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In this Summer 2013 edition of “Generations” you’ll find lots of information on our upcoming Guédry & Petitpas Reunion on 16 August 2014 in Van Buren, Maine. During the next year we plan to have an article about some aspect of the Reunion or Acadians of Maine in each issue of “Generations”. In this issue we have highlighted Acadian historical and cultural sites in the Madawaska region. While enjoying the Congrès Mondial, consider visiting several of these and learn a bit about the history and culture of our Madawaska Acadian cousins. You might also want to pre-order the CD and booklet mentioned in the article that gives you a driving tour of this unique Acadian area. You’ll also find updated information on accommodations, airports and our tentative agenda for the Reunion.

Last month Maryland commemorated the Acadians deported there by dedicating a large plaque at Princess Anne, MD. State officials invited several Acadians to make presentations at the event including Marie Rundquist, Gregory Wood, Warren Perrin and myself. We all thank Maryland for this recognition of the Acadians. You can read about the dedication and see photos of it in this issue.

Guidry’s has turned 80 – Guidry Hardware in Lafayette, LA that is. IND News in their July 2013 edition has a tribute to Guidry Hardware and the Gerald Guidry family. We’ve reprinted the article in its entirety. It is heartwarming to know that a business can still operate, be successful and have

wonderful customer service and friendliness. At Guidry’s customers are not just people walking through the store; they are friends and family.

The Historical Tidbits section in this issue has several quite interesting articles about our family. I particularly enjoyed “The Assumption Homicide” - not only for the specifics of the event, but in seeing how the language and writing style of the 1880s is so different from that of today. And what about that 1911 football team at Loyola University with Louis Guidry at center. The Book Nook and Bon Appetit again offer several selections to enjoy as time permits. You may remember that Chuck Guidry was one of the Chefs at our Cut Off Reunion. I know his crab and corn bisque is outstanding. Try it on a cool Fall evening with a slice of Charlene Lacombe’s tasty Persimmon Cake for dessert.

Finally, I invite you to read about and participate in two projects that Les Guédry d’Astcur is supporting. The first is the Richard J. Guidry Cajun and Creole Language Fund to support a renewal of French in Louisiana. Richard was truly a giant in the French renaissance movement in Louisiana before his untimely death in 2008. The other is an exciting project called the New Acadia Project to locate the initial village and burial ground of the first large group of Acadians to reach Louisiana. And a Guedry – Joseph Guedry – was among that group of 193 Acadians to reach the Attakapas District of Louisiana.

RICHARD GUIDRY HONORED POSTHUMOUSLY

by Martin Guidry

On August 11, 2013 Vermilionville and the South Louisiana community posthumously awarded Richard James Guidry (1949 – 2008) the Acadian Cultural Preservation Award for his lifetime of work in promoting the French language and culture in Louisiana.

To continue his work, friends of Richard established the “Richard Guidry Cajun and Creole Language Fund” in 2009 to assist individuals and institutions that promote the French language and culture in Louisiana. Les Guédry d’Asteur supports this excellent endeavor and invites our family members to contribute to it. If you wish to contribute to the fund, please see the Attachment below.

Richard Guidry, born in Gueydan, Louisiana, only knew English as a child amid a community of fluent French-speakers. He did not want to be excluded and taught himself the Cajun French language. It became almost an obsession with Richard as he studied French in high school and majored in French at the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

On graduating from USL, Richard taught French in the St. Martin

Parish Bilingual Program. Eventually, he became an Education Specialist for French Programs with the Louisiana Department of Education. Here he developed curricula for French programs in Louisiana and spent many hours developing guides to aid teachers in incorporating native Louisiana French into their classes. Richard was a leader in the French immersion program in Louisiana and was an authority on the French language in Louisiana as evidenced by his leadership role on the editorial staff of the definitive work Dictionary of Louisiana French, published in 2010 and dedicated to him.

But Richard was more than an expert on the Louisiana French language. He was a writer, actor and director in Théâtre Cadien, a French language theater company; he began one of the first radio programs dedicated to French music; he authored several books; he appeared in numerous documentaries on radio and television and he even recorded on the official CD of the 1999 Congrès Mondial. In South Louisiana Richard was well-known as the “keeper of local history and culture” – he not only knew the story behind every field and house one passed when traveling the backroads, but also the origins of the plant species and habits of the animals. And he shared his vast knowledge with anyone willing to listen. Richard was a friend to all and always willing to help anyone with a need.

Richard was truly a giant in the French renaissance movement in Louisiana and a legend in his own time. Known affectionately among his friends and colleagues as “Le Gros Cadien” (The Big Cajun), Richard was recognized with many prestigious awards and honors during his lifetime including the title Chevalier in the Ordre des Palmes Académiques (1995) by the French government and an inductee in the Order of Living Legends (2001)



RICHARD GUIDRY HONORED POSTHUMOUSLY

by Martin Guidry

**For the Future of French in Louisiana!
Become a contributing member of the Richard Guidry Cajun & Creole Language Fund!**

The Richard Guidry Cajun & Creole Language Fund

(Part of the Community Foundation of Acadiana!)

Frequently Asked Questions

Why was the Richard Guidry Cajun and Creole Language Fund established ?

Richard Guidry was an educator, author, editor, and great defender of French in Louisiana. He worked tirelessly during his lifetime to help people learn about and appreciate Louisiana's traditional French language and culture. The Richard Guidry Cajun and Creole Language Fund was established through the Community Foundation of Acadiana to honor his memory and continue that work.

What kinds of projects are supported by the RGCCL Fund ?

The RGCCL Fund supports activities and projects that promote the French language or francophone cultures in Louisiana, such as – but not limited to –

- scholarships for students or non-students
- aid for classroom projects
- cultural initiatives
- media projects in the wider community.

How are the foundation funds accumulated and dispersed?

The fund grows through contributions by individuals or groups who become members. Half of each donation goes into an endowment account whose interest will fund projects into the future. The other half can be used to support worthy projects **now**. The goal is to raise \$250,000 over the next five years in order to provide long term, meaningful support to worthy projects with potential to safeguard French in Louisiana and bring it into the future.

Applications for funding must be submitted in writing. They are due the first day of March, June, September or December. For application information, contact the Community Foundation of Acadiana (www.cfacadiana.org).

How can I become a contributing member to this fund?

There are several ways to become a sustaining member with a **tax deductible** donation:

- Contribute now with cash or a check made to **Community Foundation of Acadiana** (Write **Richard Guidry Fund** on notation line). Representatives will provide a receipt.
- Go on line to www.cfacadiana.org . Click on the "Giving" tab, then "Give to an existing fund." Then select the Richard Guidry Cajun and Creole Language Fund from the pull-down tab.
- Access the office of the Community Foundation of Acadiana at 337-769-4840 or www.cfacadiana.org to set up an automatic monthly, quarterly or annual payment plan through your bank account or credit card.
- Residents of Lafayette can also choose to designate the Community Foundation of Acadiana/ Richard Guidry Cajun and Creole Language Fund as the beneficiary of the United Way.

The New Acadia Project **(Projet Nouvelle Acadie)**

Unlike Nova Scotia which has conducted numerous archaeological investigations of early Acadian sites (e.g., Belle-Île, Grand-Pré, Melanson Settlement and Thibodeau Village), Louisiana has had only one minor archaeological investigation of an Acadian site – a 10-day survey of the Amand Broussard homesite near Loreauville, LA.

The first large group of Acadians to settle in Louisiana was led by Joseph Broussard dit Beausoleil and they settled on the Teche Ridge of the Attakapas District near Loreauville, Louisiana. Of the almost 200 Acadians in the group approximately 34 died within six months and were buried near their homesites called *camp Beausoleil*, *premier camp d'en bas* and *le dernier camp d'en bas* in the church records. **Joseph Guédry, the first Guédry to reach Louisiana, was one of the Acadians in this group.**

The exact locations of these camps are not known and only sketchy information is available in the records. The goal of the New Acadia Project is to locate these camps and through excavation and study learn more about the lives and culture of these early Acadians in Louisiana as well as to commemorate the sites for Acadians to visit.

Currently, the Project is in the early stages of investigative research and is raising funds to establish a multi-year effort to discover and study the early homesites and burial grounds of Joseph Broussard dit Beausoleil's Acadian settlers.

Les Guédry d'Astour is one of the official supporters of the New Acadia Project.



A scenic view of Bayou Teche, looking upstream to Nouvelle Acadie

Please see the following attachment for more information on the Project and its fundraising efforts.

The New Acadia Project **(Projet Nouvelle Acadie)**

The New Acadia Project

Fundraising Effort

The Acadian Heritage and Culture Foundation Inc. and the *Famille Beausoleil* Association announce a new fundraising effort to support the New Acadia Project/*Projet Nouvelle Acadie*.

The New Acadia Project is an archaeological/historical initiative that aims to locate the original mid-eighteenth-century settlements of the first group of Acadian exiles in the Louisiana territory. Their descendants today comprise over 500,000 Cajuns in Louisiana and throughout the world.

The New Acadia Project is spearheaded by University of Louisiana at Lafayette archaeologist Dr. Mark Rees. Dr. Rees and his students conducted the 2003 Amand Broussard archaeology research project near Loreauville, Louisiana, where Acadian artifacts dating from the 1780's were unearthed. Amand Broussard was the son of Acadian hero and leader Joseph Broussard who was called *Beausoleil*.

The New Acadia Project seeks to locate artifacts which will help establish the locations of these Acadian settlements, evidenced to be near the Teche Ridge/Teche River, as early as 1765. The 2003 research project identified several areas of interest. This project is one of urgency due to ongoing and anticipated land development.

Identifying the original settlements would hopefully also lead to the discovery of the burial site of *Beausoleil* and of the first Acadians to settle in New Acadia/*Nouvelle Acadie*. Locating the original settlements would establish where Cajun culture began, eleven years prior to the birth of the United States.

A steering committee has been formed to lead a fundraising effort for the New Acadia Project.

The members of the committee are as follows:

Barry Ancelet Ph.D.	Nelwyn Hebert
Donald Arceneaux	Mayor Charlie Langlinais
Shane Bernard Ph.D.	Patrick Mould
Darrell Bourque Ph.D.	Representative Stephen Ortego
Mayor Al Broussard	Louis and Cheryl Broussard Perret
Alan and Brenda Broussard	Warren and Mary Broussard Perrin
Corwin and Kim Broussard	Ray and Brenda Comeaux Trahan
David Cheramie Ph.D.	
Michael Doucet Ph.D.	

This project will significantly benefit Acadian culture preservation, cultural tourism and the cultural economy of south Louisiana.

A goal of \$100,000 has been set by the steering committee to address the long-term funding needs of this project.

To lend your financial support to the New Acadia Project:

- Make check out to the Acadian Heritage and Cultural Foundation, Inc. and mail to P. O. Box 53597, Lafayette, Louisiana, 70505, care of "The New Acadia Project".
- Contact:

For a detailed summary of the New Acadia Project visit <http://ucs.louisiana.edu/~mar4160/nap.html>.

PLAQUE DEDICATED TO THE ACADIANS OF MARYLAND

by Martin Guidry

In an effort spearheaded by Marie Rundquist, a Marylander of Acadian and Mi'kmaq heritage, the State of Maryland in partnership with Somerset County and the Town of Princess Anne on 28 July 2013 dedicated a plaque to the Acadians deported to Maryland in November 1755. The two-day event in Princess Anne included a reception Saturday evening for local, county and state officials and a public dedication ceremony Sunday.

This plaque is the first Acadian recognition to be placed in Maryland and one of the few physical reminders of the brief sojourn of the Acadians in Maryland. Most of Maryland's Acadians left for Louisiana in four migrations during 1766, 1767, 1768 and 1769; however, approximately 100-200 remained in Maryland, anglicized their surnames over time and melded into the British population. Maryland Acadians played a significant role in the Acadian settlements of Louisiana as they represent almost 25% of the Acadians that came to Louisiana. They also rescued the ecclesiastical records of St-Charles-aux-Mines Catholic Church of Grand-Pré, Acadie and brought them to Louisiana where they currently are preserved in the Diocese of Baton Rouge Archives. The Maryland Acadians also built St. Gabriel Catholic Church in St. Gabriel, Louisiana. This historic church, constructed on the banks of the Mississippi River in 1776, is approximately 70% original today and is the oldest religious structure in the Mississippi Valley.

Several speakers discussed the Acadians, their history and their role in Maryland during the reception and dedication. They included Marie Rundquist (Gaithersburg, MD), Gregory Wood (Wheaton, MD), Warren Perrin (Lafayette, LA) and Martin Guidry (Baton Rouge, LA). Ms. Rundquist, besides conceiving and leading the

development of the Acadian plaque, has authored two books on her Mi'kmaq and Acadian heritage. Mr. Wood, a leading researcher on the Acadians in Maryland, authored The French Presence in Maryland and A Guide to the Acadians in Maryland. Mr. Perrin is an international speaker on the Acadians of Louisiana and has written Acadian Redemption about Joseph Broussard dit Beausoleil's life. Martin Guidry is past-president of the Acadian Memorial Foundation (St. Martinville, LA), a long-time Acadian historian and president of Les Guédry d'As-teur.



Above: Entrance sign at Princess Anne, MD. Below left: Marie Rundquist. Center: Manokin River Park sign, where the new historical marker is located. Right: The newly unveiled 'ACADIANS IN MARYLAND' historical marker.



PLAQUE DEDICATED TO THE ACADIANS OF MARYLAND *by Martin Guidry*



Warren Perrin, Gregory Wood, Marty Guidry & Harold Breaux. Center: Francese Wilcox, Marty Guidry & Marie Rundquist



Marty Guidry speaking on the history of the Acadians in Maryland.



Lynn & Gregory Wood



Francese Wilcox, Marty Guidry



Priscilla & Harold Breaux



Warren & Mary Perrin



Marie Rundquist



Nancy Kurtz



Warren Perrin



Marty Guidry



Rex Simpkins, & Carolyn Fitzgerald

BON APPETIT

CRAB AND CORN BISQUE
from Chuck Guidry, Houma, LA

2 medium onions, chopped
2 tbs. olive oil (Extra Virgin)
1/4 large bell pepper, chopped
2 ribs celery, finely chopped
1-16 oz. can whole kernel corn, undrained
1-8 oz. can sliced mushrooms, undrained
1-16 oz. can Italian style tomatoes, coarsely diced
1 tsp. sugar
1-10 3/4 oz. can cream of mushroom soup
1 16 oz. can cream style corn
1 lb. crabmeat picked free of shells and divided
1 tsp. dried & crushed sweet basil
3 bay leaves
1/2 tsp. dried thyme leaves
2 tsp. garlic powder
1 tsp. liquid crab boil (not dried)
1 cup Half-N-Half cream
2 tbs. fresh parsley, chopped
1/2 lb. Kraft Cheese Spread
Salt and pepper to taste
Thinly sliced green onion tops
Your favorite crackers



In a 6-quart dutch oven, over medium heat, sauté the onion in olive oil until transparent. Add bell pepper and celery, sauté until just tender. Stir in the whole kernel corn, mushrooms, tomatoes and sugar. Bring to a boil and cook 15 minutes. Add mushroom soup, cream style corn and half of the crab meat mixing well after each addition.

Add the sweet basil, bay leaves, thyme, garlic powder and liquid crab boil. Lower heat to medium and cook 1 minutes, stirring often to prevent scorching.

Turn heat to low and blend in Half-N-Half, parsley and remaining crab meat. Simmer 5 minutes and stir in cheese until melted. Salt and pepper to test. Remove bay leaves, ladle into deep bowls, garnish with green onions and serve immediately with crackers.

PERSIMMON CAKE
From Charlene Guidry Lacombe

3 cups flour
2 cups sugar
1 tsp. soda
1 tsp. salt
1 1/2 cups Persimmon pulp
1 cup oil
3 eggs
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 cup pecan

Mix together everything and pour in greased bundt pan or two loaf pans. Bake at 350°F for 35 minutes, check with toothpick or knife to make sure it's done.

GUÉDRY & PETITPAS REUNION

Saturday, 16 August 2014 – Van Buren, Maine

In less than 12 months we will have the 2014 Guédry & Petitpas Reunion at Van Buren, Maine. We will be discussing various aspects of our Reunion and the 2014 Congrès Mondial in this and next three issues of “Generations”. In this issue we provide tentative details of the Guédry & Petitpas Reunion and provide some interesting Acadian attractions folks can visit during the Congrès Mondial. In subsequent issues we will discuss Guédry and Petitpas connections in this region (yes, there actually are some connections with our family) and key events during the 2014 Congrès Mondial. Of course, in each issue of “Generations” we will have updated information on our Reunion.

THE GUÉDRY & PETITPAS REUNION

Date - Saturday, 16 August 2014 from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm (times are tentative)

Place - Van Buren, Maine at the Acadian Village

The Congrès Mondial will be held 8-24 August 2014 in northeastern Maine, northwestern New Brunswick and southeastern Québec. Our Reunion will be the middle weekend of the Congrès Mondial letting folks who have only one week to attend the Congrès join us at either the end or beginning of their trip.

We are also the day after the National Acadian Day festivities scheduled for 15 August in Madawaska, Maine (Zachary Richard will be the headliner for the event) and two days before Louisiana Day (18 August) at Grand Falls, New Brunswick. Two key dates are the Opening Ceremonies on 8 August at Beau Lake, ME and Edmundston, NB and Closing Ceremonies on 24 August at Témiscouata-sur-le-Lac, QC.

We have registered our Guédry & Petitpas Reunion with the 2014 Congrès Mondial Organizing Committee and are #56 on their alphabetical list of approved Reunions.

<http://www.cma2014.com/en/reunions-de-familles/familles-inscrites>

We have reserved the **Meeting Facility within the Acadian Village at Van Buren, Maine** for our Reunion. Although we are still developing our agenda for the day, here is a tentative outline of what we plan to have during the Reunion:

- Opening Ceremony
- Audiovisual presentation on Madawaska Acadians and their heritage
- Chère Mom – an exciting Cajun band from South Louisiana featuring the Christine Guidry Law family
- Home-cooked buffet meal (approximately \$12-15 per person) [optional]
- Announcement of new honorees to the Circle of Distinction
- Audiovisual presentation (topic TBD)
- Closing Ceremony
- Lots of time to meet and greet cousins during day
- Genealogical and historical displays to view
- Reunion souvenirs to purchase
- Several family-related books to review and purchase

GUÉDRY & PETITPAS REUNION

Saturday, 16 August 2014 – Van Buren, Maine

Attached to this newsletter is a **Registration Form for the Reunion**. If you plan to come to the Reunion, please complete the form and mail it to the address indicated with your Registration Fee. Pre-registering for the Reunion helps those of us planning the Reunion prepare better and have a nicer Reunion for everyone. Although you can pay at the door on the day of the Reunion, we cannot guarantee that a meal will be available for you.

Why did we select Van Buren, Maine? Similar to the Acadian Peninsula area near Bathurst, New Brunswick in 2009, there are very few family connections to our Guédry and Petitpas families in the 2014 Congrès Mondial region. Lacking a family-connected location for the Reunion, we looked for a strong Acadian connection.

After looking at the population centers and where Congrès Mondial activities will occur, we decided we should have the Reunion close to these areas and near Acadian attractions. Van Buren meets our requirements well and it is one of the first Acadian communities founded in northeastern Maine.

GUÉDRY CONNECTIONS

In the late 1750s Jean Guédry, Marie LeBlanc and their sons Jean and Alexandre were briefly at La Petite-Rochelle, QC, which is near the Congrès region; however, little to no trace of them remain. After the British victory at the Battle of Restigouche on 8 July 1760, they were captured and imprisoned at Fort Cumberland (formerly Fort Beauséjour) in southern New Brunswick.

In the early 1800s Romain Guédry and Marie Comeau of the St. Mary's Bay area of Nova Scotia migrated to the Carleton, QC area and later moved near Van Buren, ME. One of their sons Hilaire Guédry married a local Carleton girl Cécile Bourg in 1829 and they remained near Carleton. Hilaire and Cécile had several children and over time some moved south into northern New Brunswick around Campbellton and Petit-Rocher. Today a few Guidry family members descending from Hilaire and Cécile still live in the Campbellton, NB and Bathurst, NB areas.

ACCOMMODATIONS/LODGING

THE MADAWASKA REGION IS A RURAL AREA WITH LIMITED MOTELS AND LODGING AVAILABLE. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU BOOK YOUR LODGING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. (Remember that, unlike airlines, you can cancel lodging reservations with no penalty in most cases.) Many of the communities in northeast Maine and northwest New Brunswick have small motels, bed and breakfast facilities, cabins and camping facilities. Some accommodations in Van Buren, ME; Madawaska, ME and Edmundston, NB are:

Van Buren, ME

Aroostook Hospitality Inn	207-484-6200
Brookside Manor Hotel	207-868-5158
Colonial Motor Inn	207-868-3939
Van Buren Hotel	207-868-7780
Trailside Lodge	207-728-2293
Tastee Freeze Camping	207-868-3011

Madawaska, ME

Martin's Motel	207-728-3395
Inn of Acadia	207-316-9026
Fraser Mansion	386-416-8484
Blue Sky Hotel	207-728-6567
Charbonneau Camp Rentals	207-728-4132
Gateway Motel	207-728-3318
Waterfront Haven Cottage Rentals	207-728-4254
Long Lake Cottage Rentals	207-728-8683

GUÉDRY & PETITPAS REUNION

Saturday, 16 August 2014 – Van Buren, Maine

Edmundston, NB

Comfort Inn	506-739-8361
Quality Inn	506-735-5525
Days Inn	506-263-0000
Best Western Plus Hotel	506-739-0000
Au NIDaigle	506-739-7567
Happy Motel	506-739-8844
La Roma Motel	506-735-3305

The CMA 2014 staff has developed an excellent website with lodging information both in Maine and New Brunswick. You can access the website at:

<http://www.cma2014.com/en/services/hebergement>

VAN BUREN, MAINE

Van Buren is a small Acadian community nestled on the beautiful Saint John River separating New Brunswick and Maine. It is approximately 25 miles from Madawaska, Maine; 28 miles from Edmundston, New Brunswick; 45 miles from Fort Kent, Maine; 98 miles from Campbellton, New Brunswick and 102 miles from Restigouche, Québec.

Van Buren and the historic structures near it offer a window into the history and lives of Maine's Acadian community. The Acadian Village at Van Buren has 17 historic Acadian structures and there are several other Acadian farms and buildings within an hour's drive. Here are a few websites of attractions near Van Buren:

<http://themainelink.com/acadianvillage/>

(The Acadian Village in Van Buren website)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-2bwbp29T8>

(Short Movie of Acadian Village)

<http://www.nps.gov/maac/planyourvisit/acadvillage.htm>

(National Park Service Site website)

<http://www.nps.gov/maac/planyourvisit/acadlanding.htm>

(Acadian Landing Site and Tante Blanche Museum)

<http://www.nps.gov/maac/photosmultimedia/Maine-Acadian-Culture.htm>

ACADIANS OF MADAWASKA

Below are links to a few articles on the **history and culture of Madawaska's Acadians**. Their journey from Acadia during the time of the deportations in the mid-1750s to their settling on the banks of the Saint John River in north-eastern Maine and northwestern New Brunswick is unique and interesting.

http://scott_michaud.tripod.com/Madawaska-history.html

(Brief history of the Maine Acadians and how they reached the Saint John River)

<http://www.acadian.org/mad-sett.html>

(Madawaska Acadian Settlement)

http://acim.umfk.maine.edu/who_we_are.html

GUÉDRY & PETITPAS REUNION

Saturday, 16 August 2014 – Van Buren, Maine

LAGNIAPPE – A LITTLE BIT EXTRA

Congrès Mondial 2014 Agenda – Now available at: <http://www.cma2014.com/en/programmation/programmationcomplete>

Passports – Be sure you have a current, valid passport as the Congrès occurs in both the United States and Canada. The CMA staff is working to smooth border crossings and hope to have more information in the Fall 2013, but you will need a passport to enter or re-enter the United States. Information on U. S. and Canadian Passports is available at:

http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/get_4855.html

(United States)

<http://www.ppt.gc.ca/index.aspx>

(Canada)

Congrès Mondial 2014 Information – CMA Staff has an excellent bilingual website with updated information at:

<http://www.cma2014.com/en/>

Lodging for Congrès: BOOK EARLY – As discussed above, the Madawaska region is a rural area with few motels/hotels. Book your accommodations as soon as you can. Information on potential accommodations is given above. Remember that usually you can cancel lodging accommodations with no penalty.

AIRPORTS

The nearest major airports to Van Buren, ME are:

- Fredericton International Airport (153 miles)
[Air Canada]
- Bangor International Airport (194 miles)
[Delta, US Airways, Allegiant]
- Québec City Jean Lesage International Airport (224 miles)
[Air Canada, Delta, United, US Airways, Porter, PAL, Air Inuit, WestJet]
- Greater Moncton International Airport (258 miles)
[Air Canada, United, Porter, WestJet]
- Charlottetown Airport (353 miles)
[Air Canada, Delta, WestJet, Sinwing]

Smaller airports near Van Buren, ME are:

- Northern Maine Regional Airport at Presque Isle (36 miles) [PenAir]
- Bathurst Airport (126 miles) [Air Canada Jazz]

MAKE YOUR PLANS TO COME TO VAN BUREN

Now is the time to begin making plans to come to Van Buren on August 16, 2014 to make new friendships, renew old ones and enjoy the hospitality and culture of our Maine Acadian cousins. We are ahead of most of the families organizing Reunions to ensure y'all have adequate time to plan your trip and reserve accommodations, rental cars and transportation.

TOURING ACADIAN MADAWASKA
NE Maine, NW New Brunswick & SE Québec
Congrès Mondial – 8-24 August, 2014
by Martin Guidry

Attending the Congrès Mondial often awakens our ancestral genes and begs us to explore the lives and lifestyles of our Acadian ancestors. The Madawaska region of Maine, New Brunswick and Québec has many historic churches and cemeteries, superb museums, original homes and an excellent Acadian Archives at Fort Kent, ME. Below are a selection of these for each region. They are arranged in a driving tour format so that you can follow the main road and go in order from one village to another. The focus of each site is Acadian history and lifestyle – generally for that specific area. Visit a few of the sites while attending the various activities of the Congrès Mondial, learn about the Acadian pioneers that settled this region and meet their descendants today. You'll be surprised at how similar their language, customs and even foods are to yours.

MAINE

Van Buren (Aroostook County)

Acadian Village - Has 17 historic Acadian buildings displaying artifacts of the Acadians from the Madawaska region

Location: Approx. 5 miles NW of Van Buren on U. S. Highway 1 (Main St.)

Open: 12:00 noon – 5:00 pm daily

Admission Fees: Adults (\$6.00); Children (\$3.00)

<http://www.connectmaine.com/acadianvillage/>



Fortunat O. Michaud House (Farrell-Michaud House) – Built ca. 1880 and 1912-1917. Has a tower with bell-shaped roof. Is a bed and breakfast inn presently.

Location: 231 Main Street; Van Buren, ME

Open: View from street



Governor Brann School – A one-room schoolhouse built in 1934 on Cyr Plantation. Restored to original condition. Closed in 1950s.

Location: One mile south of Van Buren on U. S. Highway 1

Open: Varies

http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM7TRQ_Governor_Brann_School_Cyr_Plantation_ME



Lille (Aroostook County)

Notre-Dame-du-Mont-Carmel Catholic Church & Acadian Cemetery - Built in 1909, the church is now a museum and cultural center dedicated to preserving the Acadian and Québécois culture in the St. John Valley. Its collections include religious and Acadian artifacts, textiles, furniture, photos and documents.

Location: 993 U. S. Highway 1 (Main Street); Lille, ME (12 miles north of Van Buren, ME)

Open: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm on Sunday, Tuesday – Thursday

Admission Fee: Donation



TOURING ACADIAN MADAWASKA

Congr s Mondial – 8-24 August, 2014

Madawaska (Aroostook County)

Acadian Landing Site – Commemorates landing of first Acadian settlers in Upper Saint John Valley; Contains Acadian Cross Historic Shrine

Location: 393 East Main Street; Madawaska, ME

Open: 11:00 am – 4:00 pm, Wednesday – Sunday

http://www.nps.gov/maac/planyourvisit/acadlanding.htm?eid=165304&root_aId=335

Tante Blanche Museum – Dedicated to Marguerite-Blanche Thibodeau dite Tante Blanche, who during the extremely harsh winter of 1796-1797, saved many local Acadians by providing food and inspiration to them. She was interred inside the Catholic Church at St-Basile in New Brunswick – a great honor.

Location: 393 East Main Street; Madawaska, ME

Open: 11:00 am – 4:00 pm, Wednesday – Sunday

http://www.nps.gov/maac/planyourvisit/acadlanding.htm?eid=165304&root_aId=335

Fred Albert House – Constructed in mid-1800s, the Fred Albert House has many features indicative of Maine Acadian construction.

Location: 393 East Main Street; Madawaska, ME

Open: 11:00 am – 4:00 pm, Wednesday – Sunday

http://www.nps.gov/maac/planyourvisit/acadlanding.htm?eid=165304&root_aId=335

One-Room Schoolhouse – This 1870 Madawaska School District No. 1 schoolhouse was a simple structure and the first to be built with an enclosed entrance (a “tambour”). Contains schoolhouse artifacts typical of the period that it was used.

Location: 393 East Main Street; Madawaska, ME

Open: 11:00 am – 4:00 pm, Wednesday – Sunday

http://www.nps.gov/maac/planyourvisit/acadlanding.htm?eid=165304&root_aId=335

St. David Catholic Church and Cemetery – Built in 1911 and replaces earlier church built at this location in 1871. Has services in French. Historic Acadian cemetery is across U. S. Highway 1 from the church.

Location: 774 Main Street; Madawaska, ME

Open: Daily



Isaie and Scholastic Martin Acadian Homestead
Madawaska, Maine



Tante Blanche Museum
Madawaska, Maine



Acadian Landing Site
Madawaska, Maine

TOURING ACADIAN MADAWASKA

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Isaie and Scholastic Martin Acadian Homestead – Built 1823-1860 this is the oldest active Acadian home in the St. John region. The log ‘piece sur piece’ structure has a unique root cellar, pegged roof beams and superb craftsmanship. Since its construction over 150 years ago, it has been a private home of the Martin family and continues as such today.

Location: 137 St. Catherine’s Street; Madawaska, ME

Open: Private home; By Appointment Only (Can be viewed from roadway) [207-728-6412]

During Congrès Mondial open for tours on August 11, 13, 15, 19, 21 of 2014

<http://www.greatermadawaskachamber.com/becomemember/members?pid=5&sid=210:Martin-Acadian-Homestead>
<https://sites.google.com/site/martinacadianhomestead/>

Frenchville (Aroostook County)

Frenchville Caboose and Water Tower – The Bangor & Aroostook Railroad Caboose was built in 1943 by the Pullman Company as a troop sleeper car. It was retrofitted in 1949 as a caboose. Today the caboose contains books and antiques on display. Built in 1910, the green water tower built of redwood was used by steam-powered trains to replenish their water supply. It is one of the few surviving train water tanks in the U.S. Also on the site is a privately-owned train station that operated from 1921 through 1970.

Location: U. S. Highway 1; Frenchville, ME

Open: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Wednesday – Sunday

<http://www.nps.gov/maac/planyourvisit/watertank.htm>

<http://www.frenchville.org/history/society.html>

Wylie House – Built in the early 1900s by George Bouchard, the three-story, historic Wylie House was a stopping point for rumrunners in the 1920s and 1930s. Today it is a museum furnished to represent the lifestyle of the 1940s and 1950s with both donated and original furniture.

Location: On U. S. Highway 1 across from Water Tower; Frenchville, ME

Open: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Wednesday – Sunday

<http://fiddleheadfocus.com/content/frenchville-historic-society-preserves-wylie-house-now-open-public>

Ste. Luce Catholic Church and Cemetery – This third church, built in 1907-1908, replaces two earlier churches that burned. The first Ste. Luce Catholic Church was built in 1843-1844 and it spawned many other churches both in Maine and New Brunswick. A wooden building, its faux finish makes it appear to be constructed of stone. The Acadian cemetery is located behind the church, which closed in 2006. An historical marker for the church is at 44 Main Street (U. S. Highway 1) in Frenchville.

Location: On U. S. Highway 1; Upper Frenchville, ME

Open: Unknown

http://www.royandboucher.com/maine/cemeteries/ste_luce/church.php

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Frenchville Water Tower



The Wylie House



Ste. Luce Catholic Church

Interior view of the
Pelletier-Marquis House

St. Agatha (Aroostook County)

Pelletier-Marquis House and Cemetery – Built in 1854 by Andr  Pelletier, the home now serves as a historical museum (Ste-Agathe Historical Museum) paying tribute to the history, tradition and culture of the area. It houses religious and agricultural relics as well as clothing and everyday items. The exhibits are designed to represent an older working class home. The home is humble in appearance with a rock foundation, low ceilings, wide floor boards and square-headed nails. A cemetery is on the property.

Location: Highway 162 (Main St.) east of Cleveland Road; St. Agatha, ME

Open: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Tuesday – Sunday

<http://www.nps.gov/maac/planyourvisit/stagatha.htm>

Fort Kent (Aroostook County)

Fort Kent State Historic Site – This original blockhouse is the only fortification remaining from the “Bloodless” Aroostook War of 1838-1839 and the border dispute between Great Britain and the United States. An excellent example of early nineteenth century military architecture, the blockhouse today houses a museum.

Location: U. S. Highway 1 (W. Main St.) in Fort Kent, ME immediately west of Hall Street

Open: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm daily

Admission Fee: Adults (\$3.00), Children 5-11 and Seniors 65+ (\$1.00)

<http://www.nps.gov/maac/planyourvisit/blockhouse.htm>

Fort Kent Railroad Station – Opened in 1902, the Fort Kent Railroad Station was the northern terminus of the Fish River Railroad and later used by the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad. Today it contains a museum focusing on the history of the railroad. The Fort Kent Historical Society Gardens are on the grounds of the Station and contain Herbal, Medicinal, Culinary, Drying and Cottage Gardens.

Location: 3 Market Street (Caribou Road; Highway 161); Fort Kent, ME

Open: Tuesday – Friday, 12:00 noon – 4:00 pm

Admission Fee: Unknown

<http://www.nps.gov/maac/planyourvisit/rrstation.htm>

Acadian Archives at University of Maine at Fort Kent – A genealogical, cultural and historical collection on the Acadians of the Upper St. John region. Open to the public. Has excellent Acadian exhibits for viewing.

Location: 23 University Drive on University of Maine at Fort Kent (Adj. to Blake Library)

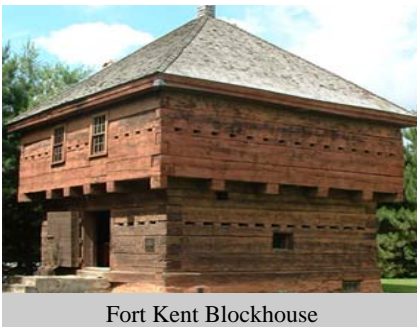
Open: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm Monday – Friday

Admission Fee: Free

<http://www.umfk.edu/archives/>

TOURING ACADIAN MADAWASKA

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Fort Kent Blockhouse



Fort Kent Railroad Station



Bangor & Aroostook Railroad Turntable

St. Francis (Aroostook County)

Bangor & Aroostook Railroad Turntable – Built in 1904 when St. Francis was the end of the line for the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad, the turntable allowed locomotives to turnaround for the return trip.

Location: 1074 Main Street; St. Francis, ME

Open: No regular hours; Call for Appointment [207-389-3495]

<http://www.nps.gov/maac/planyourvisit/turntable.htm>

Allagash (Aroostook County)

Allagash Historical Society Museum – The museum depicts lumbering of the Allagash area as well as having a military section, historical artifacts, photos and genealogical records.

Location: 456 Dickey Road; Allagash, ME

Open: 12:00 noon – 4:00 pm, Tuesday – Saturday

Admission Fee: No Charge; Donations Accepted

<http://www.arostook.me.us/allagash/historical.html>

<http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/programs/history/allagash/history.shtml>

Une Petite Lagniappe (A Little Something Extra)

For a **CD and booklet guide** to the sites of the St. John Valley of Maine click below to order the “Voici the Valley Audio Story”. It is an 80-minute CD and 28-page guidebook that contains music and stories featuring the history, culture and traditions of the area. Cost is \$15 for the combination CD and guidebook with a \$5 shipping fee. Payment is through the PayPal system or you can use an order form and order by standard mail. This is an excellent way to become familiar with the St. John Valley before arriving there.

<http://www.museeculturel.org/shop/>

NEW BRUNSWICK

Grand Falls

Grand Falls Museum – Displays provide the history of the town of Grand Falls and its rich past. If you are a horse-racing fan, you'll enjoy the memorabilia of Ron Turcotte, the jockey on Secretariat when he won the Triple Crown.

Location: 68 Madawaska Road; Grand Falls, NB

Open: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday – Friday

<http://www.tourismnewbrunswick.ca/Products/G/Grand-Falls-Museum.aspx>

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Saint-L onard

Georges-Lapointe Historical Museum – The museum contains photographs, tools, furniture and artifacts belonging to residents of the Grande-Rivi re region of Madawaska County. Some of the artifacts are over 100 years old.

Location: 212 St-Jean Street; Saint-L onard, NB

Open: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm, Daily

<http://patrimoinemadvic.com/en/musee.php?cat=Georges-Lapointe+Historical+Museum>

Sainte-Anne-du-Madawaska (Madawaska County)

Ste-Anne-du-Madawaska Catholic Church and Cemetery – Built of local granite in 1923, this church, situated on a high promontory, is a landmark visible from several miles away. The Acadian devotion to Ste-Anne (Mary’s mother) began here in 1886 and continues to this day with its annual pilgrimage and the celebrated Feast of Ste-Anne. The collection of artwork within the church is widely recognized. The historic Acadian cemetery is located near the church.

Location: 101 Rue Principale (Main Street); Sainte-Anne-du-Madawaska, NB

Opens: Daily

<http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=8095>

St-Basile (Madawaska County)

St-Basile Catholic Church and Cemetery – Founded in 1792 by the pioneer Acadians, St-Basile was the first Catholic church in the Madawaska area. Constructed in 1934, this is the third church on this site. The cemetery contains graves of many of the first Acadian families to settle this region with the first burial occurring about 1790 and the earliest tombstone existing today dating from 1802.

Location: 312 Rue Principale (Main Street); Saint-Basile, NB

Open: Daily

http://www.umce.ca/hoteldieustbasile/en/expositions/cat.php?id_cat=2

Alexis Cyr House – A “pi ce-sur-pi ce” home dating to ca. 1825, the Alexis Cyr home is the oldest known home in Madawaska County, New Brunswick. The chapel onsite is an exact replica of the original chapel.

Location: Rue de la Chapelle Street; Saint-Basile, NB

Open: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Wednesday – Sunday

Admission Fee: No Charge; Donations Accepted

http://www.ooklnet.com/web/venue_info/30549/Cyr+Historical+House

<http://www.historicplaces.net/historicplace/cy05303/alexis-cyr-house/-new-brunswick/>

Dr. Honor  Cyr House – The house is a two-story example of the American four-square style of construction and was built in 1913. Dr. Honor  Cyr, a physician, played a major role in the development of Saint-Basile.

Location: 373 Rue Principale (Main Street); Saint-Basile, NB

Open: Private Home; View from roadway

<http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=5473&pid=0>

<http://www.historicplaces.net/historicplace/oh06517/dr.-honore-cyr-house/-new-brunswick/>

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Ste-Anne-du-Madawaska
Catholic Church



Church of Saint-Basile



Dr. Honor  Cyr House



Alexis Cyr House

Soucy Farm – A farm complex consisting of a two-story Second Empire House, four outbuildings and associated farmland, Soucy Farm was built in 1785-1786 and has prospered for over 200 years. The farm has remained in the Soucy family for seven generations - since founded by C lestin Soucy. Its agriculture consists of livestock breeding and alternate planting of potatoes and grains. The home was built in the mid-1800s.

Location: 683 Rue Principale (Main Street); Saint-Basile, NB

Open: Operating Farm; View from roadway

<http://www.historicplaces.net/historicplace/fx97796/soucy-farm/-new-brunswick/>

Edmundston (Madawaska County)

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception – Built between 1925 – 1927, the building was first a parish church and in 1944 became a cathedral for the Catholic Diocese of Edmundston. Superb craftsmanship has made the cathedral a landmark building.

Location: 175 Rue de l' glise (Church Street); Edmundston, NB

Open: Daily

<http://campus.udayton.edu/mary/resources/cathimmaconcep.html>

Petit-Sault Blockhouse – Built in 1841 by the British during the “Bloodless” Aroostook War Boundary Dispute, the blockhouse was strategically located to protect the territory. It was destroyed by lightning in 1855 and authentically rebuilt in 2000 as an historic interpretation site.

Location: 14 St-Jean Avenue; Edmundston, NB

Open: 11:00 am – 7:00 pm; Daily

Admission Fee: \$0 - \$7

<http://www.tourismnewbrunswick.ca/Products/F/Fortin-du-Petit-Sault-Petit-Sault-Blockhouse.aspx>

Albert House – This two-story Second Empire residence, built around 1908, is historically significant for its capped tower, mansard roof and circular window in the fa ade.

Location: 25 Rue Canada; Edmundston, NB

Open: Private Residence; View from the roadway

<http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=4967>

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Law Office of Jean Cyr – Built about 1905, this building is one of the oldest residences in Edmundston. Initially owned by the Emmerson family that played a significant role in the development of Edmundston, the current law office has been the residence of several other prominent persons.

Location: 10 Emmerson Street; Edmundston, NB

Open: Private Office; View from roadway

<http://www.historicplaces.net/historicplace/xj48040/office-of-lawyer-jean-cyr/-new-brunswick/>

Emmerson House – A one-and-a-half story bungalow built about 1920, it represents the bungalow style so popular in the 1920s and 1930s. Currently it serves as a tourism office.

Locations: 1 Canada Road; Edmundston, NB

Open: Daily

<http://www.historicplaces.net/historicplace/dl43067/emmerson-house/-new-brunswick/>

L’H tel-Dieu Saint-Joseph – Built in 1885, this was the former convent of the Religious Hospitaliers of Saint-Joseph. This religious order of nuns arrived in Saint-Basile in 1873 and founded the first hospital and a French teaching institution in the region. It was the first brick building in Madawaska County, New Brunswick. The Museum of the Religious Hospitaliers of Saint-Joseph is located on the fourth floor of H tel-Dieu in Saint-Basile, NB.

Location: 429 Rue Principale (Main Street); Edmundston, NB

Open: Unknown

<http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=2351>

<http://www.umce.ca/hoteldieustbasile/en/accueil/>

Du R el au Miniature: Railroad Interpretation Center – Contained in a replica of a 1900 train shed, this museum relates to the history of the New Brunswick railways and railway-men. It contains a miniature train layout of New Brunswick.

Location: 1091 Rue Victoria; Edmundston, NB

Open: 11:00 am – 7:00 pm, Daily

Admission Fee: Adults (\$9.00), Children (Free)

<http://www.dureelauminiature.com/english.html>

H tel-Dieu Saint-Joseph's convent, Saint-Basile (Edmundston), N.B.



Railroad Interpretation Center
Edmundston, NB



Edmundston Canadian Pacific Railroad Station
Edmundston, NB



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Edmundston Canadian Pacific Railroad Station – Built in 1929-1930, the Edmundston CPR Station was part of the bold plan to link the St. Lawrence Valley with the Port of St. John in southern New Brunswick. This brick structure is the last relic from this venture.

Location: 121 Rue Victoria; Edmundston, NB

Open: Unknown

<http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=2852>

Madawaska Historical Museum – With artifacts, documents and exhibits describing the life of early settlers including Acadians in the Madawaska region, the museum also showcases local contemporary art and antiques.

Location: 195 Boulevard H bert; Edmundston, NB

Open: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday-Friday; 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Weekends

Admission Fee: Adult (\$3.50), Children (\$2.00), Family (\$7.00)

<http://www.bestoftheroad.com/place/madawaska-historical-museum-new-brunswick/135825>

Claude Picard Fresco “La Vie au Madawaska 1785-1985” – Displayed in the Counsel Chambers at Edmundston City Hall, this 1985 painting by Claude Picard uses 24 different themes to illustrate life in the Madawaska region during its 200 years.

Location: 7 Canada Road, Edmundston, NB

Open: Weekdays during Business Hours

<http://www.demelerlespinces.ca/fresque-en>

<http://www.historicplaces.net/historicplace/id68929/claude-picard-fresco-la-vie-au-madawaska-1785-1985/-new-brunswick/>

Madawaska Maliseet First Nation – Immediately on arriving at the shores of the Upper St. John River in 1785, the Acadians sent a delegation to the Maliseet First Nation people and asked for their help in settling the St. John Valley. The Maliseet aided the Acadians in this effort by granting the Acadians land in exchange for the Acadians protecting the territory against intruders. Today the Madawaska Maliseet First Nation village is small with about 75 houses and 182 people. It is located between Edmundston and Saint-Basile.

Location: 1771 Rue Principale (Main Street); Madawaska Maliseet First Nation, NB

Open: A Village

<http://patrimoinemadvic.com/en/villes.php?cat=Madawaska+Maliseet+First+Nation>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madawaska_Maliseet_First_Nation

Saint-Hilaire (Madawaska County)

Maxime Albert Complex – The complex contains an 1865 house and an 1895 house that was the home of the Maxime Albert family. Maxime Albert was the head of a major bootlegging network during Prohibition (1920s –1930s) and a local homemade alcohol “baggosse” was produced in the 1865 house. In 2004 a monument to the Acadian pioneers of Saint-Hilaire was placed on the property.

Location: 2167 Rue Centrale (Central Street); Saint-Hilaire, NB)

Open: Daily

<http://www.lieuxpatrimoniaux.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=12406>

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Maurifils Farm – A year-round farm market with vegetables, ice cream, jams, jellies, pickles, preserves, maple syrup, maple butter, maple taffy, maple candy and local crafts. And enjoy the goats and llamas on the farm after you shop. The farmers use old, traditional techniques as the Acadians did. A must stop as you travel the Madawaska region.

Location: 3027 Route 120; Saint-Hilaire, NB

Open: Daily

<http://www.tourismnewbrunswick.ca/Products/F/Maurifils-Farm.aspx>

<http://www.alltravels.com/united-states/maine/frenchville/videos/current-video-86832>

St-Hilaire Catholic Church and Presbytery – Built about 1875 after the founding of the parish in 1868, St-Hilaire Catholic Church is one of the oldest Catholic churches in the area. This parish is closely linked with St-Luce Catholic parish just across the St. John River in Maine. Until 1868, parishioners of Saint-Hilaire traveled to St-Luce Catholic Church for services and were buried in the St-Luce Cemetery. The St-Hilaire Presbytery (priest's home and office) was built in 1930 on land donated by Maxime Albert (the bootlegging baron).

Location: 2200 Rue Centrale (Central Street); Saint-Hilaire, NB

Open: Daily

<http://tourismmedmundston.com/en/informations.php?cat=Saint-Hilaire+%2F+Baker-Brook>

<http://www.historicplaces.net/historicplace/xq58224/saint-hilaire-presbytery/-new-brunswick/>

Clair

Clair Historical Site (Daigle/St. Jean House) – One of the oldest homes in the Madawaska region, this charming Acadian house was built in 1848 and was home to the Daigle and later St. Jean families. On the grounds one also can tour a chapel, barn, logging camp, cookroom and community garden. Guided tours acquaint you with the lifestyles of these Madawaskan Acadian.

Location: 724 Rue Principale (Main Street); Clair, NB

Open: 9:30 am – 6:00 pm, Monday – Sunday

Admission Fee: \$2.00 - \$7.00

<http://www.tourismnewbrunswick.ca/Products/C/Clair-Historic-Site-Clair-Historical-Society.aspx>

St-Fran ois-de-Madawaska

The J. B. Michaud Blacksmith Shop – This century-old structure housed the blacksmith forge of J.B.

Michaud and later his son Joseph. They served a critical place in the community – shoeing horses for hay season, constructing needed equipment for wagons, houses and other buildings and designing and building those little extras to make their community a better place. Today you can smell the forge, walk the floor and see the results of the blacksmith trade. On weekends a blacksmith demonstrates his skills at the forge.

Location: 2056 Rue Commerciale (Commercial Street); St-Fran ois, NB

Open: Wednesday – Sunday

Admission Fee: \$2.00

<http://patrimoinemadvic.com/en/musee.php?cat=J.B.+Michaud+Blacksmith>

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Maxime Albert Complex



Clair Historical Site



The J. B. Michaud Blacksmith Shop

Connors Museum – Built in the 1880s by Robert Connors, this building first served as a general store until the 1960s. First located on the shores of St. John River, it was moved to its current location in the 1890s. Today the Connors Museum displays regional artifacts of yesteryear.

Location: 2033 Rue Commerciale (Commercial Street); St-Fran ois, NB

Open: Unknown

<http://patrimoinemadvic.com/en/villes.php?cat=Saint-Fran ois-de-Madawaska+and+Connors>

St-Fran ois-Xavier-de-Madawaska Catholic Church & 150th Anniversary Heritage Room – First built in 1847, the church was destroyed by fire in 1886 and rebuilt shortly afterwards. The 150th Anniversary Heritage Room is located in the lower level of the church and depicts the life of the Acadians who settled this region using artifacts and belongings of these Acadian pioneers. Also, take a moment to walk through the cemetery on the grounds.

Location: 2017 Rue Commerciale (Commercial Street); St-Fran ois, NB

Open: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Tuesday – Sunday

<http://www.upperstjohn.com/stfrancois/>

<http://www.tourismnewbrunswick.ca/Products/M/150thAnniversaryHeritageRoomMuseum.aspx>

Kedgwick

Kedgwick Forestry Village and Museum – Located in the heart of the Appalachian woodlands, Kedgwick is a lumbering community. Come explore a 1930s heritage logging village and learn a bit about lumbering techniques, taste some of the local treats and enjoy tales of the forest as told by local guides. Lumbering was a profession of many Acadians.

Location: 7989 Route 17; Kedgwick Nord, NB

Open: Daily

Admission Fee: \$5.00 - \$18.00

<http://www.tourismnouveau Brunswick.ca/Produits/K/Village-et-musee-forestier-de-Kedgwick.aspx>

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QU BEC

Poh n gamook (T miscouata RCM)

Canada Border Service – This original 1942 border crossing with building was once widely used for contra-band activities due to its remoteness. A Canada-U.S. Border Monument on the site symbolizes the exchange of a vast territory to the U.S. for the Niagara Peninsula. The small international bridge was built in 1906 and used by cigarette and alcohol smugglers, lovers, fishermen and even an occasional tourist. There are interpretative panels and a border officer available to answer questions.

Location: 1309 Rue Principale; Poh n gamook, QC

Open: Daily

<http://www.tourismetemiscouata.qc.ca/quebec-vacations/members/visit/culture-heritage-and-historical-sites/parc-de-la-frontiere.aspx>

Marie-M diatrice d'Estcourt Church – Built in 1933, the Marie-M diatrice Church was the first stone church in the area. The church was built to serve the many new settlers who came to this region with the opening of a new line of the Transcontinental Railway.

Location: 1250 Chemin Gu rette; Poh n gamook, QC

Open: Daily

<http://diocese-ste-anne.net/?paroisse=pohenegamook-marie-mediatrice-destcourt>

Rivi re-Bleue (T miscouata RCM)

Rivi re-Bleue Train Station – This is the only Transcontinental Railway Station that has been preserved.

The Transcontinental Railway was instrumental in developing an immense area. There is a museum, interpretative panels, demonstrations by artisans and a photographic exhibit on the history of Rivi re-Bleue.

Location: 85 Saint-Joseph Nord; Rivi re-Bleue, QC

Open: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Tuesday – Saturday; 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Sunday – Monday

<http://www.garederivierebleue.com/en/homepage>

Gospel Baptist Chapel of Rivi re-Bleue – This chapel, built in 1920, served a French-Canadian Protestant population from the United States and later parishioners from Rivi re-Bleue. A cemetery and interpretative panels are on the site.

Location: 27 Rue Saint-Pierre; Rivi re-Bleue, QC

Open: Daily

http://www.routedesfrontieres.com/historik/rdf_en.php

Saint-Jean-de-la-Lande (T miscouata RCM)

Romain-Caron Covered Bridge – Built during the 1940s and restored in 2010, this is the only covered bridge in the T miscouata region. An interpretative panel is near the bridge.

Location: Range 6, 1.8 miles from Route 289; Saint-Jean-de-la-Lande, QC

Open: Always

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D gelis (T miscouata RCM)

Gare l' ritage – A completely restored old railway line, the Gare l' ritage serves as a tourist information bureau today and contains an exhibition of local art.

Location: 584, 6e Rue; D gelis, QC

Open: Daily

<http://www.tourismetemiscouata.qc.ca/quebec-vacations/members/visit/culture-heritage-and-historical-sites/gare-lheritage.aspx>

T miscouata-sur-le-Lac (T miscouata RCM)

Fort Ingall – This authentic reconstruction of the British Fort Ingall on the original site tells the story of the 1839 border conflict between the United States and Canada. A permanent exhibit describes the history of this war using artifacts discovered during archeological excavations. Guided tours are available.

Location: 81 Rue Caldwell; T miscouata-sur-le-Lac, QC

Open: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm; Daily

Admission Fee: Adults (\$10.00), Children & Seniors (\$7.00)

<http://www.fortingall.ca/en>

Auberge Marie Blanc – A former hunting lodge built in 1905, Auberge Marie Blanc (formerly called Le Gray Lodge) is now an outstanding inn on the shores of Lake T miscouata. It was built by New York attorney William D. Bishop.

Location: 2629 Rue Commerciale Sud; T miscouata-sur-le-Lac, QC

Open: Commercial Inn

<http://www.aubergemarieblanc.com/histoire.php>

<http://www.tourismetemiscouata.qc.ca/quebec-vacations/members/stay/hotels/auberge-marie-blanc.aspx>

Saint-Andr -de-Kamouraska (T miscouata RCM)

Saint-Andr -de-Kamouraska Catholic Church – Completed in 1811, Saint-Andr  Church is not only an historic church, but also houses five outstanding works of art.

Location: 128 Rue Principale; Saint-Andr -de-Kamoursaska, QC

Open: Daily

<http://www.uquebec.ca/musique/orgues/quebec/sandrek.html>

<http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=7840>

La Maison de la Prune – The spacious home built in 1840 and restored in 1978 houses a country store selling homemade products including jams, jellies and fruit sauces and a museum. The deBlois-Martin family revived one of the oldest horticultural traditions of the region by cultivating Damon Plum trees in the outstanding orchard.

Location: 129 Route 132 Est; Saint-Andr -de-Kamouraska, QC

Open: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Daily (Guided tour on Sunday at 10:30 am)

<http://www.mrckamouraska.com/repertoireculturel/fiche.php?cat=7&fiche=167>

TOURING ACADIAN MADAWASKA

Congrès Mondial – 8-24 August, 2014

Kedgwick Forestry Village and Museum
Kedgwick Nord, NB



International Bridge
Canada Border Service



Pointe-à-la-Croix (Avignon RCM)

Battle of the Restigouche National Historic Site of Canada – This museum commemorates the last naval battle between Great Britain and France for possession of the North American continent. The battle ended on 8 July 1760 in the Restigouche River and sealed the fate of New France forever. The museum contains historical artifacts from the battle as well as audiovisual displays. There are also a few Acadian exhibits concerning La Petite-Rochelle.

Location: Route 132; Pointe-à-la-Croix, QC

Open: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm; Daily

Admission Fee: Adults (\$3.95), Children (\$1.95), Seniors (\$3.45)

<http://gaspesie.quebecheritageweb.com/attraction/plunging-past-battle-restigouche-national-historic-site>

<http://gaspesie.quebecheritageweb.com/organization/battle-restigouche-national-historic-site>

La Petite-Rochelle Archeological Investigation – In 2008 the Société Historique Machault began a series of archeological investigations to locate the Acadian village of La Petite-Rochelle. This village was destroyed and burned in 1760 by the British after the Battle of Restigouche. The surviving Acadians were imprisoned at Fort Cumberland (formerly Fort Beauséjour) in southern New Brunswick. Jean Guédry, his wife Marie LeBlanc and their children were captured at La Petite-Rochelle and taken to Fort Cumberland.

Location: In vicinity of Pointe-à-la-Croix

<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/qc/restigouche/ne/Archeo-2013-Causeries.aspx>

<http://journals.hil.unb.ca/index.php/acadiensis/article/view/10813/11609>

L'Auberge Marie Blanc



Maison de la Prune



Restigouche Historic Site



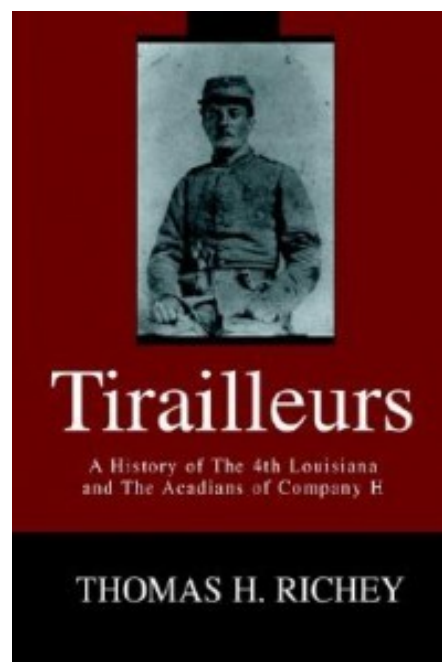
BOOK NOOK

Tirailleurs: A History of The 4th Louisiana and The Acadians of Company H

by Thomas H. Richey

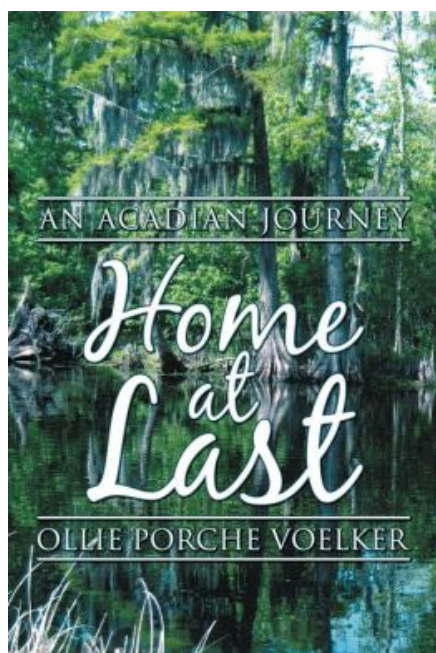
The Tirailleurs was a company of soldiers from Brusly Landing, West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. They were mostly Acadians and fought gallantly for the Southern Cause. This book follows them through the Civil War and uses diaries, letters, and memoirs to allow the soldiers to tell their own story. From a blood-bath at Shiloh's Hornet's Nest, we follow them through the terrible debacle at the Battle of Nashville.

Tirailleurs is the first definitive history of the 4th Louisiana Infantry, CSA. Over sixteen hundred men served in the 4th LA and are all listed by company in the book's appendix making it an excellent genealogical resource.



HOME AT LAST: AN ACADIAN JOURNEY

By Ollie Porche Voelker



In 1755, an Acadian family is forced to leave Nova Scotia and must relocate in the American colonies in this sweeping historical novel. For years, England and France have fought for control of Nova Scotia, called Acadie by the French settlers. The Acadians, who are of French origin, have remained neutral and live in peace while still remaining loyal to France. But that is all about to change.

In 1754, the new English lieutenant-governor orders the Acadians to sign an oath promising to fight with England against France. Eleven-year-old Pierre Martin and his family watch as many of their neighbors relocate to French-controlled lands rather than take the oath. But the Martin family stays put, and it's not long before English soldiers burst into their home, search it, and seize their guns.

Now, all men and boys aged ten and over are ordered by the English military commander to attend a meeting. Pierre and his father are shocked when they are imprisoned and told they will be deported from their homes. A month later, Pierre and his family must board ships bound for the American colonies.

Once in Maryland, the Martins survive eleven years of hardship, hunger, and discrimination. Always holding on to hope, however, they eventually make their way to Louisiana. But after all their losses, can they finally find happiness in this new land?

GUIDRY'S HARDWARE & SUPPLIES, INC.

*Guidry's Hardware & Supplies, Inc. celebrates
80 years in business.*

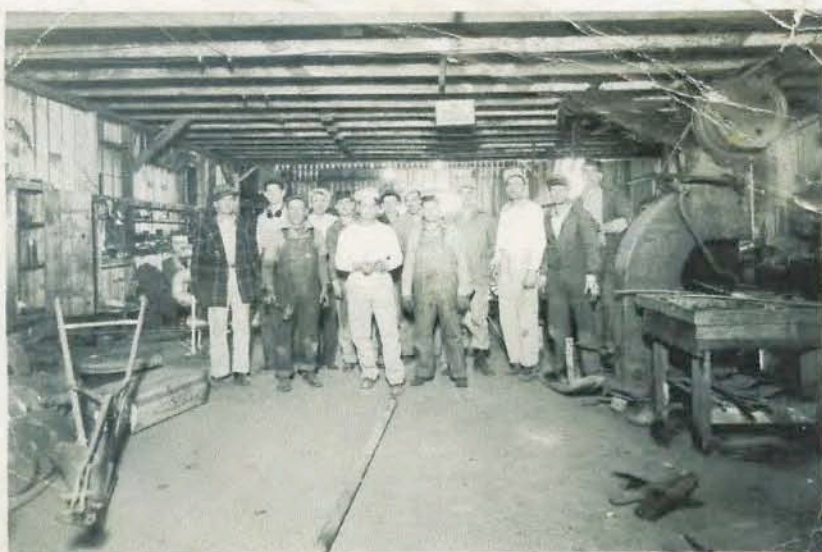
1818-22 Jefferson St., Lafayette, LA 70501



PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

PRODUCED BY IND MEDIA
JULY 2013





Blacksmith shop, 1932

Guidry Hardware Celebrating 80 years

In the late 1800s, Leonard Guidry trekked from the bays of Nova Scotia to the bayous of Louisiana with his four sons, Cyrus, Davis, Percy and Delore, and four daughters. The French-speaking family settled in the tiny community of Nina near Henderson/Cecilia. At the age of 17, Leonard's son, Cyrus, ventured out from Nina to Lafayette to launch his future.

Unable to read and write, Cyrus applied for a janitorial job at the Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute (SLI) (now University of Louisiana – Lafayette). But, because he did not have a high school diploma, he did not qualify for the position.

Undeterred, Guidry decided to use the blacksmith skills taught by his father to start his own business. "If he'd have known how to read and write, he'd be working at UL instead of having Guidry Blacksmith and Hardware," daughter Geraldine observes. "But, he was smart, very smart."

Cyrus's brothers, Davis and Percy, joined him at the blacksmith shop. In 1933, Cyrus found a piece of property on Oak Street (now Jefferson Street) near downtown Lafayette. There, he began Guidry Blacksmith with his two brothers. Along the dirt floors, the brothers sharpened plow blades, smelted equipment and made horseshoes for farmers. Later, the Guidrys acquired an electric welding machine, allowing them to build wagons for hauling sugar cane.

Back then, many customers were poor and unable to pay in cash. So, Cyrus often accepted payment in the form of fresh vegetables, fruits and livestock. "Some people couldn't pay, so Dad would do their stuff and they would give us vegetables, eggs and things like that," Geraldine recalls. "He was a good person. My Daddy always helped somebody. He always said, 'If you give, they always give back to you.'"

Over the years, Guidry's started stocking and selling more and more hardware-related items. Eventually, that evolved into the retail business, Guidry Hardware, that exists today.

In the 1940s, Davis and Percy left the fold to start their own businesses. Percy opened his own blacksmith shop on Cleveland Street, which eventually became Percy Guidry's Ironworks and Hearth and Patio.

During that decade, Cyrus built a house on Cleveland Street, where he and his wife, Inez, raised their three children – Margie and twins Gerald and Geraldine. As they grew, the kids played with their cousins along the dead end street and became very close. "We all ate out of the same couscous bowl," recalls Davis' son, Crip Guidry.

Gerald started working alongside his father from an early age. He learned many important life lessons from Cyrus. "He told everybody, 'Be on time,'" Gerald recalls. "But, I was living right there in the back, so I had to be on time."

Every day, Inez would make lunch for her three children at the small kitchen in the back of the store. She started as the first bookkeeper for the blacksmith shop. "Inez helped in collecting payments when necessary," Gerald's wife Alice recalls. "She was very involved with running the business as well as raising her family. She was a very wonderful person."

Gradually, Cyrus Guidry branched out into hardware, adding custom-made items to the inventory including wagons with rubber wheels, block ice tongs, sugar cane knives, moonshine kegs, zydeco washboards and cast-iron barbecue pits. Geraldine and her husband, Easten, still have one of those pits today. Guidry's became known for carrying unique and hard-to-find items. "At UL, they used to whip the guys at freshmen orientation with paddles," Geraldine recalls. "And, we'd sell the paddles."

In 1946, Marjorie married Clarence Champagne, who took over Guidry's Iron Works. In the meantime, Guidry Hardware continued to expand its inventory to accommodate the oil boom. Many of Guidry's oil and gas customers were Gerald's former classmates from Lafayette High and Cathedral Carmel School. "The oilfield did lots of business with us," Gerald says. "They'd tell us what they wanted, and we'd get it for them."

Over the years, Guidry's garnered a loyal following of customers. One of Geraldine's fondest memories of working at the store was getting to know the late Louisiana State Senator Dudley J. LeBlanc of Hadacol notoriety. "He would come to the hardware store all of the time to buy stuff and give us pennies," she says with a laugh. "If we'd have kept that today, it would be worth a lot of money. We thought it was funny, Hadacol. He would bring movie stars, and they would have a parade and everything."

Eventually, Cyrus became interested in race horses, owning up to six at one time. One of his prize-winners was Inez D, named after his wife, and Go Alice, Go for his daughter-in-law. "Daddy loved horses," Gerald recalls. "I used to go with him to the racetrack."

Among Guidry's most treasured icons is a giant, German-made wooden horse which Cyrus acquired from a hardware store in Duson. Numerous customers brought their children to sit on the horse and pose for pictures. "There are ladies in their 80s who come

in and remember their daddies putting them on the horse," Gerald observes. "Little kids still come in here and sit on that horse."

Cyrus reared his "living" equine collection on a large piece of property off of Pinhook Road. Back then, he exercised his horses around a race track on the pasture. "He had the big barn with horses and everything," Geraldine recalls. "He had Shetland ponies and things like that. The kids had a ball there."

Steven Guidry recalls going to the race track with his grandfather as a youngster. "I remember going to Evangeline Downs with him to check on his horses and everything," he recalls. "Now, I've got horses."

In 1955, Gerald married his high school sweetheart, Alice. They had five children – Leslie,



Gina, Steven, Monique and Renee, all of whom worked for the hardware store in some capacity. Even Alice worked at Guidry's for a brief period. "The store has always been in our lives, even before I was married to Gerald," Alice says. "In fact, I even accused him at one time of being married to the store."

When Geraldine married Eastern Marceaux, Cyrus supervised the building of his shop, Marceaux's Tire and Alignment. "He knew how long each piece of the pitch would have to be, and he could call them out quicker than the guy could write them up and cut them," Eastern recalls. "He figured all that out in his head. He didn't have to go measure. Most people had to go measure each one. That's the one thing that stayed with me, the way he could figure that out."

In the 1960s, Geraldine moved her childhood home from Cleveland Street next to her property on Verot School Road. Today, Geraldine's son, Kirk Brodhead, operates his CPA firm from the former family homestead.

Cyrus retired from Guidry's in 1973. About that time, he divided his various properties among his three children, Marjorie Champagne, Gerald Guidry and Geraldine Marceaux.

After retiring, Cyrus planted corn and built a grinding machine. His cornmeal was so good that people used to ask for it.

Upon acquiring Guidry Hardware in 1973, Gerald began to garner his own following of customers. Among these were his fellow Lafayette High graduates and friends from SLI. When his colleagues got jobs, their employers also became Guidry shoppers. "He said he was successful for what his friends gave back to him," Monique says.

Gerald has also made many friends through Guidry's. "I have lots of friends," he says. "We make friends when they come in and buy something."

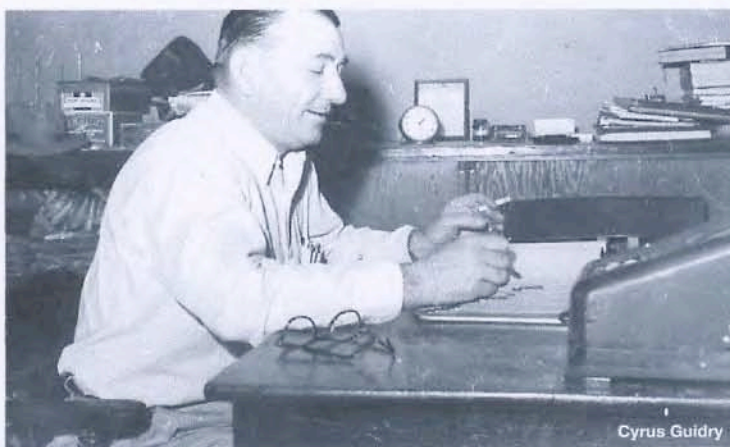
In 1988, Gerald was approached by Nelson Quebedeaux to purchase Coastal Supply, Inc. Coastal Supply was an oilfield industrial hardware store which Quebedeaux operated out of a building owned by Guidry. Gerald agreed, and Coastal became part of the Guidry Hardware family. Located at 223 Industrial Parkway in Lafayette, Coastal is now managed by Adam Ardoin.

In 1994, Gerald bought the former Western Auto store in Scott from Elmo Broussard, converting it into a second location of Guidry Hardware. Managed by Mike Davis, the Scott store is located at 5633 Cameron Street. The second location carries most of the traditional and hard-to-find items found at the original store and is gaining a whole new following of customers.

Today, at age 80, Gerald is still working full-time assisting customers. Every morning (except Sunday), he opens the doors at 6:30 a.m. "I'm having fun," he says. "It's not work for me. I'm just having fun."

On Saturdays, a group of men gather around the coffee pot to catch up on the local news and gossip. "It's a whole different world over here on Saturday," Renee says, "because they all mingle around the coffee pot like Peyton Place. They gossip. That's what they do, that's what I hear."

Some of Steven's fondest memories are of the stories shared at the gathering of "old"



Cyrus Guidry

May 17, 1954



men. "We had a porch swing up front, and they would sit there in the morning, drink coffee and tell old stories," he recalls. "I think those were some of the most special times, because you learned a lot about the history of Lafayette and everything that went on in the past. And I thought that was a very important time frame."

When customers come into Guidry's, they can expect to find Gerald out on the floor. "My Dad is never in his office," Renee observes. "You'll never find him in his office unless he's thinking about something. His life is the hardware. That's what keeps him going."

His daughters observe that although he seems quiet, Gerald has a natural gift for sales. "I think my Dad would sell us if he could," Gina

says with a laugh. "I remember one day, I was sitting on a stool, and he goes, 'Gina, let me see that stool.' And I said, 'I'm filing.' And he said, 'Well, that man said he liked that stool. How much do you want for that stool?' So, the man said, 'You'd sell it to me?' And Dad said, 'Oh, Whatever you want.' I said to Mama, 'He's probably going to sell you one day, because he's a good businessman. If we don't have it, he's going to find it for you, and he's going to make sure that it's better than what you were looking for. That's his personality.'"

Gerald continues his father Cyrus's legacy of putting the customer first. For years, he has allowed certain long-time clients to pay in installments. "Dad had many older, less fortunate customers who could not afford a heater, and let them pay \$5 or \$10 a week," Gina recalls. "They were here every week. And, they still do that to this day."

Besides exceptional customer service, Guidry's is known for carrying almost every item imaginable. "If we don't have it, we'll find it for you," Gerald says. "And, if we don't carry it, we'll refer you to a place that does."

While growing up, Gerald's children did not understand this philosophy. But, as they matured, they finally got it. "Customers remember, and they will come back," Gina says. "It comes full circle."

Guidry's continues to carry items that are hard to find in big box hardware stores. "Gerald's got hardware things that you can't find at Lowe's and some of the big lumber yard stores," long-time customer Robert Delahoussaye says. "He's got a variety of pulleys and cables and things that were used 30 to 40 years ago and are just not common, but some people are still looking for and still use them. He carries that. He has them available."

Now, a new generation of customers is discovering Guidry's unique inventory. "A lot of the UL architecture students are the ones who find us over here, because somebody will say, 'Did you try Guidry's to go get your stuff for your project?'" Renee says. "So, a lot of the UL professors will recommend us to their students."

But, the thing that keeps customers coming back is the great service. "I respect that it is hard for family businesses to survive," Steven Guidry says. "But at the same time, if you have respect for your customers and their wants and needs, and try to marry the two, it's a win-win situation for everybody. And, if you give good customer service, then people will keep coming back."



Cyrus and Inez Guidry



Gerald Guidry



Ali Broussard on the saddle horse



Cyrus, Gerald, Percy, Davis, Anna and Roy

It's a Family Tradition

THROUGH THE YEARS, MANY OF CYRUS GUIDRY'S FAMILY MEMBERS have carried on the family tradition by working at Guidry's Hardware. From an early age, Gerald Guidry worked alongside his Dad, doing much of the manual labor. Gerald's twin sister, Geraldine Guidry Marceaux, held out until her senior year of high school. "I hated it," she says. "I was the only girl." Eventually, Geraldine's sons, Tim Marceaux and Kirk Brodhead, worked at Guidry's.

As Gerald's children, Leslie, Gina, Steven, Monique and Renee, grew, they spent time at the store during the summers. But, they were not allowed to run amuck, because it was a place of business.

When the kids became older, they became interested in working at Guidry's. At age 10, Steven "officially" started, beginning at the bottom with sweeping floors and stocking shelves. "I was the only son, so there was no special treatment," he recalls. "It was a family business, and it was what I did. I didn't know anything different."

By the age of 15 or 16, Steven was waiting on customers. "Making sure that the customers were taken care of was the main priority," he recalls.

But, Gerald did not allow his daughters to work up front. "My Dad would never, ever allow his girls to work up front," Gina says adamantly. "Because, in the old days, there were so many men in here. Even if we'd go up front to get change, he would tell us to hurry up and go to the back. It was a man's world."

Eventually, the girls had their opportunity to work at Guidry's. While a teenager, Gina worked at the store part-time. She recalls that her Dad would come home every day at lunch and load herself, Steven and cousin Kirk Brodhead into the family truck for work. At the end of the day, they would cram back in the truck and return home. "That way, we all got a chance to go to work," Gina explains.

During college, the Guidry children worked at the store, filing and making deposits. Gina recalls that as she filed, she could hear her grandfather Cyrus in his office counting money in French. "My grandfather was so excited because Dad's children were learning the business," she recalls.

In 1985, Gina got married and began working for her father in the bookkeeping office. When he purchased Coastal Supply, Inc. in 1988, she moved over to run its bookkeeping department. "It's like a big family over here, with the old customers and the loyal employees," Gina says.

Now, Gina's daughter, Lauren Broussard, is working with her at Coastal.

Sibling Amanda Broussard, now a nurse, had worked at Guidry's in the past. Matthew, Leslie's son, worked at Coastal Supply one summer during high school. Today, he is an accountant. "All of the kids want to work over here," Gina says. "It's the cutest thing."

In 1987, Gerald's youngest child, Renee, graduated from UL with a finance degree and began working full-time at Guidry's. She is also overseeing the Scott store and handles all of its work. "I had always wanted to work for the family business," Renee says. "So, once I got married, I asked Dad if I could come to work here, and he said, 'Sure.'"

After Steven graduated from UL in 1987, he continued to work at Guidry's. At 27, he moved to California, where he now sells real estate.

The most recent full-time addition to the Guidry family workforce is Monique Guidry Boone. After filling in at the store during high school and college, Boone worked as a travel agent for 25 years. One day, she received a desperate call from the office asking for help. "I came in for one day and I never left," she recalls. "It gave me a purpose."

Monique's son Trey, an LSU student, works at the store in his spare time. Additionally, Trey is managing his grandfather Gerald's rental properties. Monique's daughter Jordan, who studies at Southeastern Louisiana University, fills in occasionally.

Gerald's wife, Alice, says that her youngest grandchild, Ali, is anxiously awaiting her turn to work at Guidry's. Eight-year-old Ali is Renee's daughter. "She's just chomping at the bit to be there," Alice says. "She loves to go there and help out like the others."

Even the in-laws have gotten into the action. Andre Breaux, who is married to Gerald's daughter Leslie, has worked at Guidry's for 31 years. Their son, Matthew, was employed by Coastal one summer during high school.

As a long-term employee, Breaux has done everything from sales to management. He is primarily responsible for personnel and inventory control. "When you are in a small business, you kind of do everything," he explains. "I wait on customers, cut and thread pipe, load and unload trucks and mop the floor if I have to. I kind of do it all."

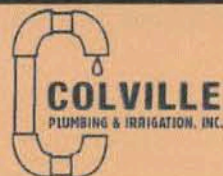
As a man who enjoys "handyman kind of things," Breaux fit right in at Guidry's. "Most of the employees are like that over here, where they enjoy piddling around with things and little projects at their houses," he says. "I enjoy working in this type of industry."

Another part of the business that Breaux enjoys is helping Guidry's regular customers. He also likes the variety of work at the store. "Even though we are in the same building every day selling the same merchandise,



Gerald Guidry, 1955

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dise, there is always a project that comes up where you are doing something different," he explains. "One day, somebody will come in with an electrical problem that you didn't have the day before. The next day might be a plumbing problem. I think the personalities of the people that work here are such that they enjoy helping people out with their problems and situations. It makes a real good working relationship with our customers."

Working with his father-in-law has proved to be a valuable learning experience. "Gerald is a very nice guy, a very giving guy," Breaux says. "He's old school, as far as wanting people to be at work on time and being responsible for themselves. He's not a guy that likes to boast or brag about himself. He's just a hard-working guy who has done very, very well with the business. And the reason he has done well with his business is that he just loves his work, and he loves his customers."

Gerald's son Steven continues to live by the high standards set by his father. "Working for him gave me a lot of skills I carry on today, as far as being responsible and not being late," he says. "Because, I was expected to show up right on time. And now, I'm obsessed with not being late at any job or anything like that."

"He also instilled in me that when I am working, the customer is always right. And, when you show up to work, you are there to work. At the same time, you can enjoy your fellow peers, but you are there to work and take care of clients. I took it personally, that this was my responsibility; and I carry it to this day. Customer service, taking care of the client, that's what I pride my business on."

While many small, family-owned businesses have gone by the wayside, Guidry's has managed to survive. Breaux attributes the store's longevity to its ownership, staff and loyal customers. "We have a really good clientele," he observes. "It's really good for the local community for people to support us."



Scott location of Guidry Hardware located at 5633 Cameron Street, Scott, LA 70583



Left to right: Leslie Breaux, Renee Broussard, Steven Guidry, Gina Broussard, Alice Guidry and Monique Boone



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Long-Time Customers Praise Guidry's

Nolan Stoute, Sales Representative for Orgill (retired)

Long-time sales representative Nolan Stoute did business with Guidry's for over 20 years. Originally, he dealt with Guidry's while employed by Stratton Baldwin, where he was assigned to the southwest Louisiana territory because he could speak French. Eventually, he went to work for Orgill, where he continued to serve as a sales rep for 13 years.

During his sales career, Stoute traveled to Guidry's weekly for sales calls. He would meet with Gerald Guidry, Gerald's son-in-law Andre Breaux and Guidry's regular gathering of men starting at 6:30 a.m. for coffee and donuts. From 7:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. or so, he would check the inventory, then return the next morning to finish up for about three hours. "I couldn't ask for a nicer dealer to do business with," he recalls. "We had no problems at all. We communicated really well."

Over the years, Nolan and Gerald became very close friends. "Gerald is one of the nicest guys you'll ever want to meet," he says. "And, everybody knows that."

The thing he remembers most about Guidry's was its friendly, helpful staff. "I tell you one thing, not just Mr. Guidry, but the whole crew is a super crew," he recalls. "Everyone enjoyed working for him. If you go into the store, somebody is always there to greet you at the front door and see if they can help you. And, they are always polite in trying to help the customer out. Everyone on the staff was polite, from the cashier to the porter."

Compared to other customers, what stood out most to Stoute was that Guidry's carried everything. "The old saying was that if you can't find it at Guidry's, you don't need it," he says with a laugh. "And if he didn't have it, he wouldn't mind trying to find it for you and order it. That's one thing I can say about Mr. Guidry."

Robert Delahoussaye, Owner of Robert Delahoussaye, Inc. (retired)

Back in 1942, John Wesley Delahoussaye, owner of J.W. Delahoussaye & Sons, started doing business with Guidry Hardware. In the early 1950s, John Wesley sent his son, Robert, to the hardware store to pick up items for the plastering contractor business. Robert finished high school with Gerald Guidry in 1953. Over the years, they became good friends. "Gerald will bend over backwards to help anybody," Delahoussaye says. "That's why people keep going back into the hardware store, because he wants to help them. He's got a personality where once people do business with him, they keep coming back and back."

Eventually, Robert and his brothers broke off from their Dad and started their own companies. Robert founded Robert Delahoussaye, Incorporated, in 1989. Like his Dad before him, Robert did business with Guidry's. Fourteen years ago, Robert retired and sold the company to his two sons. Following in the family tradition, Robert's sons continue to get their supplies from Guidry's. "When people are looking for something at Guidry's, there's always somebody there to wait on you," he says. "And if Gerald doesn't have it, they'll order it from the wholesale people that they do business with throughout the southeast part of the United States where he buys hardware."

Since his retirement, Robert lunches with Gerald every couple of weeks. Occasionally, he'll drop by Guidry's in the morning to have coffee with the guys. "We call that area the 'Associated Press newsroom,'" he says with a laugh. "If you want to find out what's going on, you go there in the morning, and people come in and out and just visit. Gerald will tell me who died that we should know, give me some good news, and also tell me the gossip in town."

While friends tease Gerald about being conservative, his buddies know that he is actually a very generous person. "He never backs away when it's his turn to pick up the check," Delahoussaye says. "Not only that, all of these organizations that are raising money, like for the Kiwanis Club's football jamboree, he helps support them. He has helped many, many, many schools throughout the area with donations. And, he's very generous with that."

Above all, Delahoussaye admires Gerald's integrity. "It's just a pleasure to do business with somebody that's honest," he says. "As a customer, if we buy something and for some reason it malfunctions, there's no question. He just takes it back and redoes it, and doesn't argue or say anything about it. We've been having a charge account over there for years and years - my father, my brothers, and us. He trusts us, and we trust him. He's just a good person."

GUIDRY'S HARDWARE TIMELINE

- 1932 Guidry Blacksmith and Welding Shop opens
- 1933 Guidry Hardware opens - 1818-22 Jefferson St., Laf. 70501 (337-232-5254)
- 1973 Cyrus Guidry retires at age 70
- Gerald Guidry takes over Guidry Hardware at age 40
- 1988 Gerald Guidry buys Costal Supply, Inc. - 223 Industrial Pkwy., Laf. 70508 (337-232-6714)
- 1994 Guidry Hardware opens location in Scott, Louisiana - 5633 Cameron St., Scott 70583 (337-232-2141)
- 2013 Guidry Hardware celebrates 80 years in business
- www.guidryhardware.com



Guidry Hardware, 1945

Brian Vincent, Lafayette Consolidated Government

For 20 years, Brian Vincent has worked for the Lafayette Consolidated Government, where he serves as facility maintenance supervisor. From day one, he has shopped at Guidry Hardware for all of the City's needs. He chooses Guidry's because of its central location and vast inventory. "They pretty much have anything you need," he says. "If they don't have what we need in stock, they will get it for us."

Another reason that the City has a long-standing relationship with Guidry's is its knowledgeable staff. "The staff is remarkable, very helpful and always willing to help out," Vincent observes. "When we are not quite sure what we need, we can explain the situation that we are working on to them, and there's always somebody there who can come up with a solution and get us the right parts we need. It would be very hard for us to run the maintenance department for the City without Guidry Hardware."

While the City does occasionally purchase items from big box hardware stores, its workers always go back to Guidry's. "They don't have the exact parts sometimes that we are needing, or the person that knows what we are looking for," Vincent says.

Guidry's goes out of its way to keep customers satisfied. "They have things that they've never stocked before that we use that they actually started stocking mainly for us, just because they know that we need it and we would purchase it from them," Vincent says. "That's why they've been there 80 years."

On an average week, Vincent goes to Guidry's seven to ten times. "When I walk in the door, I pretty much know where everything in the store is," he says. "But, there is still somebody who asks if they can help me look for something. They are very, very good people."

Over the years, Vincent has gotten to know owner Gerald Guidry both personally and professionally. "He is a very, very nice guy, a very helpful person and a very kind-hearted man," Vincent says.

Robert "Popie" Billeaud, Owner/President of JB Mouton, Inc.

JB Mouton, Inc. builders been doing business with Guidry's as long as President/Owner Robert "Popie" Billeaud can remember. "JB Mouton started with my great-grandfather in 1915," Billeaud says. "I came to work in 1976, and I am assuming that we've been doing with Guidry's since the start of its business."

Billeaud says that he enjoys doing business at Guidry's because of the wide range of inventory and the friendly, experienced staff. "We can get anything we need, a cup of coffee and an answer to any problem plaguing mankind," he says with a laugh. "It's one of the last examples of old-time retailing, where you can go there and talk to experienced people and not only find what you need, but maybe solve a problem that you are dealing with."

He has nothing but praise for Guidry's owner, Gerald Guidry. "He's an icon in the community," Billeaud says. "He has maintained the highest level in his business for quality and service. He's always around to visit the folks that come and go."

Often, Billeaud recommends Guidry's to others because of its reputation for having everything. "If you are having trouble finding something, Gerald has it," he says. "I've called him down on it, and he says, 'If I don't have it, you don't need it.'"

Joe Orgill, III, Director (retired) of Orgill

As a 165-year-old company, Orgill knows what it takes for a business to make its brand on the market. And, Orgill's leadership recognizes that Guidry Hardware has done just that for 80-plus years.

"Guidry Hardware is obviously a part of the Lafayette community," observes Joe Orgill, III, retired director of Orgill. "It's been there 80 years and, by that time, people know what to expect when they go into Guidry Hardware. They obviously like what they get. Many people say that a brand is an expectation. And their expectation of Guidry Hardware is that they are going to go in there and find a good selection of stuff, great people to help them and fair pricing. And, that's what enables a brand to build itself over 80 years."

Orgill says that working with Guidry's over all of these years has been a great experience. At marker, he has gotten to know Gerald Guidry and his son-in-law, Andre Breaux. "They've been wonderful customer of ours," Orgill says. "But beyond that, they've made themselves a part of this community by giving people what they want."



Blaine Judice Scott Hawthorne, Randal Landry Rachel Sonnier, Cecilia Sonnier, and Boo Trahan

Guidry's Legacy of Long-Time Employees

Guidry's is renowned for its hardworking, helpful employees. Many staff members stayed on with the store until they retired. "We always had good people working there, and we became friends over the years," Alice Guidry says. "It was like intertwined with their lives and ours."

Some of the longest-term workers were Walter Romero, Larry Begnaud, Elray Bourque, Jerome Menard and William "Penny" Comeaux. Gerald's daughters credit long-term employee Fay Dugas for their training at Guidry's. "She was more like a sister than just a worker," Gina Guidry Broussard says. "She taught the girls everything about bookkeeping. The children still remain close to her today."

Another longtime employee is Cecile Sonnier, who has cashiered at Guidry's for more than 30 years. "She along with Rachel Sonnier run the day-to-day operation up front," Gina says. "They are just like family

and know the customers by name."

Another memorable worker was Hazel Thibodeaux, a former seamstress at Hancock Fabrics. Thibodeaux would often come into Guidry's and ask Gerald to personally wait on her. Following her retirement, she went to work at Guidry's full-time. She was one of the few women that Gerald allowed to work on the floor. "She was awesome," Gina recalls. "She was in her 70s then, and she stayed here until she died. She knew how to make things. She and my parents became good friends. They traveled abroad several times."

Steven Guidry, who worked at Guidry's until age 27, still keeps in touch with some of Guidry's former workers. "I am still close to these people after 30 years," he says. "I still call some of them on their birthdays. It's in your blood. I will always have a soft spot in my heart for the employees and the people who have come into my life through the hardware store."

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Lauren, Jordan, Adam and Ali



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FOR 80
WONDERFUL YEARS!**

**I HAVE REALLY ENJOYED DOING
BUSINESS WITH GUIDRY'S FOR THE
PAST 50 YEARS!**

Red Lerille



Keeping Lafayette Fit . . .
Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow!

IN THE NEWS-HISTORICAL NEWS TIDBITS

Times-Picayune, New Orleans, LA
September 15, 1880

THE ASSUMPTION HOMICIDE.

Particulars of the Murder of Dufossat.
 Guedry and Wounding of Lacroix
 Alonzo.

The following particulars of the recent homicide in Assumption parish, are taken from the Donaldsonville Chief:

Last Saturday night an affray occurred in the parish of Assumption that resulted in the shooting and wounding of two men, one of whom has since died. The particulars of the affray are substantially as follows: At Mr. Dufossat Guedry's place, six miles below Donaldsonville, on the right bank of Bayou Lafourche, a ball was in progress, given under the auspices of Mr. Guedry and his friends and neighbors. Thos. Bradford, of Ascension, came along with a cart load of chickens, and stopped at the ball-room, as his friends claim, for the purpose of buying some cakes for his wife, who was in the cart. He was in his shirt sleeves, and called his brother-in-law, Antoine Gomez, who was attending the ball, to get the cakes for him. In some way a discussion arose between Bradford and Mr. Guedry, caused by the appearance of the former in the door of the room, and Mr. Guedry proceeded to eject the intruder. It is claimed by friends of Bradford that he was struck and kicked by Guedry, and then assaulted by Lacroix Alonzo, Mr. Guedry's overseer, before he made any attempt to defend himself. When Alonzo interfered in the quarrel Gomez took a hand also, and he and Bradford drew revolvers and opened fire on their antagonists. Gomez shot Guedry in the abdomen, and Bradford shot Alonzo in the back, the ball passing up by the shoulder blade, and being extracted subsequently at the back of the neck. Guedry died Monday night from the effects of his wound, and Alonzo lies in a precarious condition, but strong hopes of his recovery are entertained.

Bradford and Gomez made their escape and are still in hiding. A young man named Marcellus Melancon, who was in some manner connected with the affair, was arrested and taken to Napoleonville, where he is confined in jail.

Mr. Guedry was an old and highly esteemed citizen, and his violent death has created great excitement and indignation in the vicinity. It is reported that a heavy reward has been offered for the capture of Bradford and Gomez, but on this point we have no authentic or specific information.

RAILROAD NEWS FROM ALL AROUND
Guidry Returns From Seeing Soldiers On The Border
Times-Picayune, New Orleans, LA
March 24, 1911

F. E. Guidry, district passenger agent of the Mobile and Ohio, brings back a whole budget of interesting near-war news from San Antonio and other points in Texas. Mr. Guidry spent most of last week in Texas and visited Galveston, Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Dallas and other points. He went on one of his regular inspection tours, that is to look after the various agencies of the line in Texas, and to see how things were going on.

Mr. Guidry, in discussing his trip yesterday afternoon, said that San Antonio looked like a city in the time of war, with its thousands of soldiers, in daily drills; black-mouthed cannons and dangerous-looking field guns everywhere, and cavalry horses cantering back and forth through the streets.

"One thing that struck me as being most noticeable," said Mr. Guidry, "was the fact that all the soldiers seemed desirous of crossing the border and trying conclusions with the Mexicans. This desire was especially noticeable among the younger officers, who see in an invasion of another country, which would doubtless result in war, a chance for early promotion.

"San Antonio has not the appearance of a city where a military festival or a make-believe encampment is being held. The officers are with the men all the time; you don't find them in the lobbies of the hotels, and sitting in the bay windows at the clubs; they are ready for duty at a moment's notice, and everything has the air of war about it. As for the Texans themselves, they look upon Mexico's warlike pretensions as a joke, and the common talk is that Texas herself could take care of both the Federals and revolutionists, if Uncle Sam would only give them the word. The Texans look upon such an expedition as a mere holiday and I really believe they could do as they say, were they allowed to cross the border."

Mr. Guidry said that he found the business outlook in Texas very good and everything tends to indicate that the coming season is going to be a big one. The crops are promising, the people seem prosperous and everybody is smiling at the future.

"Texas is a great state," commented Mr. Guidry, "and the more I see it, the greater it seems."

IN THE NEWS-HISTORICAL NEWS TIDBITS

LOCAL PREP SCHOOL GOES AGAINST SPRINGHILL TO-DAY.



LOYOLA UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL SQUAD OF 1911.

Seated (left to right)—Felix Vaccaro (fullback), Joe Killeen (captain and guard), Ignatius Kerna-ghan (tackle).

Kneeling—Henry J. Miller (tackle), Raymond Bassich (end), Robert Emmet White (halfback), Louis Guidry (center), Ernest Robin (guard), Gerald O. Fennell (tackle).

Standing—Eugene Perrier (end), Patrick Ryan (coach), Felix Gaudin (guard), Franz Hindermann (halfback), Tracey Gately (end), Andrew Friedrichs (end), Chris Everett (manager).

Times-Picayune, New Orleans, LA, October 28, 1911

L. J. Guedry Is Seeking Stolen Cash and Gems

L. J. Guedry, 1203 South Rampart street, still had hopes Friday night for a watch and other jewelry valued at \$100 and \$65 in cash, stolen from his residence more than a week ago.

Another watch taken at the same time, was found Thursday night hanging on his door bell, and the other jewelry and money might be returned yet, he believed.

Numberous robberies have been committed recently in the neighborhood, according to Mr. Guedry, but he did not report his losses to the police.

*Times Picayune, New Orleans, LA
January 28, 1922*

"Hose Joke" Is Fatal To Bay City Workman

Bay City, Oct. 3.—The 19-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. David Libean of Pinconing died Saturday night at Midland, where he was employed in the Dow Chemical plant and three young men are jail there, charged with a serious offense.

The young man lived about six hours after his injuries and never regained consciousness.

The hose of the air compressor, carrying from 60 to 80 pounds pressure, was inserted in the victim's body and he was literally blown up, every tissue of his body being filled to the stretching point. His internal organs were ruptured.

It is understood that the men accused of the crime were simply having some "fun" with their victim, without realizing the seriousness of their work.

*Ann Arbor News Ann Arbor, MI
October 3, 1916*

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	Guित्रy	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 2013.

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 U.S. 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:**

Marty Guidry
6139 North Shore Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70817
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 11th 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



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

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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

Les Guédry d'Asteur
REGISTRATION for 2014 REUNION
(L'enregistrement pour 2014 Réunion)
16 August 2014 – Van Buren, Maine

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) _____

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 \$12-\$15 per person / Le repas de buffet coûtera \$12-\$15 par la personne)
[This is not a commitment to purchase meals; we just need an estimate of potential meals needed]

Family - Parents and Children under 17 (Famille - Les parents et les Enfants sous 17):

_____ \$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)

Individual (Individuelle):

_____ \$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)

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

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

Les Guédry d'Asteur, Inc.
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