

SUMMER 2009

Volume 7, Issue 3

Les Guédry d'Astcur



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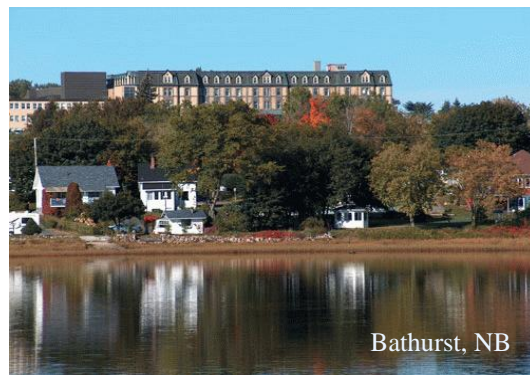
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With the Guédry-Labine & Petitpas Reunion only weeks away we are publishing an extra edition of "Generations" in 2009 to ensure everyone has the latest information on the Reunion. Although the article "Michel Cantrelle – Commandant of the First Acadian Coast" does not discuss directly the Guédry and Petitpas families, it does describe the governmental system under which the first Acadians, including members of the Guédry and Petitpas families, lived when they first reached the Louisiana shore. The French and later the Spanish had a rigorous system for settling and administering the Acadians in their villages.

As always, "Historical Tidbits" offers interesting insights into the lives of our Guédry ancestors using first-hand accounts from newspapers of the day. When you have a moment, grab "Generations" and read one of the news articles. You'll find it quite interesting.

Ready to cool down on a hot summer day? Why not try the Seafood Delight or a bowl of Homemade Creamy Banana & Pecan Ice Cream? Not sure how to concoct these? Visit "Bon Appetit" and you'll be the hit at your house.



Bathurst, NB

After relaxing from a nice, cool treat, sit down and enjoy one of the interesting books from the "Book Nook".

Finally, study the information on our Reunion. The committees of Les Guédry d'Astcur have done an outstanding job organizing this year's Guédry-Labine & Petitpas Reunion. The agenda is varied and quite interesting with a very moving Mass to open the Reunion, Cajun and Acadian music, historical and genealogical talks, superb displays and a few surprises to keep everyone interested. And we'll enjoy a superb buffet lunch with perhaps a little "magic" thrown in. Haven't registered yet? It's not too late. You can simply show up at the door of Danny's Inn Conference Center and register there. Everyone with an interest in the Guédry, Labine and Petitpas families is invited to attend. So enjoy this extra edition of "Generations" and then rush to Bathurst, New Brunswick and visit with all of your cousins.



MICHEL CANTRELLE

COMMANDANT OF THE FIRST ACADIAN COAST

by R. Martin Guidry

The early life of the Cantrelle family in Louisiana is truly one of public service. Although they acquired vast tracts of land along the Mississippi River and enjoyed wealth, they devoted their lives to the people of Louisiana. The father of the family Jacques Cantrelle was influential in the affairs of New Orleans – being a warden of St. Louis Catholic Church and an employee of the Superior Council in New Orleans. Two of his sons-in-law Louis Judice and Nicolas Verret were commanders and commandants of the Acadians in today's St. James and Ascension Parishes. One son Michel Cantrelle was a commandant of the Acadian Coast and the Parish Judge of old Acadia Parish and of St. James Parish. Their story forms a significant part of the early history of this unique region of Louisiana.

Several members of the Guédry family who arrived in Louisiana between 1765 and 1785 settled in the St. James and Ascension Parish area. Among these was the very first Guédry to reach Louisiana soil – Joseph Guédry. After spending a brief period in the Attakapas region, Joseph Guédry relocated to Ascension Parish in September 1765.

ACADIANS ARRIVE IN LOUISIANA AND THE COMMANDERS

Beginning in 1764 as the first Acadians were arriving in Louisiana, the French authorities appointed commanders to assist the Acadians in settling their assigned lands. Additionally, these commanders, invested with limited civil and judicial authority, preserved the peace in their territory and with limited authority were judges. In 1769 the Spanish assumed full control of Louisiana and apportioned Louisiana into districts. The superior officer of each district was the commandant with significant military, civil and judicial powers. The commandants had a broader role in the district than did the earlier French commanders. The commandants not only preserved the peace, but also examined traveler's passports, aided new settlers in obtaining land grants, prevented smuggling, registered the sale of

lands and slaves, served as a judge in minor cases, acted as a notary public and represented the Spanish governor in their districts. Additionally, the commandant awarded building contracts for public works and for furnishing provisions, issued land grants to settlers, employed many persons and could make 'cadets' of settlers' children. Cadets received a salary and could become officers in the army. In addition to his small salary, the commandant received fees that he collected and was given the title 'Don' and a commission as a lieutenant in the Spanish Army.

In early 1764 twenty Acadian exiles from New York arrived in Louisiana and in April of that year Governor d'Abbadie settled them on the right (west) bank of the Mississippi River near present-day Lagan, LA (St. James Parish). In February 1765 a second group of 193 Acadians from Halifax via St-Domingue reached New Orleans and in April 1765 they were sent to the Attakapas District (St. Martin Parish). In September 1765, to escape the raging malarial or yellow fever epidemic in the Attakapas District, 82 Acadians left their homes and resettled near Lagan, LA with the first group of Acadian immigrants. During May through November 1765 at least three other groups of approximately 300 Acadians from St-Domingue arrived at New Orleans and were settled on the west bank of the Mississippi River near present-day Welcome, LA (St. James Parish). Shortly thereafter, several of the Acadian families in this latter group moved downstream to a site near present-day Front Vacherie, LA (St. James Parish, LA).



MICHEL CANTRELLE-COMMANDANT OF THE FIRST ACADIAN COAST

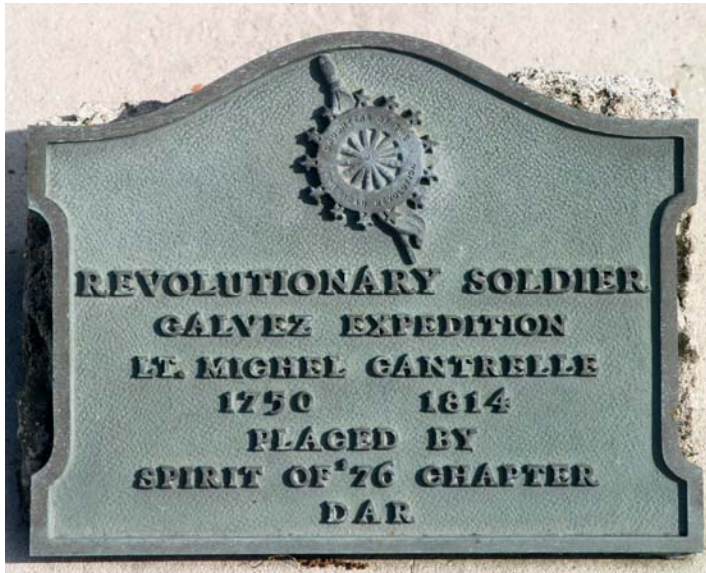
Several groups of Acadians from Maryland arrived in New Orleans between 1766 and 1769. In September 1766 a chartered English ship delivered 224 Maryland Acadians to Louisiana. They soon were joined by an undetermined number of Acadians who arrived in December 1766. Governor Ulloa settled these groups along the Mississippi River in St. James and Ascension Parishes. Then in July 1767 another 211 Maryland Acadians arrived and in August 1767 were settled on the east side of the Mississippi River at Fort St. Gabriel located on the south side of Bayou Manchac near present-day St. Gabriel, LA (Iberville Parish). During February 1768 a group of 149 Maryland Acadians reached New Orleans. Governor Ulloa forced them to settle on the west side of the Mississippi River at San Luis de Natchez near present-day Vidalia, LA – a swampy, insect-infested land far from the other Acadian settlements and vulnerable to Indian raids. In December 1769 the Spanish permitted these Acadians to resettle downstream on the west side of the Mississippi River in present-day Ascension and northern Assumption Parishes just north of earlier Acadian settlements. In January 1769 the “La Bretana” (Brittania) left Port Tobacco, Maryland bound for New Orleans with 30 Acadians and approximately 70 Englishmen and Germans. As they neared the mouth of the Mississippi River, strong winds and fog caused them to miss the entrance and they landed near present-day Matagorda Bay, TX. After imprisonment by the Spanish as smugglers, they eventually reached Natchitoches, LA in October 1769 and in November 1769 settled on the east bank of the Mississippi River near present-day Galvez, LA (Iberville Parish).

No other groups of Acadians are known to have reached Louisiana until the seven Acadian expeditions of 1785 brought from France approximately 1500 new Acadian immigrants to Louisiana. The only other group of Acadians known to have arrived in Louisiana was an extended family of 19 Acadians who landed at New Orleans in December 1788 aboard the “Brigite” - having sailed from St. Pierre Island (St. Pierre and Miquelon). They settled in present-day Ascension Parish.^{1,2}



In 1765 as the Acadians began arriving in Louisiana, Nicolas Verret and Louis Judice were appointed co-commanders of the territory along the Mississippi River above the German Coast. This territory became the Acadian Coast. Both Louis Judice and Nicolas Verret resided near present-day St. James, LA (St. James Parish) with Judice's home being a short distance upstream of Verret's home. Between them was the Spanish land grant of Jacques Cantrelle located in the section called Cabahanoce. Initially the Acadian Coast covered both banks of the Mississippi River from approximately five miles below present-day St. James, LA (near present Oak Alley Plantation) northward to the Ascension Parish line. As more Acadians settled in the area, the Spanish divided the territory into two parts with Verret being commander from his residence downriver to the southern edge of the territory and Judice being commander of the territory from the home of Jacques Cantrelle (present-day area of the St. James Catholic Church) upriver to the Ascension Parish line. Judice eventually extended the northern boundary of his territory into Ascension Parish. In January 1770 the jurisdictions changed with Verret as commandant of the Acadian Coast from Front Vacherie to the Ascension Parish line and Judice as commandant above the Ascension Parish line. When Verret died on 5 November 1775, the Spanish appointed Michel Cantrelle as commandant of Verret's territory.³

MICHEL CANTRELLE-COMMANDANT OF THE FIRST ACADIAN COAST



American Revolution plaque at the grave of Michel Cantrell, St. James Catholic Cemetery

JACQUES CANTRELLE – FIRST CANTRELLE IN LOUISIANA

Jacques Cantrelle, son of Claude Cantrelle and Marguerite Turpin and a native of St. Leger, Picardy, France,^{4,5} was born about 1697. In 1720 he arrived in Louisiana on the braque *Le Profond* after a voyage of over three months. Initially, he was a worker on the Arkansas fort and by 1729 was in Natchez. On 28 November 1729 the Natchez Indians raided Fort Rosalie and killed over 200 inhabitants in less than two hours. Jacques Cantrelle had gone hunting for the day and escaped the massacre; however, his wife Marie Françoise Minquetz^{4,5} was not so fortunate. She perished during the massacre^{4,5}. There were no known children of this marriage. Many French left Natchez after the massacre including Jacques Cantrelle, who headed south, down the Mississippi River. He eventually settled at Cannes Brulées near present-day Kenner, LA.⁶

Shortly after settling in Louisiana, Jacques Cantrelle married Marie Marguerite Larmusiau, daughter of Jean Baptiste Larmusiau and Catherine Esternay and the widow of Pierre LeHoux, on 16 April 1730^{4,5}. The couple lived at Gentilly ridge in eastern New Orleans along the shore of Lake Pontchartrain. Here Cantrelle

became a warden of the St. Louis Church and was influential in New Orleans affairs⁶. He was employed by the Superior Council.

Granted a tract of land in 1762 with ten arpents frontage at Cabahanoce along the Mississippi River near present-day St. James, LA, Cantrelle opted to continue living in New Orleans. In the September 1763 Census of the Colony of Louisiana^{7,8} Jacques Cantrelle was listed within Captain Guinault's district in New Orleans and had a wife, two sons less than fourteen years of age, three women slaves, two boy slaves, two girl slaves and a musket. From other records we know the family to be living with him at this time to be his wife Marie Marguerite Larmusiau^{4,5} and their two sons Michel Cantrelle (baptized 24 March 1750)^{9,10} and Jacques Cantrelle fils (born 1 April 1752)^{11,12}. The couple also had three daughters who were married by 1763. Marie Marguerite Cantrelle married Nicolas Verret about 1748^{13,14} and Marie Jeanne Cantrelle wed Louis Judice about 1751^{13,15}. Nicolas Verret and Louis Judice were the two commanders of the Acadian Coast. A third daughter Marianne Cantrelle married first Pierre Songy about 1755^{16,17} and then Jean Baptiste Poeyfarre on 23 May 1780^{17,18}. All three daughters and their families resided along the Acadian Coast.



MICHEL CANTRELLE-COMMANDANT OF THE FIRST ACADIAN COAST

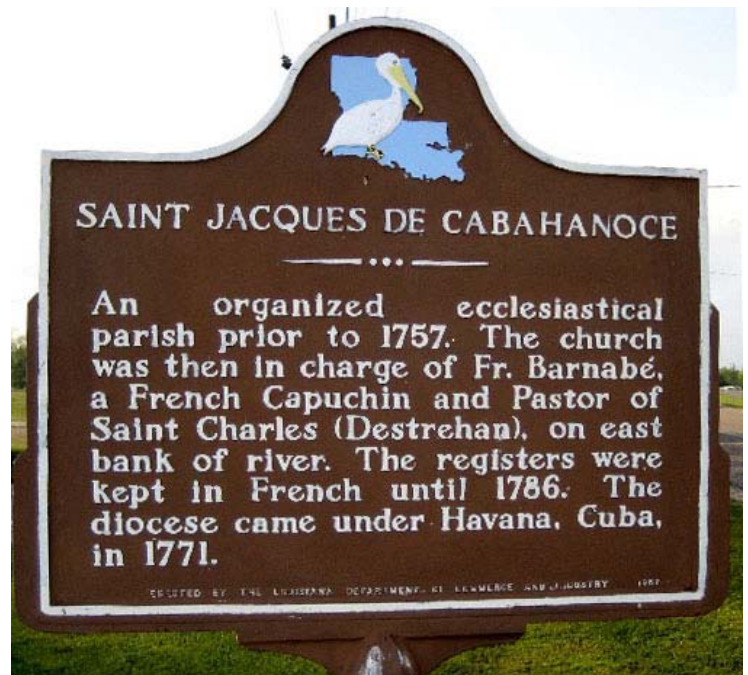
Other children of Jacques Cantrelle and Marie Marguerite Larmusiau were Jacques Cantrelle (baptized 25 October 1731)^{20,21}, Marie Josephe Cantrelle (born 11 January 1731)^{20,22}, Jean Baptiste Cantrelle (baptized 26 April 1744)^{20,23}, Jacques Cantrelle (baptized 27 March 1746)^{20,24} and Marie Marguerite Cantrelle (baptized 11 September 1747)^{25,26}.

Not until approximately 1766 did Jacques Cantrelle move to his grant at Cabahanoce where he appeared on the census records of 1766^{27,28}, 1769^{29,30} and 1777^{31,32}. Extending from just below the present St. James Catholic Church downriver to almost the current St. James Co-Op Sugar Mill, Jacques Cantrelle's land grant was twenty-eight arpents. On 21 October 1777 Jacques Cantrelle was buried from St. James Catholic Church near Cabahanoce^{30,33,34,35}. His wife Marie Marguerite Larmusiau lived to be 80 years old, dying in July 1785. Her funeral was held at the St. Louis Cathedral on 10 July 1785^{36,37}.

MICHEL CANTRELLE – SERVING THE FIRST ACADIAN COAST

Michel Cantrelle, the second to youngest child of Jacques Cantrelle and Marie Marguerite Larmusiau, certainly had a life filled with adventure as he lived in bustling New Orleans during his childhood and youth and then, as a young man, moved with his parents and brother Jacques Jr. to the largely unsettled region of Cabahanoce on the west bank of the Mississippi River above New Orleans. Here he experienced deep tragedy and setbacks as he rose to become commandant of the Acadians settled in that region.

On 24 March 1750 at St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans Jacques Cantrelle and his wife Marie Marguerite Larmusiau watched silently as Father Dagobert baptized their infant son Michel Cantrelle. His godfather Michel Meilleur from whom he received his name was a master cobbler in New Orleans and his godmother Marie Jeanne



Cantrelle was his older sister who soon would marry Louis Judice.^{9,10} After the ceremony he and his parents returned to their home on Gentilly ridge along the southeastern shore of Lake Pontchartrain.

In 1758 on the third of April Michel's sister and godmother Marie Jeanne Cantrelle and her husband Louis Judice had their fourth child, a son, and they named him Michel after his young uncle Michel Cantrelle. With 8-year old Michel Cantrelle as his godfather the infant boy Michel Judice was baptized on 5 April 1758 at St. Louis Cathedral. His aunt Marguerite LeHoux was his godmother^{15,38}. Two years later at the age of ten Michel Cantrelle was the godfather of his niece Marie Verret baptized on 12 August 1760 at St. Louis Cathedral. She was the daughter of Nicolas Verret and Marie Marguerite Cantrelle, Michel's sister^{39,40}. Interestingly, by the age of ten Michel Cantrelle was the godfather of a child of each of the first co-commanders of the Acadians.

In September 1763 Michel was living with his parents and younger brother Jacques at their home in New Orleans within Captain Guinault's military district^{11,12}. By 1766 Acadians were beginning to arrive in Louisiana and were being settled by the Spanish along the

MICHEL CANTRELLE-COMMANDANT OF THE FIRST ACADIAN COAST

Mississippi River north of New Orleans. About 1765 Jacques Cantrelle, approaching his 69th birthday, established an indigo plantation on his 1762 land grant located near present-day St. James, LA in an area called Cabahanoce. His property on the west bank of the Mississippi River extended from just below the present St. James Catholic Church downriver to about the current St. James Co-Op Sugar Mill. His two sons-in-law Louis Judice and Nicolas Verret along with their wives (Jacques Cantrelle's daughters) and young families had already established homes in this area. Jacques's grant lay between their properties. Did he move here to be near his daughters and grandchildren? Initially his wife Marie Marguerite Larmusiau and their two sons Michel and Jacques Cantrelle did not accompany Jacques to Cabahanoce. Perhaps he traveled between New Orleans and Cabahanoce for a time to be with his family and to oversee the operations of his farm.

In 1766 Jacques Cantrelle was at Cabahanoce with his five slaves. He now had 28 arpents of land, 20 hogs and one gun. His wife and two sons were not with him^{27, 28}. Between 1766 and 1769 Jacques Cantrelle brought his wife Marie Marguerite and his two sons Michel and Jacques to his Cabahanoce plantation. On the 14th of September 1769 Louis Judice censused the settlers at and near Cabahanoce. Jacques Cantrelle, his wife Marie Marguerite and his two sons Michel and Jacques are with him at Cabahanoce. By this time he had divided his property and livestock with his sons. He had retained eight arpents of land for himself and had given ten arpents each to his sons Michel, age 20, and Jacques, age 19. Michel Cantrelle had ten head of cattle, four pigs, six sheep and one gun^{31,32}.

As a young man and a son of a prominent plantation owner, Michel Cantrelle quickly gained status in the Cabahanoce area. In January 1770 at the age of 20 he was a lieutenant under his brother-in-law Captain Nicolas Verret in the Militia of the First Acadian Coast^{41,42}.

With death of his brother-in-law Nicolas Verret on 5 November 1775 Michel Cantrelle became the commandant of the Acadians in Verret's district extending from Front Vacherie to the Ascension Parish line.⁴¹. On 1 January 1777 Michel Cantrelle, 27 years of age and a Lieutenant Commandant, was still living on the Cabahanoce plantation with his father, his mother, his brother Jacques and his widowed sister Marie Marguerite Cantrelle Verret and her seven children^{31,32}.

Even with his heavy responsibilities as Commandant of the First Acadian Coast and an unending workload managing the Cabahanoce indigo plantation, Michel Cantrelle still found time to court and fall in love. In 1777, shortly after the death of his father, Michel married Magdelaine Croiset of Pointe Coupee, the daughter of Francois Croiset and Marie Anne Trepagnier, in St. James Catholic Church at Cabahanoce. Witnesses at the wedding included Joseph Bourgois and Michel's brother Jacques Cantrelle^{46,47}. Magdelaine Croiset was born on 10 February 1762 and baptized on 25 February 1762 at St. Francis Catholic Church in Pointe Coupee Parish, LA^{44,45}. Unfortunately tragedy shortly struck as Magdelaine died in September 1778 and was buried on 23 September 1778 in the cemetery near St. James Catholic Church^{48,49}. It appears that she may have died in childbirth as a daughter of Michel Cantrelle and Magdelaine Croiset was baptized in St. James Catholic Church on 13 January 1779. Her mother Magdelaine Croiset is listed as deceased on the baptismal certificate^{48,50}. Marie Magdelaine Cantrelle, the first and only child of Michel Cantrelle and Magdelaine Croiset, married Patrick Uriell, son of Jacques Uriell and Mary Mulvany of Ireland, at St. James Catholic Church on 29 September 1800^{51,52}.

Torn by the death of his young wife and with a new baby to raise, Michel Cantrelle met Madeleine Celeste Andry, daughter of Louis Antoine Andry and Marie Jeanne Lapierre, and again fell in love. Her father Louis Antoine Andry was adjutant major of the plaza of Louisiana and an infantry captain. Born on the thirteenth of April in 1760, Madeleine Celeste was ten years younger than Michel^{53,54}.

MICHEL CANTRELLE-COMMANDANT OF THE FIRST ACADIAN COAST

On 20 November 1779 Michel married Madeleine Celeste at St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans. Witnesses at their wedding included Gilbert Antoine Maxent, the militia commandant, Joseph Ducros, city councilman of New Orleans, Jean Baptiste Poeyfarre, soon-to-be brother-in-law of Michel Cantrelle and Bernardo de Galvez, the governor of Louisiana^{55,56}. The young couple and Michel's daughter Marie Magdelaine Cantrelle returned to the indigo plantation at Cabahanoce where they began their lives together. Soon Michel Cantrelle acquired the property of his deceased brother-in-law Nicolas Verret that was just downriver of his father's plantation. It included the present villages and plantations of Moonshine, Lagan, Pikes Peak, Home Place and Bessie K. to St. Joe, Felicity, Oak Alley and Baytree.

As Michel Cantrelle grew more prosperous and gained political stature in Louisiana, he and Madeleine Celeste watched their family grow. On 22 January 1781 they celebrated the baptism of their first child, Marie Josephe, at St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans. She was born in late 1780 and had been conditionally baptized earlier at their Cabahanoce plantation – perhaps because she was ill at birth, but more likely because their home was a great distance from New Orleans and required a hazardous 60-mile trip by boat to reach the St. Louis Cathedral^{57,58}. A second daughter Rose Carmelite was born 19 April 1782 and baptized at St. Louis Cathedral on 18 October 1784 after being conditionally baptized at the Cabahanoce plantation^{59,60}. Madeleine Celeste gave birth to Jean-Baptiste, their first son, on 19 June 1784. Initially, he was conditionally baptized at Cabahanoce and then brought to St. Louis Cathedral for the baptismal ceremonies on 13 October 1784^{59,60}. Four years later on the third of January 1788 Michel and Madeleine Celeste had a son whom they named after his father. Little Michel Cantrelle was baptized at St. James Catholic Church in Cabahanoce on 23 March 1788^{61,62}.

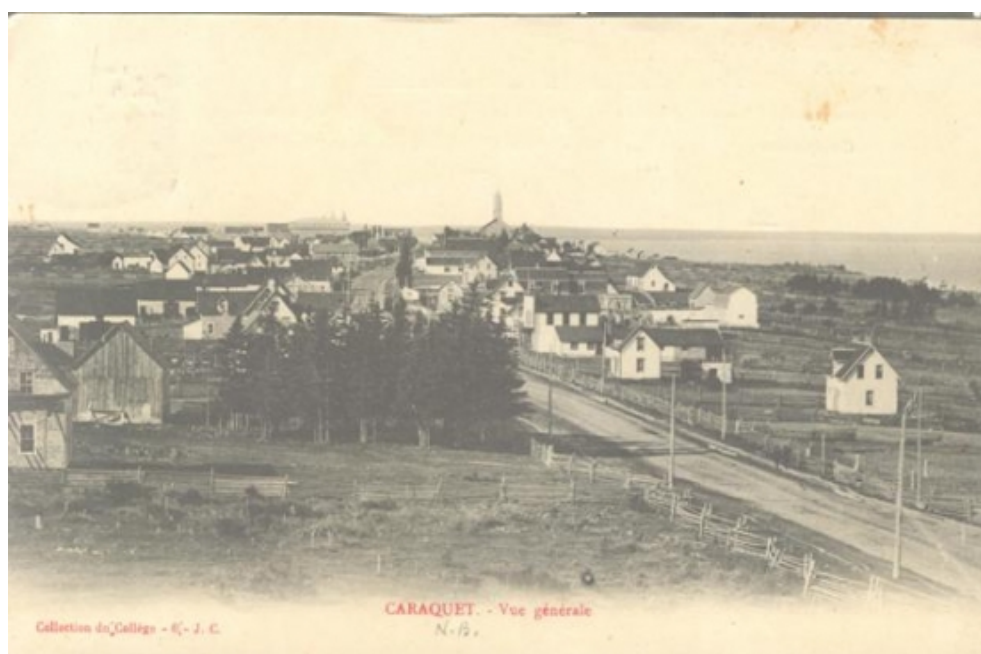
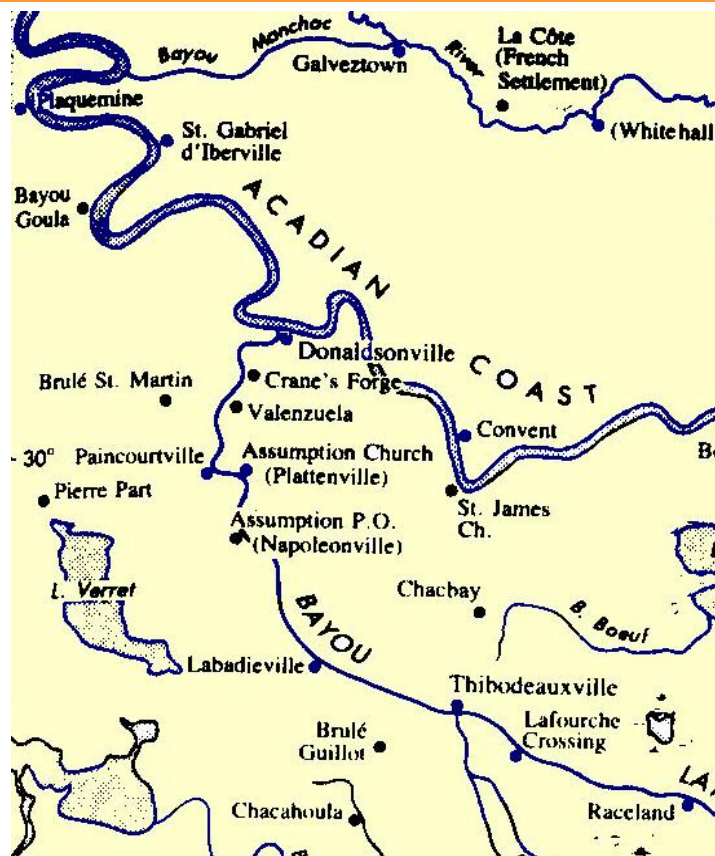
On 4 February 1790 young Celeste Cantrelle was born to the couple. Conditionally baptized at St. James of Cabahanoce, she had the baptismal ceremonies supplied at St. Louis Cathedral on 8 February 1791^{63,64}. On the 12th of May 1794 little Joseph Xavier Cantrelle entered the world and joined the now large family of Michel and Madeleine Celeste Cantrelle. After being conditionally baptized at Cabahanoce shortly after his birth, he received the baptismal ceremonies on 27 November 1794 at St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans^{63,65}. On 28 July 1798 Madeleine Celeste had her fourth son Louis Terence at Cabahanoce. He was baptized at St. James Catholic Church near the family plantation on 27 November 1798^{48,66}. The last child born to Michel and Madeleine Celeste was a daughter Rose Aglae. She was born on 26 December 1805 and baptized at St. James Catholic Church on 4 January 1806^{67,68}. Michel Cantrelle's importance in the government and politics of the day was reflected in the godparents of his children - especially their godfathers. These men often were military officers in the Spanish army or high-ranking government officials.

Michel Cantrelle began his government service as a young lieutenant in the Militia of the First Acadian Coast. In January 1770 he was serving under his brother-in-law Captain Nicolas Verret. With Nicolas Verret's death in November 1775 Michel Cantrelle was appointed commandant of Verret's district extending from Front Vacherie to the Ascension Parish line. He remained a commandant throughout the period of Spanish rule in Louisiana. When the Louisiana territory was transferred to the United States in 1803, his position as commandant was terminated; however, shortly thereafter in 1804 Governor Claiborne through his emissary Dr. Watkins reappointed Michel Cantrelle as Commandant of the Acadian Coast. In 1805 with the reorganization of parish government in Louisiana, the position of commandant was abolished. This did not end Michel Cantrelle's government service, however, as he was commissioned in 1805 as Parish Judge of the new parish of Acadia – the highest level parish official. When Acadia Parish was divided into St. James Parish and Ascension Parish in 1807,

MICHEL CANTRELLE-COMMANDANT OF THE FIRST ACADIAN COAST

Michel Cantrelle became the Parish Judge of St. James Parish – a position he held until 1812. He also was a member of the Louisiana legislative council of the first territorial government. As the residents of St. James Parish prospered during the American period, the growing Acadian population on the east bank of the Mississippi River needed a Catholic church of their own. In 1807 commissioners were selected and they began the construction of a church located on land at present-day Convent, LA. In honor of the long and dedicated service of Michel Cantrelle to St. James Parish, the commissioners named the new church St. Michel de Cantrelle^{69,70}. In late October 1814 at 64 years of age Michel Cantrelle died. He was buried from St. James Catholic Church on 25 October 1814^{71,72}. Thus ended one of the most important periods in the history of St. James Parish and the Acadian Coast.

See page 13 for References



Vintage postcard: CARAQUET - Vue generale

IN THE NEWS-HISTORICAL NEWS TIDBITS

*Joplin Globe, Joplin, MO,
January 4, 1944*

BIRDS MAKE A REFUGE FROM FARM SWAMPLAND

Jennings, La. — (AP) — A city of birds — population approximately 10,000—recently moved in on Frank Guidry, a planter.

He advised the state conservation commission that the birds have made a refuge out of a small swamp area. There are snowy egrets—once almost made extinct by commercial plume hunters—and glossy ibis.

Guidry said the birds maintain remarkable regularity of hours of work and sleep, scattering in the rice fields during the day to destroy insects and returning to their homes at the same time every night.

*Port Arthur News, Port Arthur,
Texas, March 12, 1928*

Acadians To Have Music At Reunion

Plans for the reunion of descendants of Acadians deported by the British from Nova Scotia and who finally found refuge in Louisiana in 1765, to be held in Port Neches next Tuesday evening, are going forward, according to announcements made this morning, and a large crowd of Acadians are expected to gather in the Knights of Columbus hall in Port Neches.

The St. Mary's Catholic band of Port Arthur will play several selections as a part of the reunion program and speakers will be Vance Plauchette of Lake Charles, and Mayor J. W. Baker of Port Neches, with a dance to follow.

Wednesday, October 19, 1955

Pennsylvania Folklore Mystery Shrouds Fate of Pennsylvania's 'Cajuns'

Harrisburg — Henry W. Shoemaker, Pennsylvania Folklore chief, says this year's two hundredth anniversary of the expelling of the Acadians or 'Cajuns' by the British Government of Nova Scotia was observed in Pennsylvania, although mystery shrouds the fate of the Pennsylvania Acadians.

It seemed that in 1755 there was fear that the sturdy Basque Colonists, mostly fishermen and small farmers located in Acadia, the name later was changed to Nova Scotia, might prove troublesome to the English power and hundreds of French, mostly of Basque origin were torn from their families and homes and loaded on ships and groups dumped in strong British Colonies along the Atlantic Coast from Cape Breton to Louisiana. Thousands were settled in Georgia, who pushed west to the French Colony of Louisiana and began active careers as fishermen and trappers.

"Looked upon as people apart by the ancient French Colonial families of Louisiana, they regarded the Basques almost as 'foreign interlopers' who spoke a language unknown to any French Dictionary," Shoemaker said.

"That great Frenchman of mys-

terious Colonial background, J. J. Audubon, came from Pennsylvania, near Pottstown, to Louisiana. He started as a painter of French Aristocratic women but became the idol of the Basque fishermen, and hunters who guided him in the wilderness Bayous, where he collected many of his rarest specimens which appear in his matchless volumes, "The Birds of America."

"As one old Cajun who was close to Audubon remarked, 'He was a great man, but unlike us was a French Colonial', meaning that the speaker was of Basque.

The Basques are a handsome race, the men and women of fair complexion, blue or grey eyes with noble features, brown haired, slim, and erect, of medium height.

"What became of the Acadians in Pennsylvania remains a profound mystery. Perhaps most of the men resumed their hard journeys through British-held lands to Louisiana and the women intermarried with Germans, Huguenots, and Waldensians, losing their family names forever. There is a strong strain of Pennsylvania Dutch in Nova Scotia shown by the names of old settlers, and by villages, townships, and natural features like streams and mountains. The Basques, like the Huguenots intermarried probably with the German Pioneers from Pennsylvania.

"Likewise the Acadians found large groups of Pennsylvania Germans in Louisiana who befriended the weary Colonial refugees, helped them secure fishing and trapping materials and marked out their long, narrow farms and some of their daughters married Frenchmen forming a link between the early French aristocrats and the German Colonials from Pennsylvania.

"They made a tighter band among the population which was French to the last though there was much Pennsylvania Dutch blood among the refugees. Like in Pennsylvania the composite race of Germans, Dutch, Huguenots, Waldensians, and Greeks made a people who have spread and prospered in all parts of America."

*(Pennsylvania Folklore)
Bedford Gazette, Bedford, PA,
October 19, 1955*

IN THE NEWS-HISTORICAL NEWS TIDBITS

Longfellow Memorial for Evangeline Park at Grand Pre



DISTINGUISHED GROUP AT GRAND PRE INCLUDING GOV. COX OF MASSACHUSETTS

If the visitor to the beautiful Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia is blessed with a true romantic spirit, he may be able to conjure up the graceful, quiet figure of Evangeline, and, with Longfellow to help carry out the illusion, fancy he is back in the early days before the Acadians were driven sorrowfully from their little homes in 1755. The Annapolis-Cornwallis district, where the apple trees in their blossoming time make the valley a veritable paradise, is peculiarly romantic. The pathetic figure of Evangeline slips through the quiet streets of Grand Pre, and the plot of ground enclosing the large stone cross which marks the burial place of her forebears has

been made into a memorial park and named after her. The gates are always open, and thousands of lovers of history and literature crowd there every year. A bronze statue of Evangeline, designed by an Acadian sculptor and fairly breathing the pathos of her story, now stands in the park. Nearby, admirers of Longfellow throughout Canada and the United States are planning to erect a memorial to the poet.

Not far from Grand Pre is Annapolis Royal, founded in 1604 and chiefly because of historic old Fort Anne, now a Canadian National Park. Few indeed are the actual descendants of the Acadians, but their ways and customs may be judged by the relics in the Acadian

room in Fort Anne, furnished to represent exactly what their homes were in the past, and carefully looked after by L. M. Fortier, superintendent of the park.

Another pleasant spot for the visitor is Kentville, where the Cornwallis Inn attends to the material wants of its guests and abounds with suggestions for fishing, canoeing and hiking excursions. Still more entrancing, perhaps, is Digby, a town charmingly situated on the Annapolis Basin, where there is not only trout fishing but deep-sea fishing in the Bay of Fundy, and where visitors make The Pines a temporary home from which to take motor and boat trips to the beauty spots of Nova Scotia.

BON APPETIT-Recipes from the Guédry-Labine Cookbook

SEAFOOD DELIGHT

from Julie Guidry-Abbeville, LA

4 1/2 cups water
1 1/2 lbs. medium sized fresh shrimp
1 (16 oz.) package linguine
1 (6 oz.) package frozen snow peas, thawed & drained
6 green onions, chopped
4 medium tomatoes, peeled, chopped & drained
1/2 cup olive oil
1/3 cup balsamic vinegar
1/4 cup fresh oregano, chopped coarsely
1/4 cup fresh basil, chopped coarsely
1 clove garlic, pressed
1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
Salt to taste
1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley

Peel and de-vein shrimp. Bring water to boil add shrimp and cook 3 to 5 minutes. Drain well, rinse with cold water. Chill. Set aside.

Cook linguine according to package directions, omitting salt, drain. Rinse with cold water and drain again. Combine shrimp and remaining ingredients, salt to taste. Toss gently. Cover and chill at least 2 hours.



This chilled shrimp pasta, followed by a cold dish of homemade ice cream is perfect for a warm summer day. It doesn't get much better than this!



HOMEMADE CREAMY BANANA & PECAN ICE CREAM

from Charlene Guidry Lacombe-Jennings, Louisiana

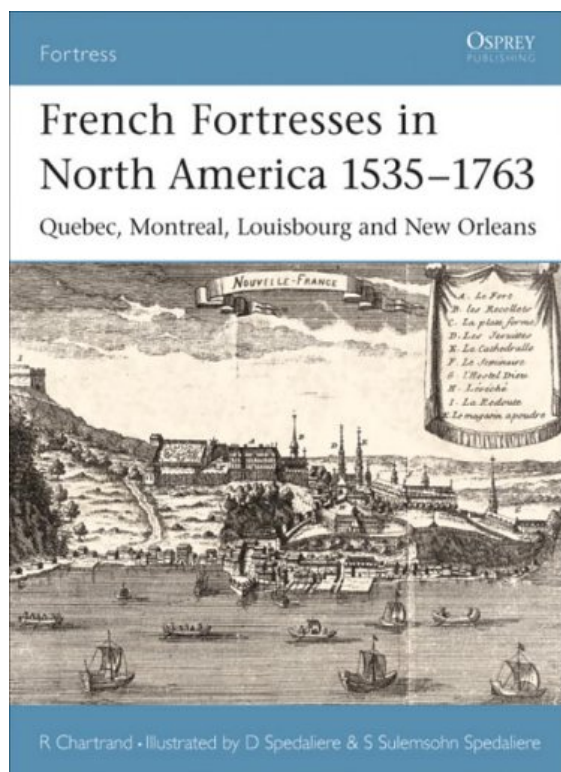
6 eggs, well beaten
2 cups sugar
1 can (16 oz.) evaporated milk
1 1/2 tbsp. all purpose flour
Dash of salt
3 tbsp. vanilla extract
4 ripe bananas, mashed
1 cup chopped pecans
Milk (to be added at the end)

Combine eggs, 1 1/2 cups sugar and milk. Beat one minute. Add 1/2 cup, flour, vanilla and salt. Beat until well blended. Fold in bananas and pecans.

Using an electric or hand turned crank-type home ice cream freezer, pour the mixture into the container. Add enough milk so that the container is 3/4 full. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to make the ice cream.



BOOK NOOK



French Fortresses in North America 1535-1763 **Quebec, Montreal, Louisbourg and New Orleans**

By Rene Chartrand

This title provides a detailed examination of the defenses of the three largest fortified cities in Canada - Quebec, Montreal and Louisbourg - and also covers New Orleans in America. Quebec City is the best known and most impressive of the sites covered, and was the strongest of the fortresses of New France: besieged twice by the British (1690 and 1759) and once by the French (1760), it was captured in 1759 by General James Wolfe. Montreal was also strongly fortified and its strategic location ensured its prominence in the fur trade early on. Fortress Louisbourg was built as a large fortified naval station between 1720 and 1743 and saw significant combat action.

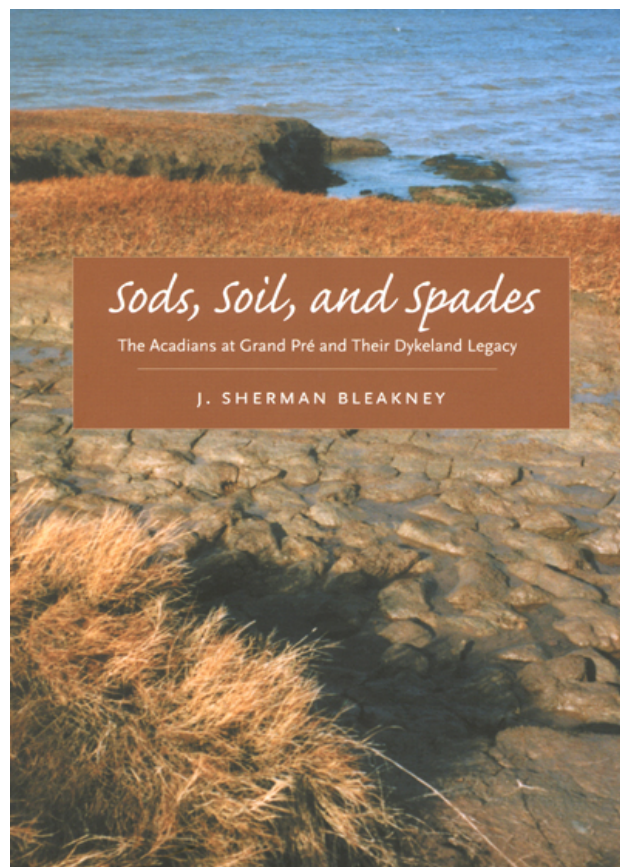
Rene Chartrand was born in Montreal. A senior curator with Canada's National Historic Sites for nearly three decades, he is now a freelance writer and historical consultant. He has written numerous articles and books including some 20 Osprey titles and the first two volumes of 'Canadian Military Heritage'.

Sods, Soil, and Spades-The Acadians at Grand Pré and Their Dykeland Legacy

By J. Sherman Bleakney

French Acadians began settling in the Grand Pré area of Nova Scotia, a region plagued by salt-soaked tidal meadows, in the seventeenth century. By the middle of the eighteenth century, a complex system of sod barriers had enabled them to convert 3,000 acres of what had been tidal marshes into rich crop land. Four hundred years after the Acadian arrival in the Bay of Fundy region, the physical presence of their legacy is still intact.

Sherman Bleakney examines the unusual physical and biological features of this region of the Bay of Fundy, home to the only successful pioneer society in North America to farm below sea level. Using original photographs, diagrams, and graphs, Bleakney shows how and why the Acadians were successful. Sods, Soil, and Spades examines the unique and elegant engineering principles and practices used by the Acadians and looks at how their culture influenced their success in mastering this marshland region



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TOURIST ATTRACTIONS NEW BRUNSWICK



<http://www.bathurstheritage.ca/index.asp>

Watch for Bathurst's First Hand-I-Craft Fair at Gallery 360, **Bathurst Heritage Museum**, July & August, 2009. All handicrafts will be displayed: knitting; cross stitch; embroidery; needle point; felting and much, much more - even new crafts. Visit the website for upcoming events and hours of operation.



The Royal Canadian Legion War Museum in Bathurst displays military artifacts, such as weapons, medals, badges, pictures, and uniforms from the World War I, World War II, and the Korean war.

The Herman J. Good V.C. Branch No. 18 Royal Canadian Legion War Museum is located at:

575 St. Peter Avenue, Bathurst, New Brunswick.

1 (506) 546-3135

Golf Courses-Bathurst, New Brunswick

<http://www.gowanbrae.ca/>

Gowan Brae Golf Course
Younghall Drive
Bathurst, New Brunswick

(506) 548-9469



<http://www.squiregreen.com/>

Squire Green Golf Course
1290 Riverside Drive
Bathurst, New Brunswick

(506) 546-3309

CMA 2009-Guédry-Labine & Petitpas Reunion Information

We are having our Guédry-Labine & Petitpas Reunion on Sunday, 16 August 2009 in the Conference Center of Danny's Inn in Beresford, New Brunswick. Beresford is just five miles north of Bathurst, New Brunswick and Danny's Inn is on Highway 134 just south of Beresford.

We will begin about 8:30 am and have activities until 5:00 pm. Our agenda, activities and displays will include formal sessions with music, presentations, etc. as well as time to mingle and get to know your cousins. The agenda is:

- * 8:30 am - Opening Mass at Holy Family (Sainte Famille) Catholic Church
(430 St. Peter Avenue; Bathurst, NB)
 - French Rosary led by Pierrette Guidry of Colorado (8:15 am)
 - Opening Procession honoring our ancestors (8:30 am)
 - French Mass celebrated by Father Benoit Drapeau of Arizona
 - Closing Procession
- * 9:45 am - Reunion Registration at Danny's Inn Conference Center
[1223 Route 134 (Rue Principale) just north of Bathurst, NB]
- * 10:00 am - Larry Miller and his Cajun Band
(Including Cajun two-step & waltz demonstrations)
- * 10:45 am - Break (View displays, meet cousins, sales table, etc.)
- * 11:00 am - Presentation (Larry Miller of Louisiana) -
Cultures of Louisiana Cajuns and Maritime Acadians
including an actual Courir de Mardi Gras (Cajun Mardi Gras Run)
- * 11:45 am - Break (View displays, meet cousins, sales table, etc.)
- * 12:00 noon - Dinner Buffet
- * 1:00 pm - Presentation (Sister Corinne LaPlant of New Brunswick) -
History of the Acadians of the Baie-des-Chaleurs Region
- * 1:45 pm - Break (View displays, meet cousins, sales table, etc.)
- * 2:00 pm - Presentation (Eileen Avery [Petitpas] of California) -
Petitpas Genealogy - Recent Discoveries Using DNA Techniques
- * 2:45 pm - Break (View displays, meet cousins, sales table, etc.)
- * 3:00 pm - New Brunswick Acadian Band
- * 3:45 pm - Break (View displays, meet cousins, sales table, etc.)
- * 4:00 pm - Presentation (Elaine Clement of Louisiana) -
Louisiana Cajun French and Acadian French of Canada -
How Similar Are They
- * 4:30 pm - Break
- * 4:45 pm - Closing Ceremony

There will be a superb buffet lunch. It'll be a Hot & Cold Dinner Buffet that includes roast beef smothered in peppercorn gravy, sweet & sour meat balls, lasagna, chicken wings, potato casserole, coleslaw, tossed green salad, carrot salad, rolls, carrot cake, cherry cheesecake, fresh fruit salad, coffee and tea. The cost is \$25.00 CAN per person.

NEW BRUNSWICK ACCOMMODATIONS - CMA 2009

BATHURST - <http://www.bathurst.ca/english/home/>

[Authentique Bed & Breakfast](#) Enjoy our 4 star B&B in a heritage home of the 20's with 'Arts & Craft's influences, conveniently located in the heart of Bathurst. You are welcome to relax in a cozy atmosphere with personalized service. Spacious rooms with very comfortable beds, cable TV, DVD, MP3, wireless internet, work desk and telephone. Each room has a private bathroom. Breakfast 'A la Carte' will be served in our elegant dining room.

[Comfort Inn Bathurst](#) Conveniently located on St. Peter Avenue. Close to shopping and offices. 35 person meeting room available.

[John's Motel](#) Our rooms have a full bath and shower, color television with cable, and most importantly comfortable beds! We also boast a swimming pool and an area for picnics. We also have in-room coffee.

[Sea'scape Cottage](#) This is our fully equipped beach house located on the beautiful Bay of Chaleur in Bathurst, New Brunswick. Select the virtual tour button to have a closer look.

The official New Brunswick Tourism Website is at the link below. You can learn about interesting locations, sites and activities at this website. By clicking on the word "Guides" in the left column of the page, you can order a free 2008 Experience New Brunswick Vacation Planner" which is excellent.

<http://www.tourismnewbrunswick.ca>

The 2009 CMA website has an excellent page on accommodations within the Acadian Peninsula. Visit it by clicking on this link:

<http://www.cma2009.ca>

CARAQUET - <http://www.ville.caraquet.nb.ca/>

[Hotel Paulin](#) "The Pearl of Baie des Chaleurs", Caraquet.

[Motel Colibri](#) 12 rooms smoking and non-smoking. 2 double bed. Free breakfast.

[Super 8 Motel](#) 50 guest rooms including 18 junior suites.



ON THE WEB

Les Guédry d'Astcur

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~guedrylabinefamily/>

The Guédry-Labine Family Genealogical Database

Developed by the Les Guédry d'Astcur, Inc. Genealogy Committee

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~guidryrm/Guedry-Labine/>

The Louisiana State Archives

This is the official website for the Louisiana State Archives. It provides a very nice overview of the archival holdings and services. Although there are no images of original documents at this time, there is a very nice index to Confederate Pension Applications with numerous Guidry records. Click on Research Library under Sections of Organization, then Confederate Pension Applications to the left of the top photograph, then Search the Database.

<http://www.sos.louisiana.gov/archives/archives/archives-index.htm>

Archives of Canada

<http://www.archivescanada.ca/english/index.html>

DUES REMINDER

Attached at the back of this issue is a membership application for renewing your membership in Les Guédry d'Astcur. Our dues are very reasonable at \$6.00 for individuals and \$10 for a family.

By joining and paying your dues, you provide us with the financial resources to participate in many projects, one being the CMA 2009 reunion in Bathurst, New Brunswick.

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 let us do even more.

Les Guédry d'Asteur

To share your ideas for the newsletter,
contact:

Marty Guidry
6139 North Shore Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70817
225-755-1915
guidryrm@cox.net

'GENERATIONS' newsletter is now in its seventh 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.

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

Allie Guidry
txguidry2000@yahoo.com

Marty Guidry
guidryrm@cox.net



Les Guédry d'Asteur Officers and Committees

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Vice-President - Elaine Clement (LA)
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Treasurer - Daniel "Chuck" Guidry (LA)

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Les Guidry d'Asteur
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(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 (Familiiale) \$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 payable to: *Les Guidry d'Asteur, Inc.* (Libellez le chèque à: *Les Guidry d'Asteur, Inc.*)

Les Guidry d'Asteur, Inc.
Charlene Guidry Lacombe
Membership Chair
226 Bulldog Lane
Iota, LA 70543

Les Guidry d'Asteur
REGISTRATION for 2009 REUNION
(L'enregistrement pour 2009 Réunion)

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) _____
First Names of Children (Prénoms de 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) _____

Number of People Attending (Le numéro de Gens qui assistent) _____

No. of Buffet Meals at Reunion (A l'intention de Manger des Repas à la Réunion) _____
(Buffet meal will cost \$20-\$25 per person / Le repas de buffet coûtera \$20-\$25 par la personne)

Registration: Includes Reunion & 2009 Membership in *Les Guidry d'Asteur* /
L'enregistrement: Inclut la Réunion & 2009 Sociétariat dans *Les Guidry d'Asteur*)

Family -Parents and Children under 22 (Famille - Les parents et les Enfants sous 22):

_____ \$40.00 Dollars (Canadian dollars for Canadian payments; U. S. dollars for U. S. payments)
(Dollars canadiens pour les paiements Canadiens; Dollars américains pour les paiements américains)

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_____ \$20.00 Dollars (Canadian dollars for Canadian payments; U. S. dollars for U. S. payments)
(Dollars canadiens pour les paiements Canadiens; Dollars américains pour les paiements américains)

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Les Guidry d'Asteur, Inc.
Martin Guidry, President
6139 North Shore Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70817