

GENERATIONS

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What a strange year 2010 has been thus far. Record colds this winter and record heat spells in the summer. And now a major oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico during prime hurricane season. For a few moments grab a nice beverage and enjoy the Summer 2010 issue of "Generations". It's another superb issue full of interesting stories about our Guédry-Labine and Petitpas families.

Interested in the War of Northern Aggression (sometimes called the Civil War in the U.S.) – then you'll enjoy the moving letter a father at the battlefield writes to his lonesome young son in "A Letter from Private Cyrille Trasimon Guidry during the Civil War". And speaking of youth, Ophelia Guidry Perry of Vermilion Parish, LA celebrated 102 years young this year. Her life story is quite interesting as she has seen so much occur in the last century.

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico not only is harming fragile marshes where over 40% of the seafood in the U. S. spawns, but also is wreaking havoc on the culture and heritage of Acadians and other peoples living near and relying on the Gulf and marshes for their livelihood. Two persons leading the response effort in minimizing impact to the marshes and wildlife and to the response workers and residents are Roland Guidry, the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator, and Dr. Jimmy Guidry, the Louisiana State Health Officer.

During the 2010 Acadian Memorial Festival in St. Martinville, LA, the Guidry and Breaux families were honored as pioneer Louisiana Acadian families. The highlight of the Festival was the reenactment on Bayou Teche of the 1765 arrival of the Acadians to St. Martinville with the Guidry and Breaux families arriving by canoe and being greeted under the historic Evangeline Oak by a Spanish official. Enjoy the photographs of the events and the summaries of the Festival in English and French. Mr. Gérard-Marc Braud of Nantes, France attended the event and wrote a nice article in French of the Festival and of his scenic swamp cruise with Ron 'Black' Guidry on Bayou Black near Houma, LA.

In the political arena you'll be amazed at the fascinating story of Malvina Ménard Labine. Born into a poor family, she began working at thirteen. Married at nineteen, she had had twenty children when suddenly she became a widow at age 47. Struggling, but with a will of iron and a compassionate heart, she raised her family and then a second family of foster children while providing needed charity to many local families. Suddenly at age 65 she opted to run for reeve of her township and defeated the incumbent against great odds. Read how she did it in this interesting article.

Sit back, relax and get away from the doldrums of summer as you read the Summer 2010 issue of "Generations".



A LETTER FROM PRIVATE CYRILLE TRASIMON GUIDRY PÈRE DURING THE CIVIL WAR *By Marty Guidry*

Born on 18 July 1828 in St. Martin Parish, LA, Cyrille Trasimon Guidry père married Azaliea Alzeninth Nunez on 23 May 1854 in Abbeville, Vermilion Parish, LA. He was the son Olivier Guidry fils and Isabelle Belzire Thibodeaux while Alzeninth was the daughter of Sebastien Nunez and Clementine Lapointe. Cyrille and Alzeninth raised a family of twelve children, eleven sons and one daughter, in Vermilion Parish, LA – Cyrille Trasimon fils (b. 1855), Olivier Hippolyte (b. 1857), Arthur (b. 1859), Numa Gilbert (b. 1861), Sebastien (b. 1864), the twins Adolphe and Rodolphe Anselme (b. 1868), Caliste (b. 1871), Socrates Odin (b. 1874), Luc (b. 1877), Xavier Nunez (b. 1880) and Modeste (b. 1881). To support his large family, Cyrille farmed near Abbeville. Cyrille Trasimon Guidry père died 5 December 1900 at his home near Abbeville, LA in Vermilion Parish. His wife Alzeninth Nunez Guidry died 3 May 1927 in Vermilion Parish, LA.

With the outbreak of the Civil War Cyrille Trasimon Guidry père enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1862 at Camp Pratt near New Iberia, LA in Iberia Parish. He was assigned the rank of private. The initial unit(s) in which he served are not known; however, by October 1864 he was a private in Company C of the 7th Louisiana Cavalry. He served in this unit until the surrender of the 7th Louisiana Cavalry at Chicot, LA in May, 1865. Captain William A. Whitaker commanded Company C while Colonel Louis Bush commanded the 7th Louisiana Cavalry Regiment until January 1865 when he was transferred. Colonel Louis A. Bringier replaced him and served until the surrender of the 7th Louisiana Cavalry.

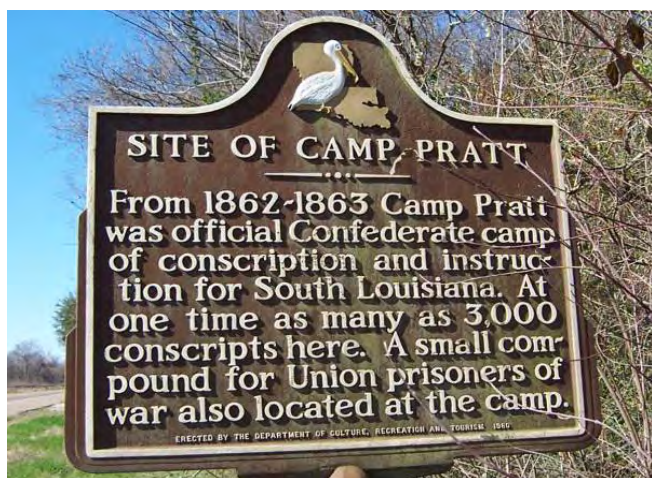
The complete service record of Cyrille Trasimon Guidry père is not known; however, we do have sketchy information on his service. On 16 April 1915 his widow Alzeninth Nunez Guidry filed a Civil War Pension Application (Louisiana Civil War Pension Application No. 14260; Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, Louisiana) and was granted a quarterly pension of \$19.90 on 10 June 1915. On 6 September 1930 after the death of Alzeninth Guidry her family requested that the Board of Pension Commissioners return a letter written by Cyrille Trasimon Guidry during the Civil War and that was attached to the original application. The Board of Pension Commissioners responded on 30 September 1930 and stated that they were returning these four letters written by Cyrille Trasimon Guidry:

dated Camp Pratt, LA, September 6, 1862

dated Camp Bisland, January 9, 1863

dated Camp Bisland, March 19, 1863

dated Camp Bisland, April 1, 1863



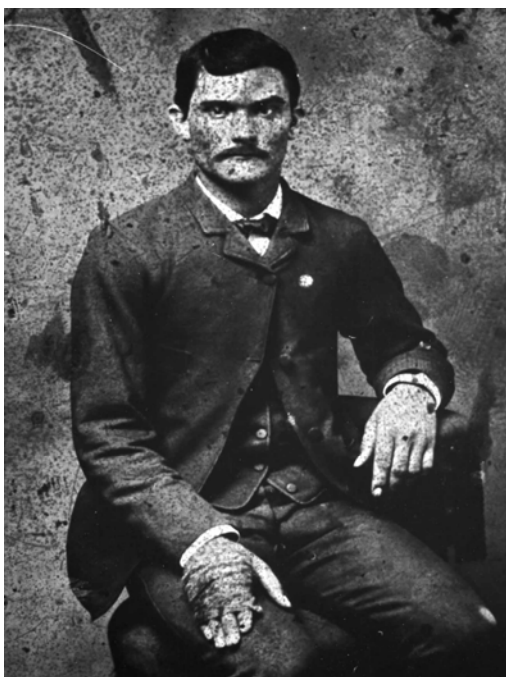
A LETTER FROM PRIVATE CYRILLE TRASIMON GUIDRY PÈRE DURING THE CIVIL WAR

Camp Pratt was just north of New Iberia, LA near present-day Highway 82 in Iberia Parish, LA. Camp Pratt was a Confederate Enlistment Camp where young men enlisted and received their initial instructions on becoming a soldier. Camp Bisland was between Patterson, LA and Centerville, LA at the present-day Calumet Spillway along Bayou Teche in St. Mary Parish, LA. The Battle of Bisland was fought 12-13 April 1863. Almost certainly Cyrille Trasimon Guidry père fought in this engagement.

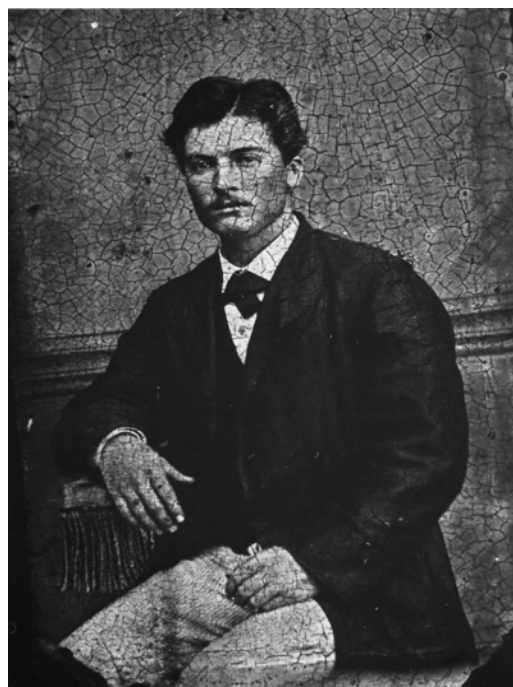
During late 1864 and early 1865 Companies A and C of the 7th Louisiana Cavalry made raids into the Bayou Lafourche region to acquire horses and supplies as well as to harass the enemy. By May 1865 the 7th Louisiana Cavalry had encamped near Alexandria, LA in Rapides Parish. They surrendered near here at Chicot, LA later that month.

The attached letter written by Cyrille Trasimon Guidry to his eldest son during the Civil War has survived over 140 years in our family. Written in Cajun French, no date or location is discernible. It appears that Alzeninth Guidry had written her husband Cyrille earlier that their eldest son Cyrille fils, who was about eight years old, was missing his father and needed a word of encouragement. In this brief letter the father tells his son that he is the “man of the house” now and that he needs to ensure the work is done and to care for the family. A transcription and translation of the letter follows.

The two photographs are of the father Cyrille Trasimon Guidry père and the son Cyrille Trasimon Guidry fils taking at different times in their lives. The original photographs in the author’s possession are period tin-types. The graves of both father and son are located together in Old St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Cemetery behind the church in Abbeville, LA.



Cyrille Trasimon Guidry, fils



Cyrille Trasimon Guidry, père

Transcription: **Cover**

Letter

Mon cher fils aîné

Tu ma marquer sur la letter de ta mère que
me
vous ennuyer beaucoup de moi ça fait plaisir de
voir le naturel que mon grand fils a pour sont cher
papa et je m'ennuyer beaucoup de toi aussi mon
cher fils. apprésent mon fils je demande de
fais travailler ces nègres là dans le lot et de
aller voir tout les jours. de m'envoyes les nouvelle
de ma récolte de m'envoyes comment et le
commencement de la récolte ci il y'a une jolie
aparence cette année et fair intention au
magasin de mais de ne pas le gaspiyer de fair
donner á mager de l'animeaux le vendre plain
pas plus qu'il ne faut rien de plus a te dire
pour le momes et tache de m'envoyer la réponce
de ma letter. Adieu adieu mon cher fils.
tu embrasses à ta manien pour moi et tes
petits frères aussi ton cher papa **C T Guidry**

Translation: **Cover**

Mr.
Cyrille Trasimon Guidry
Vermillion Parish
Abbeville
La

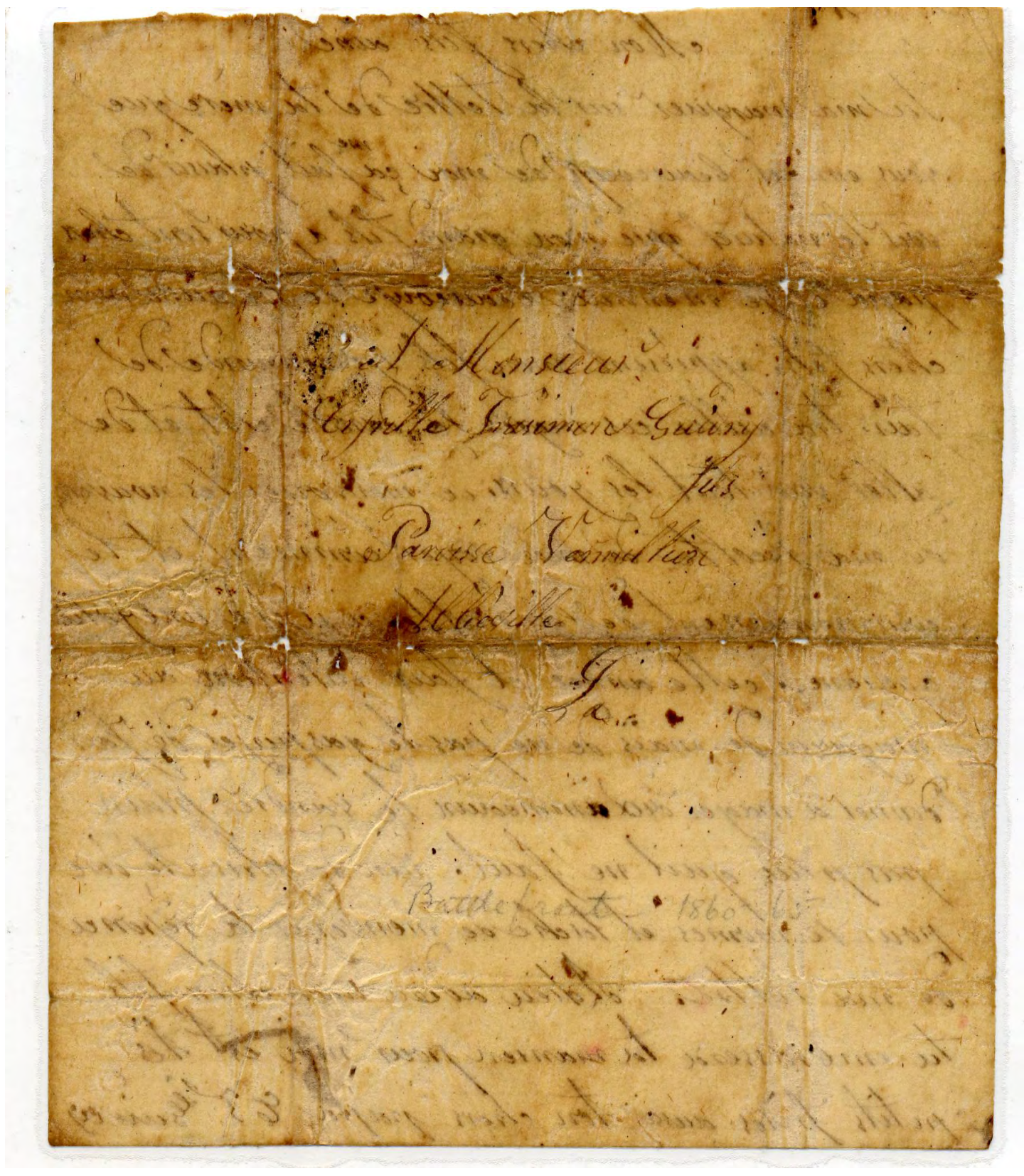
Letter

My dear oldest son

You mentioned to me in your mother's letter that
me
you are very lonesome for me that pleases to
see the feelings that my big son has for his dear
father and I miss you very much also my
dear son. now my son I desire to
make those negroes work there in the field and to
go see everyday. to send me the news
of my crop to send me how and the
beginning of the harvest if it looks
good this year and take care of the
corncrib do not waste it to
feed it to the animals sell no
more than necessary nothing more to tell you
now and try to send me the answer
to my letter. Good-bye good-bye my dear son
kiss your mother for me and your
little brothers also your dear father **C T Guidry**

A LETTER FROM PRIVATE CYRILLE TRASIMON GUIDRY PÈRE DURING THE CIVIL WAR

Cover page - Letter from Cyrille Trasimon Guidry père



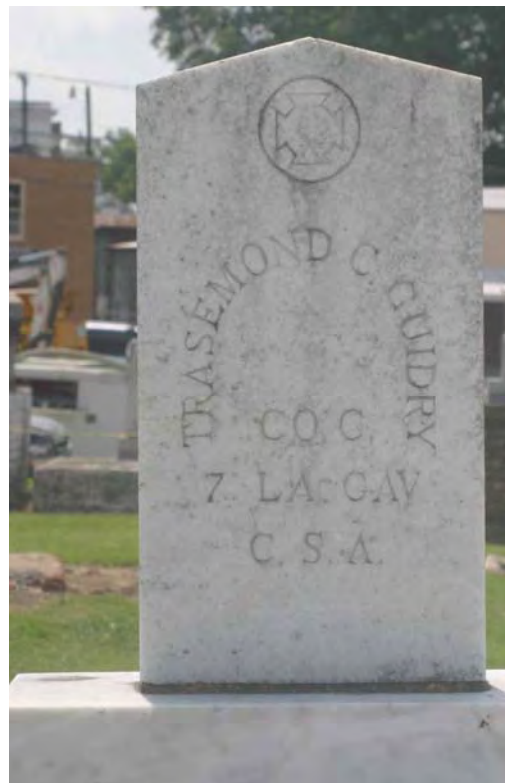
A LETTER FROM PRIVATE CYRILLE TRASIMON GUIDRY PÈRE DURING THE CIVIL WAR

Letter from Cyrille Trasimon Guidry, père

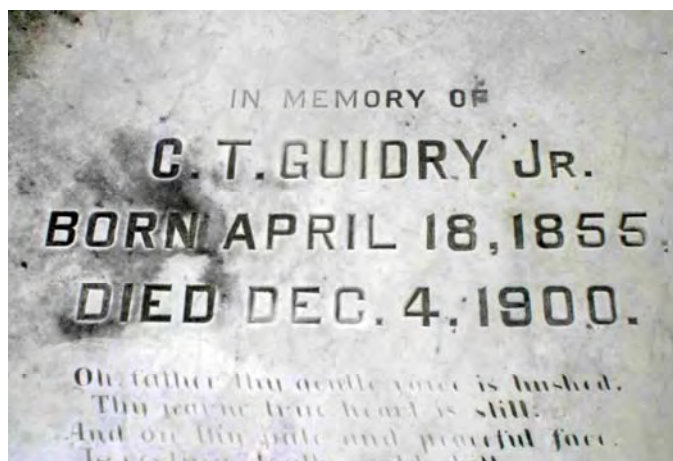
Mon chers fils aîné
Je me marque sur la lettre de ta mère que
vous aimez beaucoup de moi ça fait plaisir de
voir le naturel que mon grand fils a pour son cher
papa et je m'en réjouis beaucoup de ton amour mon
cher fils. apprends mon fils je te demande de
faire travailler ces nègres la dans le clot et de
aller sur tout les jours. je m'occupe les nouvelles
de ma récolte de ma récolte comment et le
commencement de la récolte si il y a une petite
apaisance cette année et fais attention au
magasin de maïs de ne pas se gaspiller de faire
donner à manger aux animaux le vendre plain
pas plus qu'il ne faut. rien de plus à te dire
pour le moment et tâche de m'envoyer la réponse
de ma lettre. Adieu adieu mon cher fils
tu embrassera ta maman pour moi et tes
petits frères aussi ton chers papa C. Trasimon

A LETTER FROM PRIVATE CYRILLE TRASIMON GUIDRY PÈRE DURING THE CIVIL WAR**Genealogy of Cyrille Trasimon Guidry fils**

Cyrille Trasimon Guidry fils m. Uranie Mayard
|
Cyrille Trasimon Guidry père m. Azaliea Alzeninth Nunez
|
Olivier Guidry fils m. Elizabeth Belzire Thibodeaux
|
Olivier Guidry père m. Victoire Semere
|
Pierre Guédry m2. Claire Babin
|
Augustin Guédry m. Jeanne Hébert
|
Claude Guédry m. Marguerite Petitpas



Old St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Cemetery behind the church in Abbeville, LA



Ophelia Guidry Perry Celebrates Her 102nd Birthday!

The following article appeared in:
BONNES NOUVELLES, ABBEVILLE, LA, MAY 2010
By Cindy Luquette

Bonnes Nouvelles

Good news about people, places and things in Vermilion Parish

BONNES NOUVELLES, ABBEVILLE, LA

VOLUME 8 NO. 5

BONNES NOUVELLES VERMILION - MAY 2010 PAGE 9

Over A Century of Living And Still Going Strong

By Cindy Luquette

Vermilion Parish mother, Ophelia Guidry Perry, was six years old when Americans celebrated the first nationally recognized Mother's Day on the second Sunday in May in the year 1914. The Cow Island native was born on April 30, 1908 and celebrated her 102 birthday on Friday, April 30, 2010.

Imagine living for over a century and imagine living during a time when people went from traveling by horse and buggy, to automobiles to airplanes and then jet planes, from telegraph, to telephone, to cell phones. Imagine going from listening to a radio, to watching television, from letters carried by pony express to email on the internet. Ophelia lived through all of these technological changes.

Her early years were spent in Cow Island. The details are

sketchy but Ophelia and her brother, Walter, were adopted by Odilon and Laura Harrington Guidry when she was about four years old and her brother was two. Their birth mother died of yellow fever. Shortly after being adopted, around age five, Ophelia travelled to Abbeville to receive her education. She spent several years living in the convent with the Carmelite order of nuns and attended Mount Carmel school. She attended the school and lived with the nuns until she reached the sixth grade. (Tuition for attending the school in 1914 was \$1.00 per month.) Upon reaching the sixth grade, she received word she was needed back in Cow Island to work in her parent's store. Her formal education ended and she left Abbeville to return home.

Ophelia wedded in 1932 at



**Ophelia Guidry Perry turned 102 years
on Friday, April 30, 2010.**

Ophelia Guidry Perry Celebrates Her 102nd Birthday!



age 24, Joseph E. Perry. The couple resided in Cow Island where Mr. Perry farmed property for Dr. P. J. Miller. The couple then had six children, four girls and two boys, which included a set of twins.

She was busy being a wife and mother until the flood of 1940 devastated Vermilion Parish and brought about a life changing experience for her and her family. An unnamed hurricane made landfall at Cameron, Louisiana on August 5, 1940. It was report-

ed it brought with it a five foot tidal surge. The weather system stalled over south Louisiana for four days and dumped 21 inches of rain in a 24 hour period. The city of Abbeville reported receiving over 31 inches of rain. The unnamed weather system devastated Acadiana and Vermilion Parish. Crops, livestock as well as wildlife were all destroyed by the flood waters.

Life took an unexpected turn for Ophelia following the flood of 1940. Mr. Perry left her and the children shortly after the flood waters subsided. Many things are taken for granted or considered common place in today's modern world like automobiles, automatic washers/dryers and single parents, single mothers. However, in the 1940's, a single mother was not a common occurrence, but Ophelia took this unexpected turn in stride and did what she could to provide for herself and her six children. In 1942 she decided a move was in order so she and her children, ranging from ages



This is the house where she grew up in Cow Island. Photo at left is of Ophelia and her brother, Walter Guidry (dec).

two to 12, traveled the ten miles or so to the city of Abbeville.

Ophelia never owned an automobile in all of her 102 years of living. This idea is practically unheard of today, but she literally took it in stride and walked everywhere she went, be it work or church. "Mama worked several different jobs and we, her children, also worked little jobs. Some of the girls, myself included, had babysitting jobs to help with expenses," recalled her

daughter, Hazel Roy. In 1957 Ophelia secured a job cooking for the doctors at the Palms Hospital. She retained that job until the hospital closed in 1962.

"We lived in various parts of the city, but wherever we lived, Mama walked with us to St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church on Sundays. Mama prayed her rosary in French and still does each and every day," Hazel said.

She did not travel much and to modern-day standards she



Ophelia in her 40's

lived a sheltered or secluded life, but she did participate in the lives of her children attending PTA meetings and visiting their classrooms. (Imagine she participated in the lives of six children without the benefit of a vehicle.)

Ophelia's brother built two houses in 1949, the one in which she now resides and the other next door to it for their mother. She began caring for her mother in 1960 and cared for her until

she passed away in 1968. Her brother moved into the house next door after his mother died. Ophelia was in her 80's at that time and she began cooking and caring for her brother just as she had done for her mother. "Mama cooked his meals and took her walker and would make her way across the yard to bring him his food. She did this until he passed away about seven years ago," recalled Hazel.

The question arises, "to what does she attribute her longevity?" She can answer that question with two simple words, "work and walk". Yes, she attributes living to age 102 to working and walking. There must be something to it as she has no health issues and is not on any medication. She has what some folks might call a vice. She enjoys eating two warm donuts with a glass of milk every morning. "Mama started doing that several years ago. She also loves shrimp gumbo and fried fish which she eats every Friday. If she had her way she would eat it everyday," Hazel said.



Ophelia and family celebrated her 100th birthday with a big party. For her 102nd birthday, she is keeping it simple, with no big celebration. There are four families with five generations including Ophelia, two daughters have great-grandchildren and one daughter has two great-grandchildren from the line of two of her children.

However, even with her two donuts a day, Ophelia is slight in stature and has flawless skin, free of wrinkles. She has a face that glows and clear blue eyes that have a hint of mischief. She puts her makeup on every morning and refreshes her lipstick throughout the day.

Ophelia Guidry Perry, many would consider this single mom of six to have lived a tough life, one void of riches and many would say few luxuries. Howev-

er, spend just a few minutes with her and it will become crystal clear, she considers herself to be one of the richest people on earth, because of her treasure of six children, 28 grandchildren, 33 great grandchildren, 4 great great grandchildren, and the greatest treasure money cannot buy and time cannot steal - LOVE!!!!

Happy 102nd Birthday and Happy Mother's Day Ophelia! And all moms!

(Ophelia Guidry Perry, *Cont'd.*) / GUIDRY'S LEAD IN OIL SPILL RESPONSE

Adoptive Genealogy of Ophelia Guidry (Cow Island & Abbeville, Louisiana)

Ophelia Guidry m. Joseph E. Perry

(At birth Ophelia's mother was Rosa Backer; her father was not named.)

Ophelia adopted about age four by:

| Odilon Guidry m. Marie Laura Harrington

| Sebastien Guidry m. Nathilia Simon

| Cyrille Trasimond Guidry père m. Azelima Alzineth Nunez

| Olivier Guidry fils m. Isabelle Belzire Thibodeau

| Olivier Guidry père m. Victoire Semere

| Pierre Guédry m2. Claire Babin

| Augustin Guédry m. Jeanne Hébert

| Claude Guédry m. Marguerite Petitpas



**GUIDRY'S HAVE LEADING ROLES
IN DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL RESPONSE**

On 20 April 2010 the Transocean oil rig Deepwater Horizon being operated by BP Oil exploded and caught fire in the Gulf of Mexico approximately 42 miles southeast of Venice, Louisiana. Of the 126 people on board the rig at the time of the explosion, seventeen were severely injured and eleven were killed. After a second explosion on 22 April the rig sank to the ocean floor resulting in a major oil leak into the Gulf of Mexico. Officials estimate that oil is flowing into the Gulf at a rate between 1.5 million and 2.5 million gallons per day.

Two Louisiana officials leading the response actions to the spill are Roland J. Guidry, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator, and Dr. Jimmy Guidry, Louisiana Medical Director and State Health Officer.

Roland Guidry directs the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office – the mission of which is to provide innovative leadership and coordination in oil spill prevention, planning, response and natural resource damage assessment for the State of Louisiana. Roland is working directly with Coast Guard Admiral Thad Allen in overseeing and directing the response actions and natural resource assessments associated with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Dr. Jimmy Guidry as the State Health Officer for Louisiana is responsible for investigating health issues that may impact the public and workers and developing strategies to combat diseases and other health issues in Louisiana. Dr. Guidry and his staff are investigating complaints of illnesses from oil cleanup workers, determining if public and worker health are being negatively impacted by the oil spill and its response activities and developing strategies to minimize any negative impacts.

GUIDRY'S LEAD IN OIL SPILL RESPONSE

Roland Guidry currently serves as Oil Spill Coordinator for the state of Louisiana. He has held this position since 1992. Prior to his appointment as Coordinator, he served as an elected member of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission for fifteen years, eight years as the Vice President. For over thirty years, he made his livelihood from Louisiana's abundant natural resources. First, he trapped and fished for a living. Then, as owner of a marine towing business, he worked in various types of oil related activities, ranging from drilling and exploration to transportation of crude oil and other hydrocarbons. As Oil Spill Coordinator, Mr. Guidry received a Public Service commendation from the United States Coast Guard for his participation in the Coast Guard negotiated rulemaking process and Certificate of Merit for his contributions during the Westchester Oil Spill in November 2000. Mr. Guidry has been designated by the Governor of Louisiana as the lead state trustee for assessing natural resources damages under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. Additionally, Mr. Guidry serves as the primary state representative on the Region VI Regional Response Team for oil spill related matters, and has served on three different Area Committees designated under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. He has attended a Training Workshop on Oiled Bird Rehabilitation, successfully completed Oil Spill Response Training with the United States Coast Guard Gulf Strike Team, and has completed a Hazardous Materials/Waste Training program certified by Louisiana State University. He has also completed an On-scene Coordinator Crisis Management Course by the United States Coast Guard Reserve Training Center in Yorktown, Virginia, an Inland Oil Spill Control Course at Texas A&M University, and the Qualified Individual Training Program OPA 90 from Massachusetts Maritime Academy at Buzzards Bay, MA. Mr. Guidry serves on several state wide committees including the BTNEP and Clean Gulf Conference Committee. Mr. Guidry has been a staunch advocate for preserving our coastal wetlands and is actively involved in the restoration and conservation of Louisiana's barrier islands as a comprehensive oil spill prevention measure. Roland Guidry, age 70, married to LouAnna Crosby for over 48 years. They have four children and eight grandchildren. They reside in Cut Off, LA and Roland works in Baton Rouge. Roland graduated from Larose Cut Off High School in 1954 and also served in the United States National Guard for eight years. He started researching the Guidry family history in the late sixties. Roland's hobbies are hunting, fishing, cooking, reading, carpentry and story telling.



Left: Roland Guidry, Oil Spill Coordinator for the State of Louisiana



Dr. Jimmy Guidry, State Health Officer of Louisiana

Jimmy Guidry, M.D., is currently the State Health Officer of Louisiana, and also serves as the Medical Director for the Department of Health & Hospitals (DHH). Prior to this, Dr. Guidry served as the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Public Health from October, 1996 through January, 2000, and as Medical Director of the Acadian Region from April 1990 through April, 1991. In addition, Dr. Guidry served as Director of Adolescent Services at LSU School of Medicine, Pediatric Department, Earl K. Long Hospital from January 1985 to March, 1990. He also worked in Pediatric Private Practice from July, 1981 through December, 1984.

Dr. Guidry presently chairs various task forces, including the DHH Obesity Task Force, the Child Death Review Panel, and the Governor's Task Force on Tuberculosis.

He has received numerous awards and honors. In 1997, Guidry was named the LPHA Award Recipient. He is well respected among his peers, and is sought-after for many speaking engagements. He also represents the state of Louisiana at many medical and environmental engagements across the country.

He received his Bachelors of Science from the University of Southwestern in 1974, earned his doctorate from the Louisiana State University School of Medicine in 1978, and completed his residency at Earl K. Long Hospital in 1981. He has been Board Certified since 1984 and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Dr. Guidry has a strong interest in the medical care of the citizens of Louisiana and works diligently towards the delivery of services in our state.

BOOK NOOK

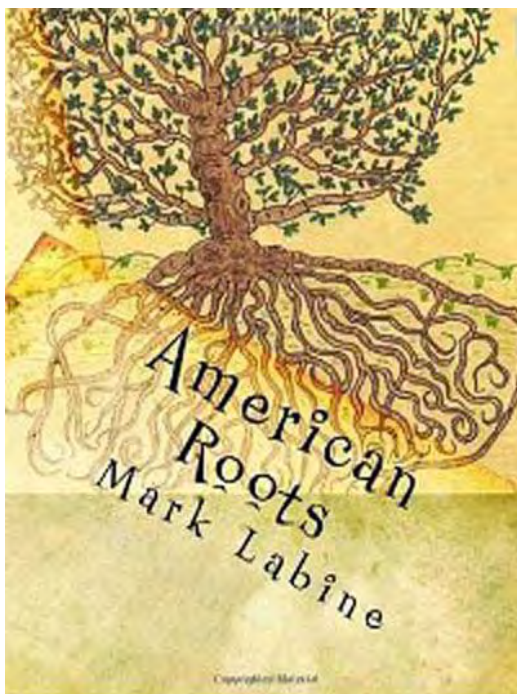
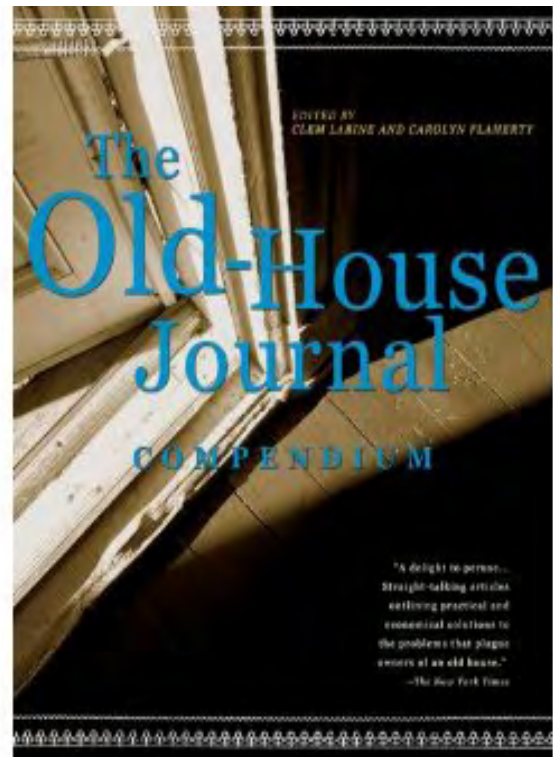
When Clem Labine and his family abandoned Manhattan for an old brownstone in Brooklyn, Labine decided to launch a newsletter about the restoration and maintenance of antique houses. From these humble beginnings, *The Old-House Journal* grew until it had many thousands of subscribers in all fifty states.

Since its first publication in 1980, *The Old-House Journal Compendium* has been the go-to guide for anyone looking to buy, restore, or maintain an old house. This new edition combines the solid, detailed advice that made *The Old House Journal* newsletter famous, now in a modern, easy-to-use format. Fully redesigned with more than 800 black-and-white illustrations, this famous how-to reference provides sound and encouraging instructions for all at-home renovators.

Accessibly organized into chapters that correspond to the parts of a house, *The Old-House Journal Compendium* covers roofs, windows, wiring, plumbing, plastering, staircases, floors, painting, chimneys, fireplaces, stoves, moldings, woodwork, shutters, kitchens, bathrooms, as well as period design and decoration, and even landscaping--truly everything the new owner of an old home could need.

The Old-House Journal Compendium

*Edited by Clem Labine
& Carolyn Flaherty*



American Roots

By Mark Labine

This book is about the ancestors of the children of Mark and Judy Labine. It is story of their American roots in North America and Europe.

Mark Labine is an attorney who now works as a judicial officer for Hennepin County District Court. He enjoys history and genealogy and has written several family history books.

Many of you may be familiar with Mark Labine's book, "La Verdure de Mirligueche: A Story of the Guidry dit Labine Family in North America", which was sold at our 2004 & 2009 reunions and has been featured here in GENERATIONS. That book is available for sale at Amazon.com.

BON APPETIT



Per Dana: This recipe is from a Cuban woman in Lafayette, Louisiana. The woman has since passed away. I sometimes add a ham bone when the seasonings are added. Can be served with sausage, cooked on the side, preferably fresh pork sausage. Use any sausage to suit your pallet. Also good served over rice.

CUBAN BLACK BEANS

from Dana Guidry-Lafayette, LA

- 1 lb. black beans
- 1 bell pepper, chopped
- 1 can whole black olives, pitted
- 2 onions, chopped
- 4 teaspoons olive oil

Salt, cayenne pepper, sugar, cumin, ground clove, ground oregano (all to taste-you be the judge as to what flatters your taste buds).

Soak beans overnight in full pot of water (a full 12 hour soak will soften those babies up a lot!). Next morning, drain the water & add new water (3 inches higher than beans). Boil for 20 minutes, drain & add the same amount of water you drained and add seasonings. Cook until the sauce gets really thick. Adjust seasonings before the end of the cooking session. Serves 6-8

FISH CAKES

From Simone Comeau Geddry, wife of General Al Geddry, Montreal, Canada

FISH CAKES

- 1 3/4 cup cooked, flaked fish, cod or haddock
- 2 cups seasoned mashed potatoes
- 1 tbsp. grated onion
- 2 tsp. lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp. summer savory, and/or pinch of ground ginger, and/or pinch of cayenne pepper
- Salt & pepper to taste.

Mix together the fish, potatoes, onion, lemon juice and add seasonings to taste. Form into fish cakes about 3 inches in diameter and 1 1/2 inches thick. Sauté in butter until golden brown.



GUIDRY FAMILY HONORED AT 2010 ACADIAN MEMORIAL FESTIVAL *by Marty Guidry*

The 6th Annual Acadian Memorial Festival held in St. Martinville, LA on 20 March 2010 honored the Guidry and Breaux families during a reenactment of the 1765 arrival of the Acadians on Bayou Teche at St. Martinville. Martin Guidry and Elaine Clement represented the Guidry family during the reenactment. Karl Breaux and Gérard-Marc Braud (of Nantes, France) represented the Breaux family in the ceremonies. Arriving at the Evangeline Oak after paddling down Bayou Teche in canoes, members of the two families were greeted by a Spanish official welcoming them to the Attakapas country and offering them assistance in settling. After docking a short distance downstream, the two families were greeted by families honored in earlier years and escorted back to Evangeline Oak where Martin Guidry and Karl Breaux each presented a brief history of their families.

Throughout the day there were many activities for visitors to enjoy including listening to the Cajun Band “Moi -J’aime-Ça-Comme-Ça”, tasting authentic Cajun delicacies as boudin, gratons, jambalaya and sweets, observing quilting demonstrations, riding in an authentic Cajun putt-putt boat and seeing the original Acadian silent film “Evangeline”.

There were several presentations on Acadian topics including Martin Guidry discussing Pierre Guédry’s difficult journey from Acadia to Louisiana and his life in Louisiana. Other talks presented during the day included renowned New Brunswick artist Georgette Bourgeois discussing her Acadian paintings, Gayle Breaux Smith tracing the journey of the Breaux family over 350 years and Debra Credeur discussing the Atchafalaya Natural Heritage Area. Storytelling for children, the Renaissance Cadienne Cajun Dance Troupe and Théâtre Acadien provided authentic, old-time entertainment for visitors of all ages.

Below are brief summaries in French by Gérard-Marc Braud of his experience at the 2010 Acadian Memorial Festival and a scenic swamp cruise that he enjoyed with Ron “Black” Guidry (Cajun Man’s Swamp Cruise) on Bayou Black south of Houma, LA.

The Guidry and Breaux families in canoes arrive at the Evangeline Oak on Bayou Teche **Left:** Martin Guidry with banner and Elaine Clement in center listen to Spanish official welcoming them to the Attakapas country. **Right:** Gérard-Marc Braud with banner and Karl Breaux in center.



Article by G.M. Braud, appeared in
LA LETTRE, April, 2010 - Acadian Festival, St. Martinville, LA



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LA LETTRE



Bulletin de liaison

Association créée en 1984 pour entretenir les relations entre tous les membres du peuple Acadien et leurs amis :

• en FRANCE, au CANADA, en LOUISIANE, etc...

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Article by G.M. Braud, appeared in
LA LETTRE, April, 2010 - Acadian Festival, St. Martinville, LA



Saint-Martinville - mars 2010

Dans la dernière « Lettre », nous avons évoqué le festival acadien de St Martinville qui, chaque année en mars, marque l'arrivée en Louisiane, des premiers acadiens fuyant les colonies anglaises de la côte est américaine, où ils avaient été retenus prisonniers pendant sept longues années.

Nous avons participé, le 20 mars dernier aux diverses manifestations qui ont marqué cette date mémorable pour la communauté acadienne de Louisiane.

Sous la férule de Ray Trahan, président des familles acadiennes, la fête s'est étalée tout au long de la journée avec, en point d'orgue, à l'heure de midi, la descente du bayou Teche, en pirogue, sur quelques centaines de mètres.

Deux familles étaient honorées en 2010, celle des Guédry (ou Guidry), et celle des Breau (avec toutes ses variantes)

L'arrivée des pirogues avait lieu au pied du fameux chêne dédié à l'héroïne Évangeline, en présence d'une représentation d'une vingtaine d'autres familles, tenant bannières.

Vêtus du costume acadien de l'époque (1765), nous eûmes l'honneur de porter la bannière des « Breau » et de faire cette « promenade » sur le bayou avec un vent assez fort qui menaçait notre frêle esquif, jusqu'au lieu de la cérémonie officielle où notre cousine Brenda Comeaux-Trahan, directrice générale du Mémorial acadien, animait l'ensemble des événements.

Ce fut une heure d'une grande intensité alors que Maryannick, pour sa part, sur la berge, en compagnie des autres membres des familles acadiennes, portant les bannières des différents patronymes acadiens et notamment des Trahan, nous souhaitait la bienvenue. Certes, bien que nombreuse, l'assistance n'était pas à la hauteur des espérances des organisateurs, mais l'ambiance était là, dans les rues proches de l'hôtel de ville, avec une présentation de vieilles voitures, des stands de nourriture et de boissons et... l'inévitable orchestre cadien qui distillait une musique à danser avec les classiques que tous les amoureux de la Louisiane connaissent bien.

Le Mémorial acadien était ouvert pour une visite et des commentaires assurés par Brenda qui n'a cessé de se dédoubler pendant toute cette journée de festivités.

Ce fut l'occasion de revoir de nombreux amis déjà rencontrés lors de nos précédents voyages, telle Jany Bulliard, l'une des fondatrices du Mémorial acadien, mais aussi de faire connaissance avec plusieurs autres familles pour parler de généalogie. Que du plaisir !... avant de rentrer sur Lafayette après un détour chez McGee's pour admirer l'immense plan d'eau du bassin de l'Atchafalaya.

De bien belles retrouvailles pour tous les acadiens présents.



Article by G.M. Braud, appeared in
LA LETTRE, April, 2010 - Swamp Tour, Houma, Louisiana

Bayou Black Sud de la Louisiane

Quand on cherche à rencontrer les alligators, dans le sud de la Louisiane, de nombreux « Swampours » vous font leurs offres de services dans les revues touristiques et vous avez le choix.

Mais le parcours que je préfère pour aller à la rencontre de ces redoutables habitants des marais, se situe à proximité de Houma, sur le « bayou Black ». L'homme qui mène la barque s'appelle Guidry (tiens ! le même nom honoré à St Martinville). Nous nous connaissons depuis 1999

et le Congrès Mondial Acadien organisé cete année là dans cet État américain que les Acadiens du nord (ceux du Canada) appellent « l'Acadie tropicale ».

Ce 26 mars, en début d'après-midi, nous sommes un peu en retard à notre rendez-vous après avoir flâné à Thibodaux en compagnie de Rose Le Blanc et Irène Vicknair, nos deux sympathiques hôtes.

À notre arrivée l'embarcadère est vide : Guidry est parti ! Mais, grâce au téléphone portable, son épouse l'ayant joint, il revient à notre rencontre. Ouf !

Alors commence une promenade au fil de l'eau, de bayou en bayou, un véritable labyrinthe que M. Guidry connaît par cœur. Hélas, son compagnon à quatre pattes, un chien, qui l'accompagnait les années passées, n'est plus de ce monde. Dommage ! car ses aboiements attiraient les « cocodrils » pour la plus grande joie des touristes prêts pour la photo-souvenir.

Et pendant près de deux heures, au milieu d'une nature sauvage, nous allons admirer une grande partie de la faune et de la flore de la Louisiane.

Les grandes aigrettes blanches, les ibis, et les petits rapaces s'envolent à notre approche, alors que le grand héron bleu, moins effarouché que ses congénères, pose pour la photo.

Le bateau à fond plat glisse sur l'eau, croise d'autres bateaux plus rapides, des pêcheurs sans doute, s'arrête de temps en temps pour un commentaire du capitaine, en français.

Des tortues qui se prélassent au soleil sur une branche d'arbre plongent dans l'eau saumâtre tandis que les premiers alligators font leur apparition. Des petits tout d'abord, puis d'autres de plus en plus imposants, que Guidry appelle... et nourrit parfois de morceaux de poulet.

Tout cela au milieu d'une nature luxuriante où les cyprès chauves et la mousse espagnole sont omniprésents, donnant au paysage traversé son caractère à la fois exotique et mystérieux.

Le capitaine nous prévient : pas question de mettre pied à terre... il n'y en a pas d'ailleurs ; les lentilles d'eau et les jacinthes donnent, en effet, l'illusion d'un sol agréable à piétiner, mais le danger guette l'imprudent !

Heureusement, aucun de nous n'a eu l'idée de s'aventurer hors du bateau.

Parfois un puits de pétrole (ou d'huile) vient gâcher cet environnement sauvage et harmonieux et nous rappelle que le monde des affaires n'est pas si loin de nous.

Notre capitaine termine cette balade par quelques chansons en s'accompagnant à la guitare et, bien sûr, nous avons droit à « Jolie blonde » et « la porte en arrière » entre autres.

Mais déjà nous voici de retour à l'embarcadère au milieu de nombreux bateaux de pêche. Une soirée festive nous attend avec nos amis acadiens et justement au repas il y aura de l'alligator pour les plus téméraires. Mais celui-là sera inoffensif !

G.M. Braud

Les Guédry d'Astcur photos from the Acadian Festival, March 20, 2010 St. Martinville, LA



Marty Guidry in 1760's period Acadian dress with Guédry banner



Marty Guidry & Georgette Bourgeois, Artist - New Brunswick



Above: A bateau with Evangeline sitting at bow and three Chitimacha Indians accompanying the Acadians on their journey down Bayou Teche approach the Evangeline Oak. *Below:* Visitors awaiting the arrival of Guidry and Breaux families



Above: Monsignor Courville blesses newly arrived Acadians in Guidry and Breaux families. Two grandmothers of Monsignor Courville are Guidry's. *Below:* Brenda Comeaux Trahan in gazebo discussing with visitors the reenactment ceremony



MALVINA MÉNARD LABINE (1893 – 1967) REEVE OF RAYSIDE TOWNSHIP

In late 1958 the lead story in northern Ontario was not the thousands of nickel miners out-of-work and in dire stress nor their upcoming Toronto meeting with Premier Leslie Font, but the upset victory of a 65-year-old grandmother with a grade school education as the reeve of Rayside Township, Sudbury District, Ontario. In Canadian provinces having rural municipalities the highest elected official of the municipality is a reeve – equivalent to a mayor in many other areas.

It seems that the only folks not surprised by Malvina Ménard Labine's upset win over the 41-year-old incumbent reeve were Malvina's neighbors and Malvina herself. So why would this elderly lady, untested in politics, run for reeve and, more importantly, how did she win?

Born into a poor family on 24 November 1893 in Azilda of Rayside Township, Malvina Ménard appreciated both hard work and sharing what she had with others. At thirteen she left home to work as a nursemaid. On the 12th of August 1912 she married Joseph Labine, a young blacksmith. They settled in a small shack on a farm just outside of Azilda.

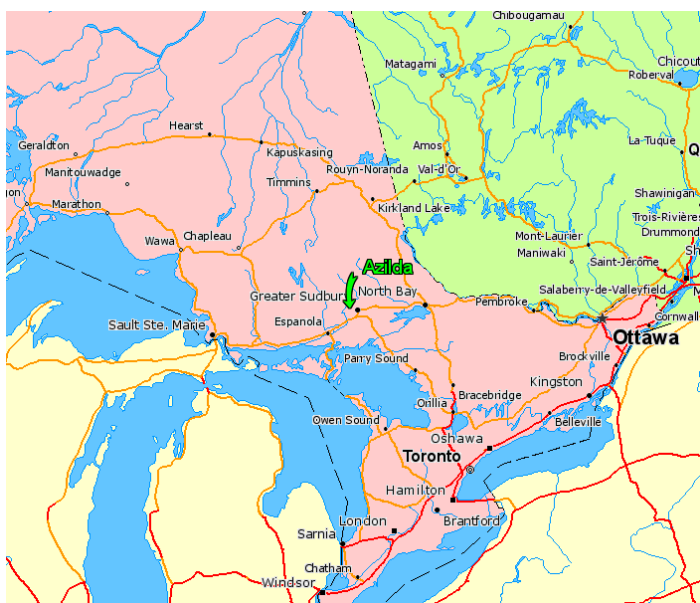


Not afraid of hard work, Malvina farmed the property during the six months each year that Joseph left for the lumber camps. She hoed and sowed a one-acre garden, raised and milked the cows, picked fruit from the trees, fed the chickens and gathered the eggs and sold her farm products at market. During these years she also raised her family, which eventually reached twenty children. Every Saturday she hauled water up the hill, heated it in a wood stove and gave every child a bath. Sixteen of her children survived to adulthood - most raising families of their own. On 6 July 1940 Joseph Labine, a big jovial man of 228 pounds, went to market, ate a large lunch and dropped dead of a heart attack about 2:00 pm. Malvina had just given birth to their 20th child – a boy they called Bernard.

Malvina Labine, a widow at age 47 with nine children under sixteen years of age and nothing but debts to her name, reassessed her life. Born with a tough, never-give-up attitude, she sold five horses and her jalopy with bad brakes and bought a new tractor and truck. With the financial help of three sons working in the mines Malvina began life anew. Soon she replaced her shack of a home with a new home she built herself – a plain, strong home with room for all her family. She continued to work ever harder on the farm – pressing hay, threshing grain, picking potatoes and other crops, hoeing the garden, cooking meals and sewing and knitting clothes for the family. In addition, she worked odd jobs where she could find them – installing a heavy culvert on the roadway or serving as janitor at the new school. Her children helped where they could. With her children she was a loving, but strict mother – enforcing discipline and teaching them well.

Sooner than she expected, almost all her children had grown and left home. Now she had a big, empty home so she began to take in foster children. But she didn't just request a foster child, she asked for four foster children at once. After receiving two brothers and two sisters for foster care, Malvina then requested four additional foster children. Her new family continued to grow until she raised twelve foster children.

MALVINA MÉNARD LABINE (1893 – 1967) REEVE OF RAYSIDE TOWNSHIP



Born with a heart of gold and lots of compassion, Malvina was always there to help the less fortunate. A poor young boy never had the opportunity to fish; Malvina bought him a new rod and had her son take him fishing. A young girl's family could not afford a coat for her; Malvina helped the family buy a nice coat. More importantly, she kept up with each of 'her kids' to ensure they were doing well in school and often took them on outings. When a neighbor was sick, Malvina was there helping. When local miners went on strike and couldn't afford essentials for their family, Malvina quietly gave them cases of canned goods, children's clothes and baby food. She always kept ample supplies of meat, beans, corn, shortening, peanut butter, tomato juice and up to 400 loaves of day-old bread in the freezer.

When a neighbor lady saw hard times and needed help, Malvina quietly supplied her from her storehouse of goods – taking only a heartfelt "Thank You" for her good works.

Growing from a rural farming community to a suburb of Sudbury in the decade of the 1950's, Rayside Township with Azilda as its hub faced new challenges that were not being addressed to Malvina's and the town-folks' satisfaction. Tyne Castonguay, the incumbent reeve, seemed to care more for his patent medicine business than running the township. Malvina Labine had a reputation for getting things done so local folks asked her to run for reeve in the upcoming election. At first doubtful about running, she eventually consented. Once in the race, she ran hard and won the election. And, as is her style, her election party was at town hall where she passed out doughnuts, sandwiches and coffee to campaign workers of both sides.

So where did Malvina Labine garner all her support to defeat the incumbent reeve? Remember all those local children, women and families she helped over the years. They never forgot her and turned out in droves to vote for their dear friend. Of course, having sixteen children and numerous grandchildren didn't hurt either.

Malvina Ménard Labine served as reeve of Rayside Township from 1959-1961. In 1967 Malvina Labine died in Sudbury after living a hard, but fulfilling life. She is buried in Chelmsford – not far from where she lived most of her life.

Malvina Labine's political beginnings bore fruit when in 1988 her grandson Guy Labine, son of Robert Labine and Hortense Joliat, became one of the youngest members elected as Municipal Councillor of the Town of Rayside-Balfour that incorporated the former Rayside Township. Guy served two terms as Municipal Councillor from 1988 to 1993.



MALVINA MÉNARD LABINE (1893 – 1967) REEVE OF RAYSIDE TOWNSHIP

Genealogy of Guy Labine & of Joseph Labine, husband of Malvina Ménard

Guy Joel Labine m. Lyse Lavalée

| Robert Bruno Labine m. Hortense Adrienne Joliat

Joseph Venance Aristide Labine m. **Malvina Ménard**

| Aristide Guildry dit Labine m. Marie Louise Bélisle

| Jérôme Guildry dit Labine m. Alice Beaudoin

| Jean-Baptiste Guildry dit Labine Jr. m3. Marie Josette Vincent

| Jean-Baptiste Augustin Guédry dit Labine m2. Marie-Marguerite Picot

| Pierre Guédry dit Labine m. Marguerite Brasseau

| Claude Guédry dit Grivois m. Marguerite Petitpas



Guy Labine



Top left: The first years of their family life, Joseph and Malvina Labine with Roméo, Lucienne, Germaine, and Yvonne. Top right: Malvina & son, Bernard.

Bottom left: Foster family Jacques with Bernard-second row on right. Bottom center & right: The Labine barn and out buildings in Azilda.

There is a large album of photos of this family on our Facebook page. Just follow this link to view:

<http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?pid=3745180&id=387769648496#!/album.php?aid=164508&id=387769648496&page=5>



IN THE NEWS-HISTORICAL NEWS TIDBITS



Rayne's giant "oua-oua-rons" can truly claim the title of the "jumpingest frogs in the world" as these big fellows go into orbit around the world as part of NASA's program for research for future space projects. Space-bound frogs attract the special attention of Rayne Mayor Bill Gossen, Frog Queen Sue Guidry, Congressman Edwin W. Edwards, David "Pete" Babineaux, and Ralph Stutes (Rayne councilman). These were some of the frogs selected by NASA for the OFO Program in the early 1970s. (Courtesy Fair Craig Hash.)

Above: Frog Queen Sue Guidry, Rayne Louisiana; Below: Guidry Cleaners, Rayne, Louisiana
Photos from Images of America, Rayne, Arcadia Publishing



Owner Danny Domingue is shown outside of Guidry's Cleaners with his delivery truck. (Courtesy Lucille Barrows.)

IN THE NEWS-HISTORICAL NEWS TIDBITS

Amarillo Daily News, Friday Morning, February 7, 1941



WAR 'GOT IN THEIR HAIR'—"Just for fun" these boys from Monroe, La., shaved their heads before war maneuvers at Camp Hulen, Tex. They belong to Battery C, 204th Coast Artillery, and wait'll the folks back home get a look at, left to right: Oliver Leonard, N. H. Knox, Robert Robinson, Claudius House, James Williamson, Herman Guidry, John Stewart, Shelly Brezeale.

*Right: Mrs. Celeste Long, daughter of Mrs. A. Guedry-
The Constitution-Atlanta, GA, Wednesday, February 26, 1902*

Dear Heloise:

When sewing, I have the hardest time threading the needle. So I found an easy way.

Spray a little hair spray on the end of the thread.

This will make the thread stiff and easy to push through the eye of the needle.

Sharon Guidry
Age 13

*Hints from Heloise -Piqua Daily Call
July 22, 1972*

ACADIAN CENTENARIAN DEAD.

**MRS. CELESTE LONG, AGED 104,
DIES IN NEW ORLEANS.**

**Her Family, the Broussards, One of
the Most Famous in
Louisiana.**

New Orleans, La., February 23.—(Special.)—Mrs. Celeste Long (nee Broussard), the oldest woman in New Orleans or Louisiana, died here yesterday aged 104 years and 11 months at the residence of her granddaughter, Mrs. William Dever, of 2710 Royal street.

Mrs. Long was born in St. Martinsville, La. March 23, 1797. Her birth is recorded in the parish church at St. Martinsville and is not disputed. Her family, the Broussards, is one of the most numerous and famous in southern Louisiana. Congressman Broussard, from the third Louisiana district, was a relative of hers, as was also Governor Alexander Morton, who was a cousin of her mother. The family is of Acadian origin, and Mrs. Long's mother, Mrs. A. Guedry, was one of the refugees who came with Evangeline to Louisiana in 1763. She lived to a great age, and could tell all of the adventures of the refugees in their long trip from Nova Scotia to St. Martinsville.

Miss Broussard married Judge Alexander Hamilton, of Tennessee, in 1870. She had four children, all of whom are now dead. Many of them lived to be very old. Her second husband was John Long, of Washington. One child survives, Mrs. Numa Oliver, of Adeline, La. Long himself disappeared and was never afterwards heard of. Mrs. Long leaves five great grandchildren and five great great grandchildren, the latter residing in Cleveland, Ohio. Her husband was related to David Crockett and Bailey Peyton.

Mrs. Long was a typical Acadian, always hale and hearty, with snow white hair and fair complexion. She was never sick until Christmas, when she contracted a cold which ended her life.

She wore no glasses, even in her last days; spoke nothing but French, but read English, and was an enthusiastic reader of English newspapers and wrote correspondence well in English.

Les Guédry 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		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 d'Asteur**. Our dues are very reasonable at \$6.00 for individuals and \$10 for a family in 2010.

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 d'Asteur is now on Facebook. Join us there and connect with other family members from all over the US and CAN. 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 d'Asteur

**To share your ideas for the newsletter,
contact:**

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225-755-1915
guidryrm@cox.net

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

'**GENERATIONS**' newsletter is now in its eighth 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
guidryrm@cox.net



Les Guédry d'Asteur Officers and Committees

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Les Guidry 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 (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