisiana that is not directly related to the Guédry and Hébert families. Throughout the hour Irving and Doris Thibodeaux demonstrated Cajun dancing to the enjoyment of all attendees.

For those with a culinary bent Barry Guidry, E. J. Guidry and Jay Guidry were out back preparing our dinner of jambalaya and white beans alongside a batch of pork cracklin's. Many folks went out back to talk with the chefs and try their hand at stirring the pot as they listened to the sizzling crackin's.

As the band played their last waltz, we prepared to honor six of our Guédry family by inducting them into the Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur Circle of Distinction. Those honored were Richard P. "Dick" Guidry of Lafourche Parish, LA for his outstanding service to his community and state as a Louisiana State Representative; Paul L. Guidry, Sr. of St. John the Baptist Parish, LA for his service to the United States with the U. S. Travel Service in Mexico and France and the International Trade Association; Scott Guidry of Carencro, LA

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## THE GUÉDRY AND HEBERT REUNION - RECAP

### 8 OCTOBER 2022

### RAYNE, LOUISIANA

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and Bemidji, MN for his service in the U. S. Air Force as Conductor and Director of USAF Bands in Washington, D.C. and Europe and as Director of Bands at Bemidji State University; Kelly Guidry of Breaux Bridge, LA for his innovative art using wood and metal to reflect the flora, fauna, culture and people of his native Acadiana; Eugene Pettipas of Halifax, Nova Scotia for his award-winning career in motorsports as a competitor, builder, team owner and sponsor and Marcel Labine of Montréal, Canada for his career as one of Canada's outstanding poets. Each honoree received a Certificate and a Medal with the family crest.

As the chefs began preparing the plates of chicken jambalaya, white beans and rolls, folks got a plate and sat with friends to enjoy the dinner and chat about the Reunion and old times together. As the last bites were eaten, the desserts were on the counter for all to partake. Pecan pies, pumpkin pies, apple pies, fudges, cookies, pralines and a variety of other sweets were there for the taking. Surprisingly, as the dinner break came to an end, nothing was left on the counter. Folks seemed to have enjoyed the superb meal that Barry, E.J. and Jay had prepared in their iron pots and the desserts brought by the attendees.

As the Reunion resumed, folks settled down to hear two of our family members present their research. Art Guidry of St. Landry Parish, LA and New York City, NY presented "Seeking My Roots: A Louisiana Creole Genealogical Study from St. Landry Parish" in which he discussed his genealogical journey to discover his Guidry descendancy from a St. Landry Parish plantation family and justice of the peace and a free woman of color of St. Landry Parish. He also discussed the role of his parents in educating children of St. Landry Parish and his attending a Rosenwald School in Plaisance, LA.

At the break the chefs set out the pork cracklin's and boudin for all to enjoy. They were an immediate hit and went fast.

Greg Wood of Olney, MD, a recognized expert on the Acadians of Maryland, then reviewed his recent 1600-page book *The Frenchified State of Maryland*. Greg discussed the three French groups that settled in Maryland – the early French of Europe, the Acadians deported to Maryland in 1755 and the Saint-Domingue refugees that escaped the slave revolt in 1794. Greg's exhaustive research provided new insights into the Acadians that remained in Maryland after 1770 - how they blended into Maryland society and how many became prominent citizens.

There were many questions for both presenters on various aspects of their presentations.

Throughout the day authors and artists had booths where they discussed with the attendees their unique work and had items available for purchase. Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur also had a sales table with books and souvenirs for purchase.

As the Reunion ended, folks left with a smile on their faces, old friendships renewed, new friendships made and a determination to attend the next Reunion in St. Alphonse, Nova Scotia on August 16-17, 2024.

Many thanks to all that helped with the Reunion including Rachel Killingsworth, Jeff Killingsworth, Allie Guidry, Jeanette Guidry Leger, Deacon Denis Francis LaCroix, Greg Wood, Lynn Wood, Barry Guidry, E. J. Guidry, Jay Guidry, John Hebert, Martha Royer, the Acadia Parish Tourist Commission, David Guidry, Daniel "Chuck" Guidry, Eric Guidry, Nolan Guidry, the La-To-Pea Ramblers Band (David Guidry, Jamie Bearb, Jimmy Breaux, Brandon Degeyter), Irving and Doris Thibodeaux and Lionel Guidry. And special thanks to all the Guidry and Hebert attendees and friends that made the Reunion an outstanding success.

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## GUÉDRY & HEBERT REUNION - PHOTOS



Pierre Guédry aka Marty



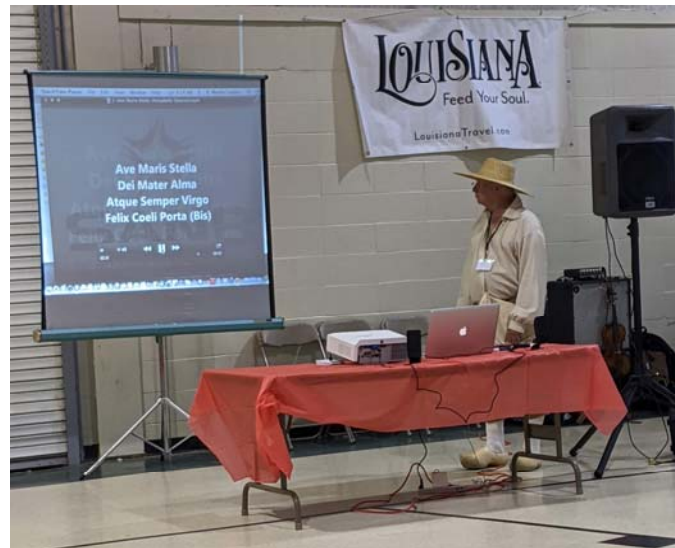
John Hebert & Marty Guidry



Deacon Denis Francis LaCroix



Rachel & Jeff Killingsworth  
Reunion Committee



Reunion opening - Ave Maria Stella



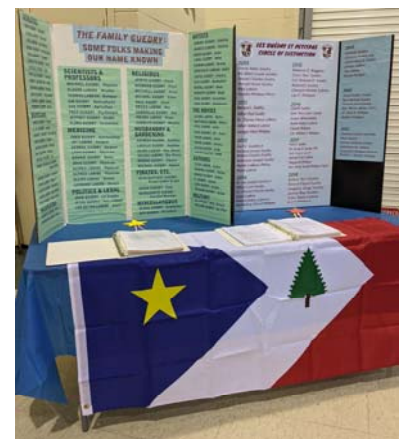


## GUÉDRY & HEBERT REUNION - PHOTOS



Right: Art Guidry

A large gathering of Guidry & Hebert family members enjoying Cajun music with La-To Pea Ramblers, presentations and displays followed by a delicious meal prepared by Chef Barry Guidry, E.J. Guidry and Jay Guidry





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**GUÉDRY & HEBERT REUNION - PHOTOS**

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Presentation by Art Guidry of New York, NY - "Seeking My Roots: A Louisiana Creole Genealogical Study from St. Landry Parish"



Bob Guidry reads his poem - "Ode to Live Oak"



Presentation by Greg Wood of Olney, MD on his new book Becoming the Frechified State of Maryland



E. J. Guidry accepts the Circle of Distinction Award on behalf of his uncle Paul L. Guidry Sr.



Marty Guidry presents Irving and Doris Thibodeaux with a plaque of the Guedry Family Crest.



David Guidry accepts the Circle of Distinction Award on behalf of his father Richard P. "Dick" Guidry

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**GUÉDRY & HEBERT REUNION - PHOTOS**

Jeff Killingsworth - Reunion /Sales Committee



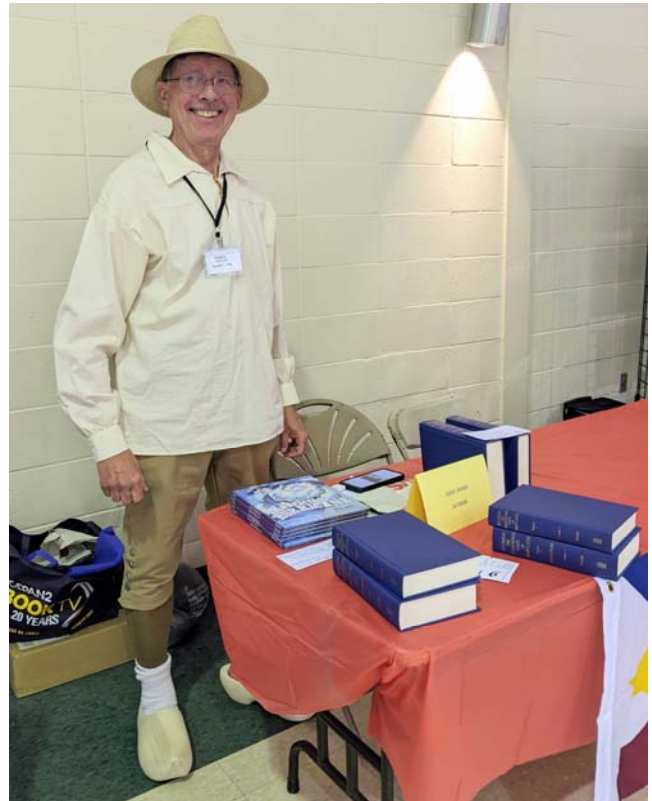
Charlene Guidry Lacombe - Membership Committee, next to her square on the family quilt from the 2004 Reunion, sewn by Cindy Guidry Herdt



Rachel Killingsworth - Registration & Sales Committee & Allie Guidry, Editor-GENERATIONS Newsletter



Paul Guidry - Artist



Greg Wood - Author



## GUÉDRY & HEBERT REUNION - PHOTOS



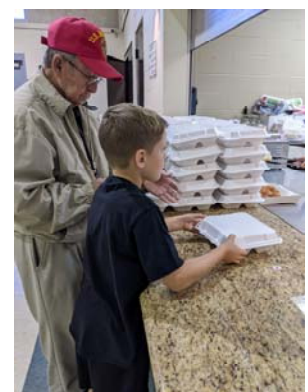
Chad J. Lebanc - Author



Copy of Queen Elizabeth's Royal Proclamation, displayed on the sales table of Warren & Mary Perrin.



*Left: John Hebert, Barry Guidry & Jay Guidry. Above: Barry Guidry stirs the Jambalaya & E.J. Guidry cooks up some cracklins. Below: Among the many folks that helped serve the meal are Daniel "Chuck" Guidry, Eric & Nolan Guidry and Rogers Romero.*



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**LES GUÉDRY ET PETITPAS D'ASTEUR  
CIRCLE OF DISTINCTION  
2022 INDUCTEES**

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In 2011 The Board of Directors of Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Astaur, Inc. created the Circle of Distinction to honor members of the Guédry and Petitpas families that meet specific criteria and are selected by the Board.

The Board of Directors of Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Astaur will periodically select up to six (6) persons a year to the Circle of Distinction. Recipients will receive a Circle of Distinction Certificate and a Gold Medal.

In selecting persons for the Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Astaur Circle of Distinction, the Board will use these criteria:

- \* The person must be a direct descendant of either Claude Guédry and Marguerite Petitpas or Claude Petitpas and Catherine Bugaret.
- \* Persons with any variation of the Guédry or Petitpas surname are eligible.
- \* The person through their work, their avocation or their life must have brought distinction to the Guédry or Petitpas name.
- \* The person may be living or deceased.

On 8 October 2022 the Board of Directors of Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Astaur inducted into the Circle of Distinction:



Kelly Guidry

**Kelly Guidry** for capturing the flora, fauna and culture of Acadiana in his outstanding art and sculpture. A resident of Breaux Bridge, Louisiana, Kelly Guidry is called the "Chainsaw Guy". He's an acclaimed artist and sculptor. His chainsaw creates the artwork that his mind and hands finish. Besides native cedar and cypress, Kelly uses metal and copper to create his sought-after works. Kelly successfully meets the challenge of combining wood and metal so that they are natural extensions of each other. Each new project presents a challenge requiring innovative solutions. Kelly's work is both subtractive and constructive sculpture and reflects the flora, fauna, culture and people of his native Acadiana. In 2016 Kelly garnered featured artist honors at the Louisiana Book Festival. As a child, Kelly formed small animals with sticks and moss. Over time, his distinctive style appeared and has fascinated the art world ever since. Kelly displays his work at galleries throughout the region, attends festivals and art shows, but, most importantly, opens his studio to the public so they can see firsthand how he creates his art and can appreciate his unique work. Kelly lives by his motto: Work Hard, Pray and Have Faith. Kelly and his wife Robin, also an artist, have one daughter.

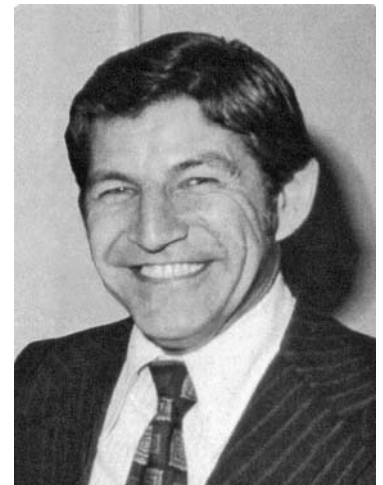
**Paul L. Guidry Sr.** for his exemplary service to the United States with the U. S. Travel Service and the International Trade Association. Born in 1926 in Reserve, LA, Paul L. Guidry Sr. was the son of Edwin J. Guidry and Eva Graunard of Terre Haute Plantation. After serving during WWII in the U. S. Army 8<sup>th</sup> Service Command, Paul pursued his passion for international culture and languages becoming proficient in Spanish, German and French (both Parisian and Cajun). He later added Italian to his repertoire. Paul's schooling included colleges in the U. S., Switzerland, Mexico City and Puebla, Mexico. Initially working for Eastern Airlines as regional sales manager for Mexico and Central America, Paul later joined the U. S. Department of Commerce as Regional Director of the U. S. Travel Service at Mexico City. In 1969 he was posted to Paris, France. Paul returned to Louisiana in 1985 as District Director of Foreign Commercial Service in New Orleans. His final assignment was Regional Director of the Western Hemisphere for the International Trade Association in New Orleans. Paul's passion for people and culture, mastery of five languages and his love of life made him well-respected in the international community.

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**LES GUÉDRY ET PETITPAS D'ASTEUR**  
**CIRCLE OF DISTINCTION**  
**2022 INDUCTEES**

He developed many award-winning and innovative programs that improved America's image in foreign countries and garnered honors for him around the world. Paul especially enjoyed promoting his beloved Louisiana. Paul was known as a builder of bridges between peoples. Paul Guidry passed away in 2008 and his wife Myrtis (Merle) Williams Guidry died in 2020. They had five sons and two daughters.



Paul L. Guidry Sr.

**Richard P. "Dick" Guidry** for his outstanding career as a Louisiana State Representative where he accomplished much for his south Lafourche Parish constituents. Born in the Lafourche Parish town of Galliano in 1929, Richard "Dick" Guidry never forgot his roots nor his people. After completing high school, he briefly entered the real estate business. In 1952 Dick became the youngest person ever to win a seat in the Louisiana House of Representatives. He served from 1952-1956 and from 1964-1976. Always looking to the future for Lafourche Parish, he won approval for the South Lafourche Levee District. This 48-mile ring levee in south Lafourche Parish has protected residents and structures of south Lafourche Parish many times over the years. When neighboring parishes flooded during Hurricane Katrina in 2005, south Lafourche remained dry - saving many lives and countless dollars in potential devastation. Dick had lift bridges built across Bayou Lafourche to connect both sides of the bayou communities. He was a driving force for the establishment of Port Fourchon – an instrumental part of the oil industry in the Gulf of Mexico and a source of much-needed jobs. He proposed the construction of the pump station that today brings Mississippi River water into Bayou Lafourche for drinking water, fisheries employment and recreation. Dick also secured funding for several buildings at Nicholls State University. Recognized by his fellow citizens for his tireless efforts to move Lafourche Parish forward, Richard Guidry was inducted into the Louisiana Political Museum and Hall of Fame in 2014. Many have said that his greatest political attribute was his foresight – looking to the future for his parish. Dick Guidry always believed in his country, believed in Acadiana and believed in the hard work ethic of the Cajun people. Dick passed away in 2014 – a year before his wife Phyllis. They had six children.



Richard P. "Dick" Guidry

**Scott Guidry** for his distinguished career conducting bands in the USAF and at Bemidji State University. A native of Carencro, Louisiana, Scott Guidry was surrounded from birth with musicians from his family. After graduating from Loyola University in 1982 in music education, Scott became the band director at Carencro High School and then Lafayette High School. In 1993 he joined the USAF and quickly progressed from Executive Officer of the USAF Band at Bolling AFB, DC to Commander of the USAF Band of Liberty, Commander of the US Air Forces in Europe Band and finally as Director of Operations of the USAF Band and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Command of all USAF Bands. He has traveled to over 30 countries in Europe and Asia conducting USAF bands and worked with many renown guest artists. Scott has led ceremonial USAF bands at the White House, Joint Base Andrews and Arlington National Cemetery. In 2007 Scott retired from the USAF after a 20-year career and joined the faculty of Bemidji State University as an Associate Professor and Director of Bands. At BSU he conducts the Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band and Symphonic Band in addition to teaching. Actively involved in the Bemidji community, Scott hosts the annual high school honor band, jazz festival and conducts the BSU spring opera. Scott and his wife Heather, an Oboe Instructor at BSU, have three grown children.

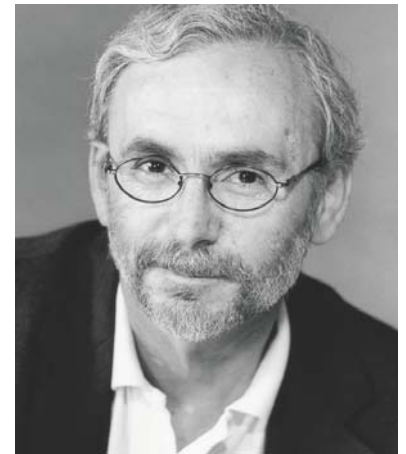
**LES GUÉDRY ET PETITPAS D'ASTEUR  
CIRCLE OF DISTINCTION  
2022 INDUCTEES**



Throughout his career and life Scott Guidry has lived by his commitment to excellence – “You can’t teach excellence without having achieved excellence.”

*Left: Scott Guidry*

**Marcel Labine** for his outstanding career as one of Québec’s most acclaimed poets. Having taught literature at the Collège de Maisonneuve in Montréal for 33 years, Marcel first published a collection of his work in 1975 in the journal *Les Herbes Rouges*. Subsequently, he published in *Estuaire*, *Exit*, *La Nouvelle Barre du Jour* and *Moebius*. Over the years he participated in many readings of his poetry and was on the editorial board of *La Nouvelle Barre du Jour* for the Première Ligne collection. Marcel’s “Papiers d’Épidémie” won the Governor General’s Award in 1998. Other honors he has received include the Excellence Award for Best Fiction Text (1988), Grand Prix Québécois at the International Poetry Festival (2006), Gabrielle-Roy Writing Scholarship (2012) and the Montréal Poetry Festival Award (2013) as well as several finalist selections. Marcel also has published prose including the essay “The American Roman in Question”. Marcel pursues a body of work with inventive forms that look at urban and imaginary landscapes haunted by decline. Marcel Labine’s award-winning poetry and prose bring great distinction to his Guédry/Labine family.



Marcel Labine



Eugene Pettipas

**Eugene Pettipas** for his major impact on Canadian Maritime motorsports and his successful racing career. A resident of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Eugene Pettipas has devoted his life to his passion – anything fast on four wheels. His involvement in auto racing runs the gamut from competitor to builder to team owner and sponsor. In 1969 Eugene began his racing career in drag racing where he had multiple wins. The next year he took his 1969 Corvette to the track and entered road racing. Go-Karts attracted him in 1981 and for two years he raced them with the Atlantic Motorsport Karting Association. Eugene purchased his second 1969 Corvette in 1989 and during the next nine years had many class wins and became a fixture on the Canadian road racing circuit and in Maritime road racing. In 1991 he won both the GT-1 championship and the Halifax Moosehead Grand Prix. During 1986-1988 he was instrumental in building the Maitland International Raceway and during 1991-1992 was Track President at

Atlantic Motorsport Park. Eugene retired from active racing in 1997, but not from the sport. He has sponsored many racers through his business ventures Dairy Queen and Heritage Cedar Homes. Today Eugene owns the Pettipas Racing Team through which his two sons Aaron and Leigh continue the family racing tradition. In November 2008 the Maritime Motorsports Hall of Fame inducted Eugene Pettipas into its ranks.



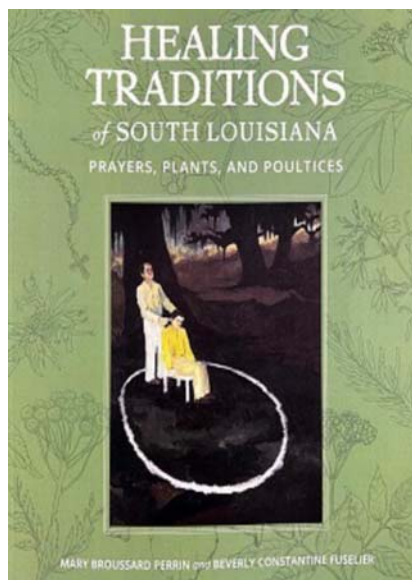
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## BOOK NOOK

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### HEALING TRADITIONS *of* SOUTH LOUISIANA PRAYERS, PLANTS AND POULTICES

*By Mary Broussard Perrin and Beverly Constantine Fuselier*



This book invites you to connect with Acadians, Creoles, and Native Americans as they strive to maintain and restore good health within their families and communities. Many of the remedies and healthful practices included in *Healing Traditions of South Louisiana* are decades and even hundreds of years old, and, as you will discover, some are still in use today. This book has two distinct parts that eventually overlap in the stories and remedies that come forth. The beginning starts at “the beginning” of recorded medicine when long ago practices emerged. Advancing to the more recent past you will be swept up in the local tradition of the South Louisiana “*Traiteur*” or healer, who administered to the restorative health needs of the community with secret prayers passed from one *traiteur* to another, knowledge of medicinal plants, or the use of both. Yes, *traiteurs* exist today and still offer prayers and comfort when they are asked and several have been interviewed for this book. The second part of the book introduces you to medicinal plants that contain a myriad of healing properties that are still relieving symptoms and discomfort today. All of the plants are identified by their common and Latin names. Additionally, their descriptions, growing practices, and interesting folklore bring them to life.

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Honore, a well respected and very successful man in his community of Pisiguit, Acadia suddenly comes to find himself and his young family without a home. His son Joseph had just turned two years old. They are scattered to the winds across the Atlantic to England then France. The years pass and Joseph, now a young man, longs to be reunited with his extended family in south Louisiana.

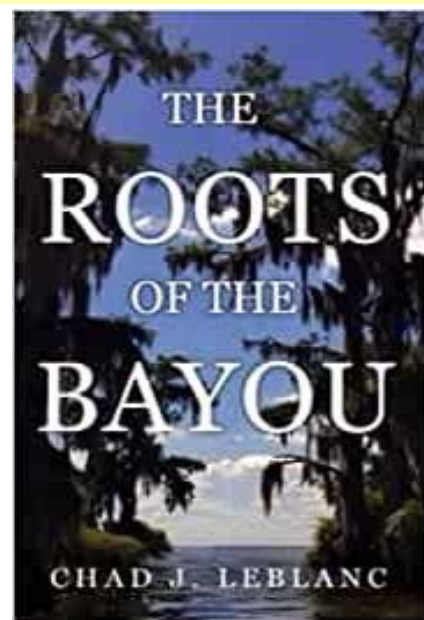
Meanwhile, nearly three thousand miles away in the Canary Islands, a young man named Andres must face the harsh realities and misfortunes of life before he is finally presented with an opportunity for a fresh start in Louisiana.

These two peoples from different places, speaking different languages, and having different cultures ultimately come together in the inhospitable swamps and along the murky bayous of Ascension parish. Will their differences create an environment of conflict and strife, or will their shared faith bring them together?

Follow the journey of these courageous and resilient people as they live off the land and face life’s challenges. Along the way, you will come to know the fascinating history of these two cultures and the vastly different circumstances that brought them together.

### THE ROOTS OF THE BAYOU

*by Chad J. Leblanc*



# Guillaume Petitpas and Angélique Sceau, Wayfarers of the Atlantic

Rev. Jean-François Petitpas

*Dans les prisons de Londres et dans le port de Nantes,  
pendant de longues années, ils vivèrent dans l'attente  
de pouvoir retourner chez eux en Amérique;  
on les a bien nommés, les piétons de l'Atlantique.  
Ces braves paysans qui venaient du Poitou,  
du Berry, de la Touraine, de la Bretagne, de l'Anjou.  
Ils avaient tout quitté pour un peu de liberté;  
on les a condamnés à vivre en exilés.*<sup>1</sup>

*[In in the prisons of London and in the port of Nantes,  
long years they waited to return,  
to come back to America.  
For freedom they had left behind  
their lives in Poitou, Brittany,  
in Berry, Touraine, in Anjou,  
these uncomplaining farmers, now  
condemned to exile, far from home,  
wayfarers of the Atlantic.]*

While these lines by Acadian singer Angèle Arsenault capture the tragic story of most Acadian families, they are particularly apt in reference to our ancestor Guillaume Petitpas. He and his wife Angélique Sceau, deported to France no fewer than three times, certainly earned the nickname of *wayfarers of the Atlantic*.

## Family background

Born in Port Toulouse (now St. Peter's Bay), Cape Breton, around 1735<sup>2</sup>, Guillaume Petitpas was the ninth child and seventh son of Barthélémy Petitpas and Madeleine Coste. His father Barthélémy, son of Claude Petitpas and MarieThérèse, an Amerindian woman, was initially a ship's pilot and later an agent and interpreter with the Micmacs, being fluent in their language. These facts are confirmed in a letter dated August 3, 1734 to France's Minister of the Colonies in Paris:

Barthélemy Petitpas, interpreter of the savages, can no longer live and support his family on his salary of 300 [livres]. His service does not permit him to engage in other occupations. Previously a ship's pilot, he left everything on the strength of promises made to him that he would have reason to be satisfied. No other subject is fitted to be an interpreter. He is obliged to spend the winter in Mirliguech with the missionary to the savages, to teach him the language.<sup>3</sup>

The archives report that, following this request, on January 25, 1735 Barthélémy Petitpas was paid 600 livres. It is also recorded that Barthélémy alternated working for the French and the English, thus

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1 Arsenault, Angèle (1943-2014), *Grand-Pré*, song composed for the 1994 Acadian World Congress.

2 The date of Guillaume Petitpas' birth varies from one census to another: 1735 (1752 census); 1736 (1776 census); 1733 (1785 census); 1734 (1804 census).

3 Saint-Ovide de Brouillan et Le Normand to the Minister, Île Royale, August 3, 1734, *Archives des colonies*, série C11B, vol. 15, fol. 12 et 12v.



annoying them both:

Ironically in Barthélémy Petitpas' career, while in 1717 French writer Pierre-Auguste de Soubras described him as "a bad subject, capable of what is most contrary to our interests", around the same time English official John Doucett accused him of causing "great harm to his sovereign's subjects, by unleashing the savages' anger against them."<sup>4</sup>

In 1745, after Louisbourg was taken by forces from New England, Barthélémy Petitpas was captured and imprisoned in Boston. Massachusetts Governor William Shirley refused all requests for his release, and Barthélémy died in January 1747, still in a Boston prison. In a letter dated July 31, 1747 to the Marquis de Beauharnois, Gouverneur General of New France, Governor Shirley justifies his position in the following terms:

The pilot to whom Monsieur de Caylus refers in his letter to me was named Petitpas [Barthélémy]; he died before I received the said letter. He was originally from Acadia where, for a number of years after the Acadians became subjects of His Majesty under the Treaty of Utrecht, he lived with the family of his father, who was a faithful subject of the British crown, having received favours from that government for his services; thus the son did not have the right to repudiate his allegiance and enter the service of the King of France. I therefore had an undisputed right to retain him; that said, his death puts an end to any discussion about him.<sup>5</sup>

At that time, Guillaume Petitpas was a very young adolescent. According to the census conducted in 1752 by the Sieur de Laroque, Guillaume lived with his family at Baie de l'Ardoise, in the parish of Havre-Saint-Esprit, on Île Royale (Cape Breton):

Madeleine Coste, widow of the late Barthélémy Petitpas, born in Port-Royal, aged 54 years. Her six children, two married: Madeleine, aged 34 years, and Joseph, aged 29 years; unmarried: Jean-Baptiste, aged 24 years, Pierre, aged 21 years, Claude, aged 18 years, Guillaume, aged 17 years, and Pélagie, aged 14 years, all born in Port-Toulouse. Her livestock: one bull, four cows, one calf, two hogs, five hens. Owns a dory and a large garden.<sup>6</sup>

### **First deportation: Rochefort (1758)**

The taking of the fortress of Louisbourg on July 27, 1758, was to have devastating repercussions for the inhabitants of Île Royale. After this second capture of Louisbourg, more than 3,100 Acadiens were deported to Britain and, from there, to the French ports of Rochefort, La Rochelle and Saint-Malo. The next traces of Guillaume Petitpas and his family can be found in Rochefort, starting in mid-September 1758. The register of the parish of Saint-Louis notes the death of Guillaume's brother Joseph, approximately 36, on October 24, 1758, and of his sister Madeleine, 41, on November 4. Also in the parish of Saint-Louis, on February 12, 1760, Charles Lavigne, the widower of Madeleine Petitpas, married Marie-Anne Lafargue, widow of Joseph Petitpas. As well, according to the records of the Hôpital royal de la Marine in Rochefort, another brother of Guillaume Petitpas, Pierre, died there on October 17, 1758, three days after being admitted.

What happened to Guillaume's mother, Madeleine Coste, enumerated along with her family in the 1752 census at Baie de l'Ardoise? Her fate is uncertain. Tradition has it that she died around 1754 at Baie de l'Ardoise, or at Port-Toulouse, depending on the source. When Guillaume married in 1764, he was declared to be the son of the late Barthélémy Petitpas and of Madeleine Coste, and thus it has been suggested that Madeleine was still living at that time. This evidence is not conclusive, however: although Guillaume's bride, Angélique Sceau, was declared to be the daughter of the late Étienne Sceau and of Marie-Anne Lafargue, both of her parents had died in Rochefort, Étienne Sceau on October 23, 1758 and Marie-Anne Lafargue on November 6 of the same year.

<sup>4</sup> Pothier, Bernard, *Dictionnaire Biographique du Canada*, Québec, Presses de l'Université Laval, 1974, tome III, pages 554-555.

<sup>5</sup> Quebec Legislature, *Collection de documents relatifs à l'histoire de la Nouvelle-France*, Québec, Imprimerie A. Côté et cie, 1884, tome III, page 379.

<sup>6</sup> Census conducted by the Sieur de Laroque, Île Royale, 1752, page 12.

The following few details are known about Guillaume Petitpas' early years in Rochefort. On January 16, 1764, in the church of Saint-Louis in Rochefort, he married Angélique Sceau, daughter of Étienne Sceau and Marie-Anne Lafargue. Angélique was born around 1739 in Havre-Saint-Esprit, the same location where Guillaume's family was enumerated in the 1752 census; thus she, too, was an Acadian who had been exiled from Île Royale. According to Guillaume's marriage certificate, he worked in the port of Rochefort as a day labourer and a carpenter. As well, the fact that Guillaume signed his marriage contract indicates that he was literate.

**Certificate of marriage of Guillaume Petitpas and Angélique Sceau, church of Saint-Louis, Rochefort,**

January 16, 1764 In the year one thousand seven hundred sixty four, on the sixteenth day of January, three marriage banns having been publicized in this church with no civil opposition or canonical bar, the rules and comandments of the Church and of this diocese having been observed, the betrothal having been formalized yesterday before the Church, and the contract having been drawn up by Maître Gaultier, royal notary: after receiving the mutual consent of the contracting parties by proxy, we the undersigned, priest of the Congrégation de la Mission, exercising the duties of curate in the parish of Saint-Louis, Rochefort, conferred the nuptial blessing on Guillaume Petitpas, day labourer and carpenter in the port, of legal age, son of the late Barthélemy Petitpas and of Madeleine Coste, his father and mother, born in Port Toulouse, Île Royale, and living in this city for the past five years; and Angélique Sceau, daughter of the late Étienne Sceau and of Marie-Anne Lafargue, her father and mother, born in the parish of Havre-du-Saint-Esprit, Île Royale, diocese of Québec, and living in this city for the past five years; in the présence of Paul Petitpas, brother of the groom, Jean Sempau, first cousin of the bride, Hugues Bossol, surgeon [...], of Louisbourg, and Jacques Simeau, who with the groom have signed with me, the bride having stated that she does not know how to perform this formality.

[signatures]

## **Miquelon**

The Treaty of Paris, signed on February 10, 1763, finally ended the Seven Years' War (1756-1763), which had been so fateful for the Acadians. Of all its North American colonies, France retained only the tiny islands of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon. A first governor, the Sieur de Dangeac, was appointed on February 23, 1763 and authorized to settle 350 persons, including 50 soldiers, on the islands. However, the islands' small size led to apprehension of overpopulation and ensuing shortages and starvation, as can be seen in the following instructions from the Minister of the Colonies to the new Governor:

With these families, care must be taken to avoid the difficulties experienced on Île Royale after the repossession [the Treaty of Utrecht, 1713]. From the king's stores, all sorts of fishing gear were distributed, most of which were never returned, and which merely gave the inhabitants the benefit of living on the island without being of any use. What is needed on these islands are people suited for fishing, workers, and not inhabitants with no status or occupation ... It is appropriate to reject those who will not be of use. <sup>7</sup>

Starting in the summer of 1763, Acadian exiles began to return to these islands, mainly from the French ports of Saint-Malo and Rochefort. It is most likely that Guillaume Petitpas and Angélique Sceau arrived on Miquelon in the summer of 1764. They married in Rochefort in January 1764, and had their first child baptized on Miquelon on February 26, 1765. Miquelon historian Michel Poirier reports that the names of some "fifty Acadians from Île Royale and Acadia, who had been refugees in Saint-Malo (and some in Rochefort) appear on the passenger lists of ships leaving for Saint-Pierre (and Miquelon)" from 1764 until 1766. <sup>8</sup> Suprisingly, there is no mention of Guillaume Petitpas or his

<sup>7</sup> Letter from France's Minister of the Colonies to the Sieur de Dangeac, February 1763, Paris, *Archives nationales*, F3 54, f 39; 467.

<sup>8</sup> Poirier, Michel, *Les Acadiens aux Îles Saint-Pierre et Miquelon*, Moncton, Les Éditions d'Acadie, 1984, page 30.

family among the 551 Acadians on Miquelon recorded in the May 15, 1767 census conducted by the Sieur de Dangeac; in a footnote to his transcription of this census, Michel Poirier affirms that some families were certainly omitted.<sup>9</sup>

Having settled on Miquelon, Guillaume appears to have worked as a fisher and a carpenter, as is noted in the 1785 census. Indeed, at the time of his marriage in 1764, he stated that he was a day labourer and a carpenter in the port of Rochefort. On the island, living conditions were still very precarious, as can be seen from a 1769 report by Joseph Woodmass, who was sent to Saint-Pierre and Miquelon by the Governor of Nova Scotia:

On Miquelon there is a single merchant, with a very bare store. The houses are built of only very small spruce trees, there are a few thin cows, and ewes and lambs brought from France are starving. It costs the government considerable amounts of money to maintain this colony, whose goods are of such mediocre quality and so prohibitively priced that they cannot be sold in the English colonies. In these places, the government not only maintains officers, but is also obliged in winter to provide bread to the inhabitants, at less than cost price. Some Acadians told me that during the first three years they had received only one bread ration from the government, and that, without this assistance, they survived only with great difficulty. A number of them asked me for passports to Nova Scotia. When I refused, they said that at the end of the year they would go there on their own recognizance and at their own risk.<sup>10</sup>

In the 1770s, the market for dried cod, shipped mainly to France but also to other French colonies including Guadeloupe, Martinique and Saint-Domingue, gave the islands a significant economic boost. Trade with the New England colonies allowed the Acadians to acquire construction materials such as planks, boards and shingles, as well as flour and tobacco. During this boom, Guillaume and Angélique expanded their family as well, producing eight children between 1765 and 1777:

1. **Madeleine**: baptized on Miquelon on February 25, 1765, godfather Paul Petitpas, godmother Marguerite Sceau; married on Miquelon on July 5, 1787 to Jean Daguerre, son of Jean and of Jeanne Grilhardet of the diocese of Dax, France; died in Bordeaux on January 22, 1853.
2. **Marie-Josèphe**, known as **Josette**: baptized on Miquelon on March 19, 1766, godfather Jean Coste, godmother Geneviève Sceau; married on Miquelon on November 15, 1787 to Jean Chevalier, son of Georges and of Jeanne Le Breton, of Saint-Pierre-Langers, département of La Manche, France; died in Halifax around 1795.
3. **Jean-Baptiste**: born and baptized on Miquelon on June 14, 1768, godfather Jean-Baptiste Petitpas, godmother Charlotte Lavigne; married around 1795 to Rosalie Vigneau, daughter of Joseph and of Madeleine Cyr, of Miquelon; died at Bordeaux between the 1804 census and August 27, 1805.
4. **François**: Born on Miquelon on January 22 and baptized on January 25, 1770, godfather François Briand, godmother Anne Lafargue; married at Havre-Aubert, Magdalen Islands, on September 16, 1805 to Anne Boudreau, daughter of François Boudreau and of Marie Boudreau known as Castor, of Havre-Aubert; died at Cap-aux-Meules, Magdalen Islands, on January 22 and buried in Havreux Maisons on January 23, 1858 [*François is the author's greatgreatgrandfather*].
5. **Paul**: born on Miquelon on April 9 and baptized on April 10, 1772, godfather Michel LeBorgne, godmother Jeanne-Suzanne Mancel; died at La Rochelle on September 18 and buried in the parish of Saint-Nicolas on September 19, 1779.
6. **Pierre**: born on Miquelon on January 11 and baptized on January 12, 1774, godfather Pierre Boisramé, godmother Madeleine Hébert; died after 1804.
7. **Jacques**: born and baptized on Miquelon on September 22, 1775, godfather Jacques

<sup>9</sup> Poirier, Michel, *op. cit.*, pages 201-218.

<sup>10</sup> Colonial official records, London UK, published by Placide Gaudet, *Rapport des archives publiques du Canada*, 1905, tome 2, pages 225-227.



Arrondel, godmother Madeleine Petitpas; died at La Rochelle on September 15 and buried in the parish of Saint-Nicolas on September 16, 1779.

8. **Pélagie**: born and baptized on Miquelon on October 10, 1777, godfather François Bois, godmother Josette Petitpas; died at La Rochelle on September 27 and buried in the parish of Saint-Nicolas on September 28, 1779.

On November 1, 1776, a new census of the islands of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon provides some details about the family and its possessions:

Guillaume Petitpas, 40; his wife Angélique Sceau, 35; their children: Madeleine, 11; Josette, 10; Jean-Baptiste, 8; François, 7; Pierre, 5; Paul, 3; Jacques, 2; owns a house, a halfshare in a pebble beach shoreline where fish catches are landed, a quartershare in a barn <sup>11</sup>, and a halfshare in a dory. <sup>12</sup>

For these islanders, life could have flowed on, slowly and surely, through waves and undercurrents, with each day of patient labour and hard earned rest bringing a little more comfort to evergrowing households – if it hadn't been for political ambitions in high places. By an accident of history, aspirations of independance in the American colonies meant exile once again for the Acadian settlers on Miquelon.

## **Second deportation: La Rochelle (1778)**

In 1775, Britain's Thirteen Colonies in North America initiated a revolutionary war with the old country. The war would culminate in the Declaration of Independance on July 4, 1776 and official British recognition of the United States of America in 1783. On February 6, 1778, France entered the conflict on the side of the colonies, effectively declaring war on Britain. On October 1, 1778, the British took Saint-Pierre and Miquelon and deported the inhabitants once again to France.

The distress among these luckless Acadians can only be imagined, reexperiencing as they did the nightmarish events of 1758, 20 years previously. Once again, the British soliders left nothing to chance:

Whatever was not pillaged was set afire: 237 houses, 126 fishing shelters, 89 storehouses, six bakeries, 79 stables, 38 barns and a great many dories. Even the wharf and the beaches where fish catches were landed were destroyed, and the inhabitants herded aboard with not even an opportunity to save their ragged clothing, the houses being set on fire the moment the occupants had left. <sup>13</sup>

Dr. Paterson, surgeon to the British troops aboard *H.M.S. Pallas*, in a letter written on October 19, 1778 from St. John's, Newfoundland, writes:

We arrived on the 15th and took possession of the island. On the 16th, we marched all the inhabitants aboard, as they were, to ship them back to France; after which we seized two French ships and loaded them with the most valuable items we had found on the island, valued at 12,000£; otherwise, if we had had enough ships to take all the goods, we could have had three times that amount. As soon as the inhabitants had been taken aboard the ships, we burned the town, the houses, the storehouses and other remaining buildings, along with several thousand pounds of fish. <sup>14</sup>

For the second time, now accompanied by his family, Guillaume Petitpas crossed the Atlantic toward the Old World. After landing at the port of La Rochelle in November 1778, they settled (or were settled) in the parish of Saint-Nicolas in La Rochelle. Other groups of Acadians would be located in Nantes, Rochefort, Cherbourg and Saint-Malo.

<sup>11</sup> Wiktionnaire indicates that the old French term "chafaud" means a building to store hay or grain.

<sup>12</sup> Poirier, Michel, *op. cit.*, page 283.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid*, page 98.

<sup>14</sup> Published in *The London Chronicle*, London UK, November 17, 1778.

For Guillaume and Angélique, as for so many families, this repeated exile was characterized not only by hardship and want, but also by mourning. On September 15, 1779, they lost their son Jacques, 4; four days later, on September 19, they buried another son, Paul, 7; and on September 27, little Pélagie, 2, passed away. And yet, beyond suffering, life goes on: soon three more children, including twins, took the place of those who had died:

9. **Anne-Pélagie**: born at La Rochelle on January 12 and baptized on January 13, 1780 in the parish of Saint-Nicolas, godfather Pierre Letiecq, godmother Anne Lavigne; died at La Rochelle on March 9 and buried March 10, 1784 in the parish of Saint-Nicolas.
10. **Louis-Toussaint**: born and baptized at La Rochelle on March 22, 1782 in the parish of Saint-Nicolas, godfather Toussaint Letiecq, godmother Madeleine Petitpas; died at La Rochelle on December 27 and buried on December 28, 1782 in the parish of Saint-Nicolas.
11. **Angélique**: born and baptized at La Rochelle on March 22, 1782 in the parish of Saint-Nicolas, godfather Jean-Baptiste Petitpas, godmother Marie-Anne Briand; became a nun and died at the convent of the Filles de Marie Notre-Dame in Bordeaux on December 19, 1850.

Here again, except for baptisms and burials in parish registers, little information remains about the living conditions of Guillaume and his family during their time of exile in La Rochelle. Historian Michel Poirier summarizes the life of the former inhabitants of Miquelon deported to La Rochelle as follows:

For a few years, then, these impoverished refugees were again in touch with family members who had been deported from Acadia and had remained in France, not joining the 1767 emigration. They were granted 12 sols per adult per day and six sols per child per day. For five years, these farmer-seafarers experienced unfamiliar idleness, although replacing French sailors, conscripted by the military navy, on coastal shipping routes.<sup>15</sup>

## Return to Miquelon

On September 3, 1783, the signature of the Treaty of Versailles, recognizing the independence of the United States of America, also returned the islands of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon to France. A decision was made to reestablish the small colony. A letter was circulated in the main port cities of France, inviting the Acadian refugees to attempt, once again, the adventure of the Americas. There were conditions, however:

Only those persons who could make themselves useful would be transported at the king's expense and supplied with provisions for six months or one year. Nearly 1,250 persons signed up, most of them originally from Acadia, Île Saint-Jean or Louisbourg: 717 in La Rochelle, 420 in Saint-Malo, 26 in Lorient, 23 in Nantes, 27 in Cherbourg, 21 in Bayonne and eight in Granville.<sup>16</sup>

Still apprehensive that too large an influx of immigrants would hinder the islands' development, Monsieur Marchais, Shipping Commissioner at La Rochelle, made the following request:

that the number of persons from La Rochelle, particularly unproductive mouths, be considerably reduced; this reduction affects families with six or eight children. [Although] the proposal appears to be very strict, children from the age of 10 can work on the beaches where fish catches are landed.<sup>17</sup>

Eventually 120 refugees from La Rochelle set sail again for the islands of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon. According to the census conducted on Saint-Pierre on December 23, 1783, many families had already returned there. The situation must have been the same on Miquelon, where, with the exception of a single entry in 1783, the parish registers begin again on April 18, 1784.

It can be seen that Guillaume Petitpas and his family were still in La Rochelle on March 10, 1784,

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<sup>15</sup> Poirier, Michel, *op. cit.*, page 99.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, page 100.

when their young daughter Anne-Pélagie was buried in the parish of Saint-Nicolas. Thus it was that same year, 1784, that the family crossed the Atlantic for the fourth – and, unfortunately, not the last – time. This time again, Guillaume, Angélique and their six remaining children were obliged to start from scratch. According to the census conducted on Miquelon on November 12, 1785, Guillaume had taken up his former trades again, and the family was relatively well off:

Petitpas, Guillaume, 52; Sceau, Angélique, his wife, 46; their children: Jean-Baptiste, 17, François, 15, Pierre, 13, Madeleine, 20, Joséphine, 18, Angélique, 3.

Notes: A fisher and a carpenter, he has a halfshare in a dory that he uses for fishing. He and his children work at the beach where fish catches are landed. He has a garden. <sup>18</sup>

Guillaume's nephew Jean-Baptiste Petitpas, the son of his brother Joseph who had died at Rochefort in 1758, occupied the neighbouring property with his wife Marie Vigneau and their three sons. On July 5, 1787, Madeleine, the oldest of Guillaume's and Angélique's children, was the first to marry, in the church of Notre-Dame des Ardilliers on Miquelon, taking as her husband Jean Daguerre, originally from Saint-Pierre d'Arraute in the diocese of Dax, Navarre, France, son of the late Jean Daguerre (or Daguère) and of Jeanne Grilhardet. A few months later, on November 15, it was the turn of her younger sister, Marie-Josèphe, known as Josette or Joséphine, who married Jean Chevalier, son of Georges Chevalier and of Jeanne Le Breton, originally from Saint-Pierre de Langeac, Normandy, France. One of the witnesses who signed the parish register that day was Paul Petitpas, Guillaume's brother and Josette's uncle. Only 10 days later, on November 25, 1787, Paul, who had not married, was drowned off Miquelon at age 48.

While the taking of the Bastille in Paris on July 14, 1789 triggered significant upheavals in France, its repercussions were felt more slowly on Miquelon. In 1792, the Assemblée générale of the commune of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon was established. It is noted that, in general, the residents of Saint-Pierre had more republican sentiments than the inhabitants of Miquelon, most of whom were Acadian and remained attached to their religion and their institutions. On April 12, 1793, anxious at the spread of revolutionary ideas on their island, a group of some 250 Acadians left Miquelon for the Magadalen Islands, accompanied by their parish priest, the Reverend Jean-Baptiste Allain, who had refused to take the constitutional oath required of clergy by the revolutionaries. This group of people would form the core of the population of the Magdalen Islands.

Guillaume Petitpas, however, decided to remain with his family on Miquelon, where misfortune soon caught up with him again. On February 1, 1793, revolutionary France declared war on Britain; once again, the conflict would have consequences for the colonies in America.

On May 14, 1793, British forces led by Admiral King attacked the islands. The French troops were obliged to surrender and depart for France. By contrast with the events of 1778, this time the British did not destroy the colony but determined to rally the population, then numbering some 1,200 inhabitants, to their cause. This attempt failed in the face of the Miquelonnais' persistent attachment to France, and the British authorities decided to deport the inhabitants of Miquelon, first to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and then back to France. For Guillaume Petitpas and his family, this decision meant deportation and exile once again.

### **Third deportation: Halifax (1795) and Bordeaux (1797)**

On September 14, 1794, all the inhabitants of Miquelon were taken to Halifax, where most of them were employed on fishing vessels and transport ships. During these years of captivity in Halifax, around 1795 Guillaume and Angélique had the sorrow of losing their daughter Josette, who had married Jean Chevalier. Sir John Wentworth, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, also attempted to assimilate this French-speaking Roman Catholic population, and failed. Stating that he "could no longer hope to come to any terms with them", he, too, decided to send the Acadians off to France.

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<sup>18</sup> Poirier, Michel, *op. cit.*, page 369.



Guillaume Petitpas and his family boarded the ship *Washington*, and reached Bordeaux on July 20, 1797. For Guillaume and Angélique, this would be the fifth, and last, Atlantic crossing.

On arriving in Bordeaux, like many other Acadian refugees, the family settled on the Quai des Chartrons, now in the neighbourhood of Mériadec, in what had been the monastery of the Carthusian monks, dispossessed by the French Revolution. A list of the occupants drawn up by a monastery official shortly after the arrival of the exiles from Miquelon enumerates 83 persons in 22 families. The names of Guillaume Petitpas, his wife and three children appear at the top of the list. Here, too, living arrangements were precarious, given that the Acadians had been able to bring very few goods with them. In a brief submitted in 1802, Claude Goueslard, a former inhabitant of Saint-Pierre who was deported to Bordeaux, describes the pitiable living conditions of the refugees from Miquelon at that time:

Imagine, citizen minister, a family of persons of all ages and both sexes, taken from their home some eight years previously, and during that time being transported to various countries where they were almost always without work, having nothing more to live on than assistance that the government deigned to provide. One need not offer a lengthy argument to convince you of the extent of their needs. I could swear to you that some of them would be in need of everything. You cannot imagine the extremity to which the elimination of food rations has reduced most of these families. Some of the children are practically naked. As well, to ensure that morality is maintained it will be necessary to provide them with beds and bedcovers. To convince you of this fact one need only point out that many of these people sleep on beds belonging to the Republic. Many do not have a single kettle in which to make soup, most of them using only earthen pots.<sup>19</sup>

## The end

For Guillaume Petitpas, this life was drawing to a close. After so many deportations, so many times of having to begin again with nothing, his only hope was for an old age that would be, not necessarily happy, but peaceful, with the few of his children who were still living. What became of them is related below.

In 1804, Guillaume Petitpas signed a document setting out the names and circumstances of the farming and fishing families from the islands of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon living in Bordeaux. The first lines of this enumeration read as follows:

Petitpas, Guillaume, 70; Sceau, Angélique, his wife, 59; François, their son, "in prison in England", 27; Pierre, their son, "signed on to a privateer vessel", 26; Angélique, their daughter, 17.<sup>20</sup>

A few months later, on August 27, 1804 (or Fructidor 9, year XII, according to the republican calendar then in use in France), Guillaume died in his lodgings in the former Carthusian monastery, as is witnessed in the following death certificate, dated September 2, 1804:

### **Death certificate of Guillaume Petitpas, resident of Bordeaux, Fructidor 15, year XII of the Republic (or September 2, 1804)**

Drawn up on this date: Death certificate of Guillaume Petitpas, deceased on the ninth day of this month at eight o'clock in the morning, born on Île Royale, aged seventy five years, husband of Angélique Sceau, both deported from the island of Saint-Pierre de Miquelon, living at the former Carthusian monastery, section 6, according to the statement made by citizens Pierre Abraham, Inspector of the general cemetery, and Jean-Baptiste Briand, also deported from the same island and living at the former Carthusian monastery, who have signed the document filed in the archives of the civil registry office. Recorded by myself, Assistant to the Mayor, acting as Registry Officer.

J. M. Pouchan

<sup>19</sup> Poirier, Michel, *op. cit.*, page 126.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, page 401.

Angélique Sceau, Guillaume Petitpas' widow, died a few years later, October 4, 1812. Her death certificate names her as *Catherine* Sceau:

**Death certificate of Angélique Sceau, resident of Bordeaux, October 5, 1812**

On the fifth day of this month, a document was filed by the Commissioner of Death Records indicating that Catherine (*sic*) Sceau, aged approximately seventy three, born in the parish of Havre-du-Saint-Esprit on Île Royale, diocese of Québec, widow of Guillaume Petitpas, ship's carpenter, living in the former Carthusian monastery, daughter of the late Étienne Sceau and of Marie-Anne Lafargue, died yesterday evening at four o'clock, according to the statement made by Jean Graule, concierge of the said former monastery and living there, and Louis André Cézenac, day labourer and also living in the same former monastery, witnesses of legal age who have signed the said document filed in the archives of the city registry office.

J. Labrouef, Assistant to the Mayor

After so many departures, displacements and deaths, Guillaume Petitpas and Angélique Sceau now rest in the old Cimetière Nord in the Bruges district of northern Bordeaux, under headstones that have long since forgotten their names.

## Descendants

As has been seen, the marriage between Guillaume Petitpas and Angélique Sceau produced eleven children, five of whom – Paul, Jaques, Pélagie, Anne-Pélagie and Louis-Toussaint – died young during the exile in La Rochelle. The six others lived to adulthood, and some of them had descendants of their own, as summarized below.

About **Madeleine**, the oldest, only her date of baptism, February 26, 1765, is known. The register of the parish of Notre-Dame des Ardilliers on Miquelon does not indicate her date of birth. Was she born on the same day she was baptized, a few days earlier, or during the ocean voyage to Miquelon? No one knows. It is known that on July 5, 1787 she married Jean Daguerre, then in his forties, born on June 27, 1741 in Saint-Pierre d'Arraute (today Arraute-Charritte), Pyrénées Atlantiques, son of Jean D'Aguerre and of Jeanne Guilhardet. This couple, deported to Halifax and then to Bordeaux, are shown on the 1804 census of Acadians in Bordeaux as having five children, then aged between 9 and 2. Jean Daguerre died in Bordeaux on January 3, 1806. Madeleine's name appears on the list of Miquelon refugees eligible for public assistance in Bordeaux in 1832. She died there, at 22, rue Séraphin, on January 22, 1853 "at nine o'clock in the morning", as her death certificate notes.

It is recorded that Madeleine's younger sister **Marie-Josèphe**, also known as **Josette** or **Joséphine**, was baptized on Miquelon on March 19, 1766 and, on November 15, 1787, married Jean (Le) Chevalier, born in Saint-Pierre-Langers, diocese of Avranches, Normandy, on December 6, 1759, son of Georges Le Chevalier and of Jeanne Le Breton. Josette apparently died around 1795, undoubtedly during the imprisonment in Halifax; Jean died in Bordeaux in 1803. The 1804 census lists their three children, then aged 16, 12 and 8; with the exception of the oldest boy, who had signed on to a ship, the children apparently lived with their aunt Madeleine.

Like his father Guillaume, the oldest son **Jean-Baptiste**, born on Miquelon on June 14, 1768, was a seafarer and ships' carpenter. Around 1795, undoubtedly during the imprisonment in Halifax, he married Rosalie Vigneau, born on Miquelon on July 19, 1772, daughter of Joseph Vigneau and of Madeleine Cyr. They had four children, all of whom died young in Bordeaux between 1798 and 1805. Named in the 1804 census, Jean-Baptiste had died by the time his son Zéphirin was buried on August 27, 1805. Rosalie remarried, twice, and returned in June 1816 to Miquelon, where she died on August 14, 1859.

**François**, born on Miquelon on January 22, 1770, went with the family to Halifax and then to Bordeaux, and eventually crossed the Atlantic again around 1803, joining relatives on the Magdalen

Islands. The 1804 census conducted in Bordeaux describes François as a “prisoner in England”; his 1805 marriage certificate indicates that he had been living on the Magdalen Islands “for two years”; and an 1806 list of Magdalen Islander residents states that he had settled in Cap-aux-Meules in 1804. On September 16, 1805 in Havre-Aubert, he married Anne Boudreau, born on the Madgalen Islands around 1787, daughter of François Boudreau and of Marie Boudreau known as Castor. Anne died some time between January 13, 1833 and January 22, 1840, a period for which parish registers are missing. François died in Cap-aux-Meules on January 22, 1858, the last surviving child of Guillaume and Angélique. François and Anne had eight children, who would ensure that the family line continued, mainly on the Magdalen Islands and on the North Shore.

About Guillaume's and Angélique's third son, **Pierre**, born on Miquelon on January 11, 1774, only the first part of an adventurous life is known. On August 7, 1798 in Bordeaux, Pierre was hired as a helmsman on the ship *La Résolue*. As the Napoleonic Wars loomed between France and Britain, he was captured by the British on October 14 that same year and imprisoned in Portsmouth. Repatriated to France aboard the *Jenny and Sally*, he landed at Cherbourg on April 17, 1802. The 1804 census conducted in Bordeaux states that he had once again “signed on to a privateer vessel”. There is no further record of his life.

What happened to **Angélique** is better known. Born during the exile in La Rochelle on March 22 1782, as the youngest and nevermarried child it was her duty to take care of her parents, with whom she lived until they died. On January 6, 1824, she entered religious life as *Sister Sainte-Angèle*, of the Filles de Marie Notre-Dame in Bordeaux, a congregation reestablished only then after having been dissolved in 1792 by the French Revolution:

In the year one thousand eight hundred twenty four, on the sixth day of January, did take the religious habit of the order of Notre-Dame, to be admitted as a member of the sisters of the quire, Miss Angélique Petitpas, aged 42 years, born in La Rochelle, legitimate daughter of the late Guillaume Petitpas and of Angélique Sceau, inhabitants and landowners on the island of Saint-Pierre de Miquelon, from the hands of Monsignor the Archbishop of Bordeaux and Reverend Mother Marie-Victoire-Bertrande-Cyrille de Brancan d'Estoup, known as Sister SainteThérèse, superior of this house of Notre-Dame. The said young lady took Sister Sainte Angèle as her name in religion; the following have signed:

[signatures] <sup>21</sup>

Angélique became a professed sister on January 6, 1826. On December 14, 1827, she was promoted to a position as a chapter mother, becoming *Mother Sainte-Angèle* <sup>22</sup>. She is enumerated in 1841 and 1846 at the Filles de Marie Notre-Dame convent, 49, rue du Palais-Gallien in Bordeaux, where she died on December 19, 1850 “at seven o'clock in the morning”.

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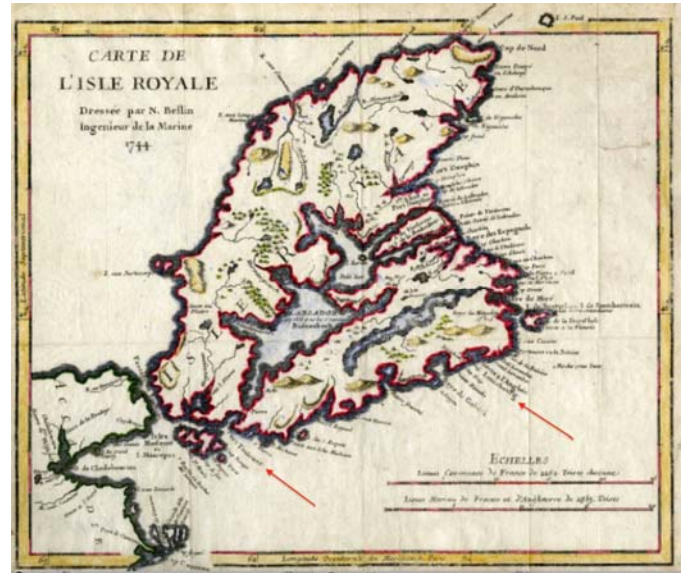
21 Communication from Sisiter Cécile Amalric, Archivist, Compagnie de Marie-Notre-Dame, Bordeaux, March 7, 1997.

22 Communication from Sisiter Colette de Boisse, Archivist, Compagnie de Marie-Notre-Dame, Bordeaux, April 9, 2018.

## Guillaume Petitpas and Angélique Sceau, Wayfarers of the Atlantic - Photos



**St-Pierre et Miquelon**



**Ile Royale, Acadie (today Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia)**



**Rochefort, France**



**Miquelon**



**Quai des Chartons; Bordeaux, France**



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**BON APPETIT**

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**Sweet Potato Casserole**  
*from Marie Guidry,  
Beaumont, TX*

4 lbs sweet potatoes  
1/2 C unsalted butter, melted  
2 large eggs  
Salt & pepper  
1/2 C packed light-brown sugar  
1/2 C milk  
1 tsp. vanilla extract

Topping:  
1/2 C all-purpose flour  
1/2 C light brown sugar  
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon  
1 C chopped pecan  
1/4 C unsalted butter melted

Preheat oven to 400°F. Line a baking sheet with foil. Pierce the sweet potatoes on each side. Bake until cooked through and soft, about 60 minutes. Reduce oven temp to 350 degrees. Peel potatoes and scoop into a large mixing bowl. Mash potatoes well. Let cool about 10 minutes. Add in brown sugar, 1/2 cup melted butter, milk, eggs, vanilla and season with 1/2 tsp salt and 1/4 tsp pepper. Mix with an electric hand mixer to combine well. Pour into a greased casserole dish, about 12" x 8" and spread into an even layer.

Topping: In a separate bowl, use a fork to combine the flour, brown sugar, cinnamon and pecans (break up brown sugar lumps). Pour butter into mixture and stir until evenly moistened. Sprinkle mixture evenly over sweet potato mixture in baking dish. Bake until heated through, about 40 minutes. Tent with foil during the last 15 minutes to prevent excessive browning of topping.

1 1/2 lbs Brussels sprouts  
3 tbsp olive oil  
Sea salt and pepper to taste  
1/2 C toasted walnut pieces  
1/2 C dried cranberries  
2 tbsp bottled balsamic reduction, to drizzle over

Preheat oven to 400°F. Line rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. Trim Brussels sprouts and cut in half. Toss Brussels sprouts with olive oil in medium size bowl. Spread on baking sheet and season with salt and pepper. Roast for 20-25 minutes until tender. Add walnuts and cranberries and roast an additional 10 minutes. Drizzle with balsamic reduction.

**Roasted Brussels Sprouts with  
Cranberries & Walnuts***from Melissa Guidry,  
Lafayette, Louisiana*

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It's time to bring in some new flavor to our Bon Appetit page. If you have a favorite family recipe that you'd like to share, we would love to feature it in one of our future issues. Submit your recipe to Marty Guidry at

[guidrymartin@gmail.com](mailto:guidrymartin@gmail.com)

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## IN THE NEWS-HISTORICAL NEWS TIDBITS

**UNDERSTANDS  
HIS BUSINESS**

The following testimonial from one of Crowley's best physicians speaks for itself:

"This is to certify that Dr. A. J. Guidry, a graduate optician, is a man who thoroughly understands his profession, and I cheerfully recommend him to the public, having known him intimately for over twenty-three years.

Respectfully,  
J. F. MORRIS, M. D."

**A. J. GUIDRY,  
Optician.**

Office at Morris Pharmacy.

*The Crowley Post-Signal, Crowley, Louisiana  
28 Apr 1900*

**LOOKING BACK**

Compiled by EVELYN ABELL NORMAN  
From Opelousas newspaper files, which began Nov. 20, 1841)

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**100 Years Ago**

**LE COURRIER DES OPELOUSAS**  
Samedi, 21 Acriil 1877

DECEDE — Au Carencro, en cette Paroisse, le 14 courant, le Dr. ALEXIS O. GUIDRY, age d'environ 55 ans.

Le Conseil de Ville a élu, Lundi dernier, F. F. Perrodin, Esq., comme avocat de la Corporation, avec un salaire de \$50 par an. Il parait qu'il reste du, en licences et taxes arrierees plus de huit cents piastres, et on se propose de mettre l'avocat de la ville aux trousses des delinquents.

Avis a qui de droit.

(translation)

DIED — At Carencro, in this Parish, on the 14th of this month, Dr. ALEXIS O. GUIDRY, about 55 years of age.

*Daily World, Opelousas, Louisiana  
14 Apr 1977*


**SICKNESS SAVED  
TWO FROM TRIP**

**Guidry and Rice of S-4 in  
Naval Hospital**

PORTSMOUTH, N H, Dec 20 (A. P.) —Two men saved by sickness from making the last tragic trip on the submarine S-4, were in the hospital at the Navy Yard here today watching with tense eagerness for the latest news of their shipmates imprisoned at the bottom of the sea. It was on the day that the S-4 left here, after repairs, for her standardization tests, that J. A. Guidry, gunner's mate, was taken to the hospital suffering from a lame back.

James B. Rice, machinist's mate, entered the hospital a month ago because of measles and complications. He and Guidry have been close friends since they entered the navy. Guidry's home is in San Antonio, Tex, and Rice comes from Los Angeles, Calif. Both were transferred some time ago from the Maryland to the S-4.

*The Boston Globe, Boston, MA  
20 Dec 1927*



REGISTERED  
"NAME ON EVERY PIECE."

**LOWNEY'S**  
Chocolate Bonbons.

FOR SALE BY

**Dr. N. B. MORRIS' PHARMACY,**

Next door to to Postoffice.

**Ambroise J. Guidry,** Registered  
Pharmacist,  
CROWLEY, LOUISIANA.

*The Crowley Post-Signal, Crowley, Louisiana  
16 Dec 1898*



## IN THE NEWS-HISTORICAL NEWS TIDBITS

### Thomas Geddry Won Purple Heart

ROCKLAND — A funeral Mass for Thomas W. Geddry, 52, of Rockland, an employe of the purchasing department of General Dynamics of Quincy, will be celebrated Friday at 11 in Holy Family Church.

Geddry, died late Monday night in South Shore Hospital, Weymouth.

Born in Cambridge, he was graduate of Rindge Technical School and studied management at MIT.

Geddry was awarded a Purple Heart while serving with the Army in Europe in World War II.

He was a member of the Morrisette American Legion Post of Quincy and was a former member of the Massachusetts Beach Buggy Ass'n and the Mayflower Anglers of Boston.

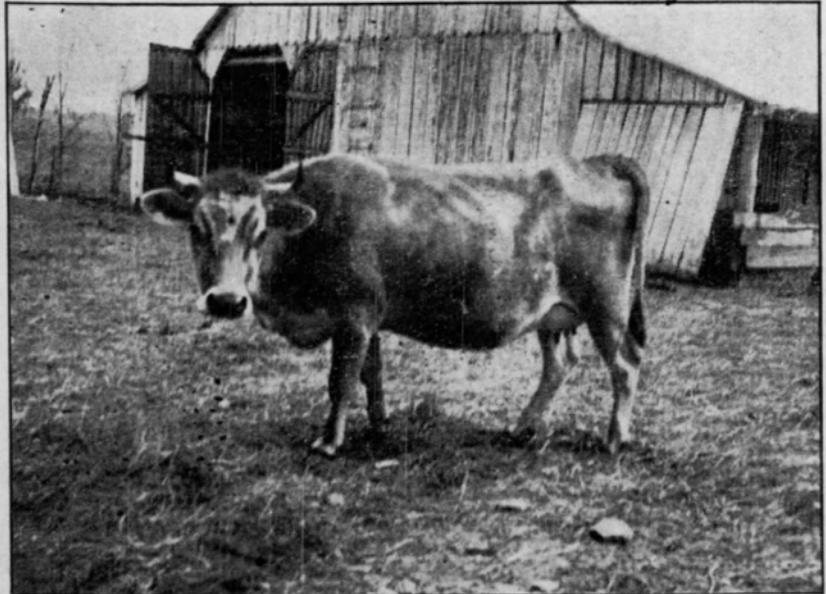
Survivors include his wife, Ann M. (Grove); a son, David T.; and three brothers, George H. of Scituate, Francis R. and Walter L. of Cambridge.

Burial will be in Holy Family Cemetery.

Arrangements were made by the Ernest A. Richardson Funeral Home, Scituate.

*Boston Herald American  
Boston, MA  
26 May 1976*

### MILK COWS AID IN ROUNDING OUT FARM PROGRAM



Cyrus Guidry, farmer of Lafayette parish, residing in the Carencro section is doing an outstanding job of producing in the food for freedom program. In the above picture is shown one of the cross-bred milk cows that are being raised on the Guidry farm, which is small but still producing heavily. Milk is but one of the many items produced on this farm. —(Staff Photo).

“Cyrus Guidry, farmer of Lafayette Parish, residing in the Carencro section is doing an outstanding job of producing in the food for freedom program. In the above picture is shown one of the cross-bred milk cows that are being raised on the Guidry farm, which is small but still producing heavily. Milk is but one of the many items produced on this farm”

*The Daily Advertiser (Lafayette, Louisiana, 28 Mar 1942*

Appointed: In Fredericton, N.B., J. Edward Guidry, a veteran in newspaper, radio and television reporting, has been named regional information officer with the province's Department of Forestry and Rural Development.

*The Gazette, Montreal, Quebec, Canada  
24 Jan 1967*

## Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur

### What's in a name?

**Guédry** is the family to which you belong if your name is spelled Guédry, Guedry, Guidry, Gaidry, Guildry, Geddry, Jeddry, Labine, LaBine, LaBean or any of several dozen variations. The original name of our family is believed to have been Guédry. We are all descendants of Claude Guédry & Marguerite Petitpas.

Here are some common and uncommon variant spellings of the name.

Guédry	Guiddry	Geddrie	Jeddrie	Labeen
Guedry	Guiddery	Geddry	Jeddry	Labene
Guedrie	Guiedri	Gedree	Jederie	Labine
Guedris	Guiedry	Gedrie	Jedrey	LaBine
Guidry	Guildry	Gedry	Jedrie	LaBean
Gudiry	Guildrie	Gettry	Jedry	LaBeau
Guidery	Guitry	Gidrie		Labeau
Guidrey	Gaidry	Gidry	Lledre	
Guidrie	Gaidrie	Grivois	Yedri	

Our **Petitpas** cousins likewise have several variations of their name including Petitpas, Pettipas, Petipas, Petitpa, Petit Pas and Pitts.

## DUES REMINDER

Attached at the back of this issue is a membership application for renewing your membership in **Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur**. Our dues are very reasonable at \$6.00 for individuals and \$10.00 for a family in 2023.

Please take a moment, complete the Membership Application, enclose a check and send it to the address on the application. It will help all of us do so much for the family. And, if you would like to join at one of the Benefactor Levels, it would allow us do even more.



Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur is now on Facebook. Join us there and connect with other family members from all over the U.S., Canada and beyond. Feel free to post queries, photos, links, events or other items of interest to the family. Just search for 'Les Guédry d'Asteur' on Facebook to find our page.



## *Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur*

To share your ideas for the  
Newsletter contact:

Marty Guidry  
6139 North Shore Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70817  
225-571-9726  
guidrymartin@gmail.com

The Guédry-Petitpas Family Newsletter '**GENERATIONS**' serves as a focal point for family members to share and learn about us.

"**GENERATIONS**" newsletter is now in its 20th year. We hope to provide our readers with an interesting, informative and entertaining newsletter. Your input is always welcome and we look forward to another year of sharing family history and news with you.

Allie Guidry  
txguidry2000@yahoo.com

Marty Guidry  
guidrymartin@gmail.com



## *Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur Officers and Committees*

### OFFICERS:

President - Martin Guidry (LA)  
Vice-President - Elaine Clement (LA)  
Secretary - Billy Harrell Guidry (LA)  
Treasurer - Daniel "Chuck" Guidry (LA)

Sales - Cindy Guidry Herdt (WA) - Chairperson  
Wayne Simoneaux (LA)  
Billy Harrell Guidry (LA)  
Jeff & Rachel Killingsworth (VA)

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Mark Labine (MN)  
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Gloria Parrent (TX)  
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Membership - Charlene Guidry Lacombe (LA) -  
Chairperson

***Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur***  
***Membership Application***  
***(Formulaire d'adhésion)***

Name (Nom) \_\_\_\_\_  
Last (Nom de famille) First (Prénom) Middle (Deuxième prénom)

Spouse (Épouse) \_\_\_\_\_  
Maiden (Nom de jeune fille) First (Prénom) Middle (Deuxième prénom)

Children (Enfants) \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Adresse) \_\_\_\_\_  
Street (Rue) \_\_\_\_\_  
City (Ville) State (État/Province) Zip Code (Code postal) (Pays)

Telephone (Téléphone) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax (Numéro de télécopieur) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address (Courriel) \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies or Special Talent \_\_\_\_\_  
(Passe-temps ou talent particulier)

Type of Membership (Type de cotisation):

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual (Individuelle) \$ 6.00 U.S. Dollars (Dollars américains)

\_\_\_\_\_ Family (Familliale) \$10.00 U.S. Dollars (Dollars américains)

Benefactor Levels (Niveaux de bienfaiteur):

\_\_\_\_\_ dit Jovial Level \$50.00 U.S. Dollars (Dollars américains)

\_\_\_\_\_ dit Labine Level \$100.00 U. S. Dollars (Dollars américains)

\_\_\_\_\_ dit Grivois Level \$500.00 U. S. Dollars (Dollars américains)

Please return form and payment to:  
(Retournez le formulaire et le paiement à:)

Make check to: *Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur, Inc.*  
(Libellez le chèque à: *Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur, Inc.*)

Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur, Inc.  
Charlene Guidry Lacombe  
Membership Chair  
226 Bulldog Drive  
Iota, LA 70543