

SUMMER
2023

VOLUME 21
ISSUE 2

Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Astcur

GENERATIONS

As the end of July approaches and the heat of August rushes upon us, we have another issue of "Generations" to assist you in enduring the long, hot days. Last issue we discussed the murder of Oswald Devillier after a Cajun dance near Nina, Louisiana. Shortly after that issue appeared on the streets, I received a phone call from a local gentleman of the Nina area who told me many new facets of the incident. An update of "The Death of Oswald.." provides new insights into this dark chapter of our history.

Mr. David Broussard, a noted historian and architectural expert of old Louisiana buildings, presents a very interesting review of the history and unique building structure of the Old St. Gabriel Catholic Church in St. Gabriel, Iberville Parish, LA. Old St. Gabriel Church is the oldest church structure in the Mississippi Valley and was constructed by the Acadians deported to Baltimore, Maryland who came in 1767 to Louisiana. Over 70% of the original "bones" of the church still exist. We need to ensure its survival into the future as David discusses at the end of his article. And there's a Guédry connection to the church also.

Both Canada and the United States recognize the unique role that those in our military perform to ensure our freedoms and way of life. Both nations have set aside special days to recognize our military members – past and present. In this edition of "Generations" we recognize and honor those men and women of our families who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in World Wars I and II. They helped ensure that we can enjoy our many freedoms and live in peace today. In future editions we will honor those special people from other wars in our nations' history.

And don't forget about our upcoming Guédry et Petitpas Reunion during the 2024 Congrès Mondial Acadien. We will gather on 16 and 17 August 2024 at the St. Alphonse Church Hall in St. Alphonse, Nova Scotia on the shores of beautiful Baie Ste-Marie. There's more information about the Reunion in this issue.

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Bon Appetit has two delicious recipes that everyone should try. Both the Shrimp Stew and Meatball Stew are truly mouth-watering and will make you fill your plate a second time. Try them and your family will thank you.

Historical Tidbits, as always, has a number of interesting articles on our families from the past. It is always interesting and fun to get a glimpse of what the “old folks” were doing years ago. Some are sad, some are exciting, some are interesting, but all provide a glimpse into our families.

Finally, to while away the time on a hot day, pick a book from the Book Nook, get a cold beverage and enjoy a relaxing hour or two just reading.

We hope you enjoy this issue of “Generations”. If you have an article – short or long – about your family and/or the Acadians, please send it to Martin Guidry at guidryRmartin@gmail.com. Let’s make “Generations” our family newsletter by all contributing to it.

every family has a story to tell

“ACADIANS WERE HERE”

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

To view the site visit:

<http://acadianswerehere.org/>

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

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

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

THE DEATH OF OSWALD
(AND IT IS NOT THE OSWALD YOU ARE THINKING) - UPDATE
By R. Martin Guidry

Lowell “PeeWee” Guidry of Cecilia, LA telephoned me on 24 March 2023 to discuss the article in the February 2023 issue of “Generations” on the death of Oswald Devillier. Lowell also is nicknamed Coach because of his over 50-year teaching career at Cecilia High School where he taught history and coached the various sports teams. PeeWee is 80 years old and lives on the original property of Pierre Guédry married to Marguerite Miller in St. Martin Parish. He descends from the Olivier Guédry père, son of Pierre Guédry and his second wife, Claire Babin. PeeWee said that within a half-mile north and south of I-10 all the folks living to east of Bordelon Road descend from Olivier’s brother Louis and all the folks living west of Bordelon Road descend from Olivier Guédry. He is a lifelong resident of the Cecilia area and knows most of the folks there.

PeeWee’s mother attended the dance the night that Oswald Devillier was murdered; however, she discussed it very little during her life. There are still several people in the Cecilia area that remember the murder although most were children in 1934. PeeWee and several of his elderly friends discussed the original article after Mass one morning and knew additional details about the murder of Oswald Devillier. PeeWee gathered all the comments and we discussed them during his telephone call and a subsequent visit that I made to PeeWee’s house on 26 April 2023.

Although the community of Nina no longer exists as a village, it was located just south of the intersection of I-10 and Louisiana (LA) Highway 347 (Grand Point Highway) stretching south and along Grand Point Highway and east along today’s LA Highway 352 (Henderson Highway).

The dance hall was located at the southwest corner of Grand Point Highway and Dermelie Calais Road (Parish Road 250) about 1.5 miles north of today’s I-10. It fronted on Grand Point Highway. Dermelie Calais owned the dance hall so local folks called it La Place au Melie. Today folks often refer to it as the Dermelie Calais Dancehall. The structure no longer exists.

Peewee was a good friend of Bennet Talley’s son and said that Oswald Devillier was a big, strong fellow and could easily beat a single person in a fight and maybe even two persons. Oswald had a high-pitched voice and during the dance an older gentleman by the name of Melancon made fun of Oswald because of this. At some point Oswald got angry and slugged Melancon very hard. Several of the young men that later attacked Oswald were related to and/or friends of Melancon. Words may have been exchanged because, when Oswald was leaving the dance, he asked a policeman to escort him from the dance to the wagon; however, the policeman had other business that needed his attention and he could not escort Oswald.



Mule-Drawn Wagon



Bull Pen (Men’s Area) at
Cajun Dance



Cajun Dancehall

***THE DEATH OF OSWALD
(AND IT IS NOT THE OSWALD YOU ARE THINKING) - UPDATE
By R. Martin Guidry***



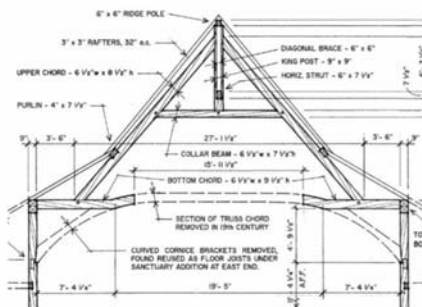
Site of La Place au Melie (Dermelie Calais Dance Hall) - Dermelie Calais Road on right; Grand Point Highway foreground)

Oswald then left the dance and got into the mule-driven wagon with Uline Dejean, his fiancé, and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leonce Dejean. Almost immediately the six young men attacked Oswald and beat him with a post until he was unconscious. Mr. Dejean got the mules to pull the wagon south down Grand Point Highway toward Nina; however, near an old oak tree about three-quarters of a mile from the dance hall, two of the young men, grabbed the bridles of the two mules and stopped them. The young men then continued to beat Oswald whose head swole up very large. Oswald was rushed to the hospital, but died on December 19th without regaining consciousness.

**The Odyssey of the Old St. Gabriel Church
By David Broussard**

David Broussard of St. Gabriel, Louisiana provided the article below on Old St. Gabriel Catholic Church.

David, a recognized expert on old Louisiana buildings and furniture, has studied the Old St. Gabriel Church and has worked diligently over the years to preserve it. Paul Boutin and his wife Ursule Guédry were among the original settlers of St. Gabriel in 1767 and helped construct the old church in the 1770s



Architectural Drawing of Norman Truss in Old St. Gabriel Catholic Church



Model of original Old St. Gabriel Church



St. Gabriel Catholic Church

The Odyssey of the Old St. Gabriel Church

Within days of our nation's Founding Fathers signing the Declaration of Independence, the building of the Old St. Gabriel Church was nearing completion. On July 7, 1776, the commandant of the Iberville District wrote the governor of Spanish colonial Louisiana to notify him that "the church should be completed by the end of the month. It is very beautiful."¹ It is the oldest church structure in the Mississippi River Valley. It's the only surviving Colonial church structure in Louisiana.

In 1763, the Mississippi River and Bayou Manchac became the international boundary between Spain and Great Britain. France had ceded its long possession of the Louisiana territory. It took Spain about three years to take actual possession and ruled by proxy in the interim with French administrators. When the Spanish government did arrive, its most pressing issue was to protect its borders and that meant increasing Louisiana's population and placing settlers near its boundaries.²

When a ship of Acadian families arrived from Maryland to New Orleans in July 1767, Governor Antonio de Ulloa sent the 210 settlers to Fort San Gabriel at the juncture of Bayou Manchac and the Mississippi.³ These exiles had spent 12 years in Maryland and had hoped to join relatives who had been settled earlier in St. James. Holdover French administrators had directed those Acadians in 1765 before Spain took physical possession in 1766. These same French authorities sent a second ship of Acadians to the Attakapas area.

Ulloa wanted to put into action his settlement policy to bolster the protection of the fort and the newly acquired territory. Spain issued land grants and gave each habitant a gun, a saw, and farm implements. The colonial government also provided a year's rationing. The Maryland Acadians arrived in the heat and rain of August and struggled through the land distribution with very muddy conditions as well as a spreading sickness.⁴

An undated map of the settlement (which likely dates to 1769), shows a site set aside for a church.⁵ On February 14, 1770, a royal decree had set forth the church "Parish of St. Gabriel at the Establishment of the Acadians of the Iberville Coast." The order was signed by Governor Alejandro O'Reilly and Vicar-General of the Diocese Fr. Dagobert.⁶ The Spanish government and the Catholic Church were very closely connected.

Letters from the Iberville District commandant Louis Dutisné describe events leading up to the construction of the church. On October 9, 1770, the settlers petitioned the governor to change the church site, "because the community has decided that Pierre Babin's lot would make a better site for construction of a church and presbytere."⁷ The Babin site was about two miles downriver from the map site and matches the present-day location of the church.

On January 17, 1772, Commandant Dutisné writes, "The church is rising on the site of Pierre Babin." However, he describes the building of the presbytere, and a couple of months later writes that the presbytere is finished and will serve as a temporary church.⁸ One of the first church functions recorded is a baptism in April 1773 by Father Angelus. Perhaps this is when the Acadians handed over the church registry they carried with them from St. Charles Parish at Mines, Acadia. That registry now resides in the Archives of the Baton Rouge Diocese.

Governor Luis Unzaga responded to their progress with some praise for having completed the presbytere but also some admonishing for not having built the church yet.⁹ On March 23, 1774, the commandant tells Unzaga that they will build it soon and it's not done yet because he hasn't found a builder capable of the task.¹⁰

On December 18, 1774, Dutisné writes, "The habitants have begun the construction of a church. The habitants began November 20. The building is 60 feet long by 33 ½ feet wide (French measurement). Louis Le Conte, a habitant of La Fourche, has taken on the job for a sum of 1450 piastres. The habitants have agreed to pay 1 ½ piastres per arpent across the front."¹¹ It's understood that the Acadians can provide labor in lieu of paying the tax.

It wasn't until September 27, 1776, that the commandant confirms its completion and writes, "the church of this parish is finished and recognized as perfect until the approval of M. Andry who has been called to do the inspection."¹²

Louis Andry was a royal engineer and implied by the letter is that he's the designer. Andry was put in charge of overseeing the Acadians sent to the Attakapas District, and the St. Martinville church was being built about the same time as the St. Gabriel church. A drawing done of the St. Martin de Tours church about 50 years after completion shows a similar design but with the side galleries enclosed.¹³ The two churches, along with the Galveztown church, show evidence of following the same building plan.¹⁴

The archival letters of the commandant and the governor show just how much that the church is the product of Spain, the French administrators, and the Acadian diaspora. The chronological progression towards getting the church built should dispel an assumption made by the late Catholic Church historian Roger Baudier that the building was once on a different tract of land and was dismantled and moved to the present tract of land.¹⁵ Baudier started that myth when he wrote a history of St. Gabriel Church to coincide with the dedication of the new St. Gabriel Church in 1953. The one item from the Old Church that was transferred to the new one was the Spanish bell that was cast in 1768.¹⁶

These archival letters were uncovered and brought to light and translated in 1995. Historic American Building Survey drawings were done of the church in 1993 by William Brockway of LSU School of Architecture.¹⁷ An addendum to those drawings followed with more building research to create interpretive restoration drawings in 1994.¹⁸ These were done under the guidance of Jay Edwards of the LSU Department of Geography and Anthropology. Additionally, a 3-D model was made to exact scale by one of Edwards' students. The Old Church Commission even had an award winning video made to better inform the parishioners of the discoveries as well as the outside community.

All of the research on the construction details of the original building began to give a picture and a pattern of a type of building form that has come to be called Creole Architecture. The term "Creole" in this case means something derived from the Old World but born of the New World. Specifically, the architecture resembles that of France, but is modified to adapt to the subtropical and tropical environment in the Gulf Coast and the Caribbean. The most defining feature of this Louisiana vernacular building form is the gallery. The roof extensions that form the galleries start with the presence of a Norman truss structure that makes up the roof and attaches the roof to the body of the building.¹⁹

These trusses evolved over centuries in Europe and the French brought their building practices to Louisiana. The 18th century Louisiana versions of the truss were modified because of the need for galleries because of the heat and rainfall and the need to have the windows open during those periods. The trusses were also modified for the roof to have a double pitch with a steeper upper portion and a lesser slope on the lower section. The roof shape is also referred to as a broken pitch roof. The overall roof shape was a four-sided hipped roof and the gallery extensions occurred on all four sides, but the rear extension was enclosed to make the sacristy. The original steeple exited the roof at the front roof ridge.

About the time the building was 100 years old or about 1870-80, the church was in need of repair judging from original 1 by 12 siding boards found in the attic.²⁰ The building was moved back from the Mississippi River in 1932 because of the construction of the modern-day levee. In 1887, it is recorded to have been moved back. In the margins of the church registry was written "Roulage de l'Eglise".²¹ And then, Baudier claims that the building had to be rolled back from the encroaching river in 1818.²² There is evidence in the walls of a possible modification to and elimination of the galleries along the sides of the building.²³ Perhaps that first move was difficult because the front and side galleries were floorless galleries, with posts going to the ground. These type porches can also be called dirt floor galleries. That move could have contributed to the removal of the side ones.

By 1870-80, the building was in need of repairs or design alterations in the style of the day. The 19th century renovation removed the galleries and changed the shape of the front and rear roof to gable-end additions. A 12 ½ by 12 ½ foot bell tower was introduced that straddled the front wall and included a parapet front. The tower is 74 feet tall. Only about four feet was added to the rear of the building, although on the inside, a larger sanctuary was made deeper and elevated and sacristies flanked the sanctuary. Along the side of the building, the windows were given Gothic features and made taller with lancet arched tops. Two large windows with the same shape were added to the front and flanked the tower. The tower was also embellished with Gothic features and spire. The tower rises about 40 feet above the ridge of the roof.

The Gothic Revival style's emphasis on lancet arched forms and height has the allure of reaching to the heavens. It can have an uplifting effect and appeal to the sentimental. The original Creole Colonial design has a more protective, down-to-earth feel. It's more of a mothering symbol. It evokes pragmatism and authenticity and is a clear example where form follows function.

On the inside, the walls are still lined with the original 1 by 12 inch, tongue and groove horizontal cypress boards throughout the building. The building has no bousillage. The ceiling framing and form was changed in the 1870-80 renovation. The original ceiling configuration was uncovered in 1993.

The original ceiling was comprised of 36 foot joists made from 15 by 6 ½ inch hand-hewn timbers. These joists were carved with a slight arch in the middle section that was given extra support and shape with angled braces at each end that connected to the wall posts. The braces were also curved and together with the arch in the joist created a shallow-arched ceiling. Other Colonial Louisiana churches had a similar ceiling but they no longer exist.²⁴

In the 19th century ceiling renovation, the middle (16 feet) section of the ceiling joists were cut and removed to create a cathedral ceiling that is present today. Five turned wooden columns were added on each side to support the remaining joist sections and the vaulted ceiling. The curved braces connected to the wall and ceiling joists were removed and a flat ceiling using the original 1 by 12 cypress boards flanked the vaulted ceiling.

Throughout the 19th century renovations, all of the original materials that were removed for the alterations were reused for different purposes and thus still exist in the building. If any new material was used in the renovation, it tended to be southern yellow pine except for the replacement of the exterior siding which was narrower cypress than the original. Approximately, 73 percent of the original material still exists in the building.²⁵ Also worth mentioning, in about 1910, the interior wall and ceiling surfaces were covered and pasted with a burlap material. It was painted and decoratively stenciled. It's become a bit tattered over the past 100 years.

Sometime after the building of the new church, perhaps about 1960, the pastor had concerns that the 19th century tower on the Old Church was at risk of toppling over, and had the tower cut down to roof height. Hurricane Betsy in 1965 actually did do damage to the roofing of the altered steeple. In 1972, the building was placed on the National Register. About two or three years later, the altered steeple was rebuilt. In 1991, an interlocking tin shingle roof was installed.

In 1995, with all the then recently acquired building and archival research, the Old Church committee voted to set the goal of restoring the building back to its original 18th century form. The Pastoral Council along with the pastor voted against the committee's decision because of "the emotional sentiments of parishioners." The restoration issue had become too divisive as some had grown attached to the 19th century form. Others could see the value and uniqueness of the historical discoveries and the committee could see that people outside of the church parish also could appreciate restoring the building to its original form, so much so, that there were two pledges totaling \$150,000. Since that failed attempt to restore the building, the efforts toward preservation have been keeping up with routine maintenance and exterior painting, a low profile and keep the building painted.

Hurricane Gustav in 2008 blew the rebuilt tower to the ground and it broke loose at about the level it had once been severed in 1960. A group of parishioners rallied to have the tower rebuilt once again and

it was said to be better connected and anchored to building this time, which would mean anchored to the 18th century structure.

There are a few issues regarding this rare, one-of-a-kind building, that should give pause or be a cause for concern. The National Register regards the integrity of historic building as very important because the more intact the parts are, the better able for the building to convey the history that it represents. The period of historical significance that the Old Church serves is the confluence of the Spanish rulers and their need for settlers, the French administrator and professionals who had already begun to adapt to the Louisiana environment, and the Acadian diaspora that led to a new home in Louisiana and the Acadians help in building the church.

In addition to the history surrounding the building, the 18th century structure is the earliest example of Creole architecture which is highly regarded for National Register recognition. There are no other examples of a church in Louisiana or the Lower Mississippi Valley from the Colonial period. For the sake of the building's integrity and protection, the galleries should be restored.

The larger cause for concern is that the rebuilt tower is being anchored to the 18th century building and the tower is a 12 foot by 12 foot wind mast that rises 40 feet above the roof ridge. This would seem to be cause for alarm with hurricanes appearing to be getting more powerful. The building's Norman truss roof structure might have been designed to hold together against normal hurricane winds. But, asking it to hold upright such a tall wind mast could be assuming too much of a risk.

Along with that concern, the building's ceiling joists were cut with the 19th century vaulted ceiling renovation. Buildings with cathedral ceilings normally have buttresses to keep its wall from spreading apart. There are no buttresses. Again, the Norman truss is being subjected to extra stress that it wasn't designed to deal with. Iron tie-rods were added some time after 1920 to address the compromised structural integrity and to keep the building from spreading apart. The rods work in tension, and if extreme winds broadside the building, the rods won't be as helpful as the original joists would have been.

The story of the Old St. Gabriel Church is not done yet. There's still work to do to protect and preserve. It's understandable that the St. Gabriel Catholic Church, the real Church, has to minister to its people and their spiritual and religious needs. The Church Parish also has everyday costs and maintenance of its buildings and grounds on its campus.

Finding a purpose of use could be helpful. Perhaps the Old Church could serve as a place for funeral wake services, or a tourist attraction, or a reception hall. Other ideas have been suggested and sometimes there would be a hitch because of church rules or doctrine. The question that still exist is what form would the building take? Would the Gothic Revival veil be lifted? Would the rare original building become further buried? Would Louisiana's colonial history be served?

The odyssey continues with the Old Church, but it's still with us. It has come from the Old World, but was born of New World inspiration. It grew old and got a Gothic Revival makeover and then a Queen Anne dressing up and later was replaced and became "the Old Church."

The building is approaching 250 years old. The Ursuline Convent in the French Quarter is considered be the oldest building in the Mississippi Valley. There are definitive documents that tell when the construction of it was begun and finished, who the builder was and who designed it. It was designed in 1745, construction was begun in 1749 and it was completed in 1753. The second oldest building with comparable definitive documentation is the Old St. Gabriel Church, which was begun in 1774, and completed in 1776. The Ursuline Convent is an example of French Colonial architecture. Its design followed the form of buildings in France. The Old St. Gabriel Church is one of the earliest examples of Creole architecture.

- 1 Archivo General de Indias, Papeles Procedentes de Cuba (hereafter cited as PPC), Legajo 189-B, (#256).
- 2 Din, Gilbert, *Populating the Barrera*, University of Louisiana Press 2014, p.6.
- 3 Chandler, R. E., "End of an Odyssey: Acadians arrive in St. Gabriel, Louisiana." *Louisiana History*, XXIV (1973).
- 4 Chandler, R. E., "The St. Gabriel Acadians: The First Five Months." *Louisiana History* XXI (1980).
- 5 Biblioteca Nacional, Belles Arts 19-1A, Plan des Etablissements de S A Maje Catholique a la Rivere D'hiberville.
- 6 PPC, Legajo 2357 (#276)
- 7 PPC, Legajo 188-B (#173).
- 8 PPC, Legajo 189-A (#349, #350).
- 9 PPC, Legajo 189-A (#350).
- 10 PPC, Legajo 189-A (#393).
- 11 PPC, Legajo 189-B (#229).
- 12 PPC, Legajo 189-B (#261).
- 13 Wilson, Samuel, *The Architecture of Colonial Louisiana*, p 143.
- 14 Iberville Parish Courthouse, Conveyance Book A-2 (#9)
- 15 Baudier, Roger "St. Gabriel of Iberville 1773-1953, (1953), p.8-9.
- 16 Ibid, p.12.
- 17 Brockway, William, "Old St. Gabriel Church, Iberville Parish Louisiana", HABS, 1993
- 18 Edwards, Jay D., "Addendum to Old St. Gabriel Church, Iberville Parish, Louisiana", HABS 1994.
- 19 Duncan, Patricia, "Louisiana Architecture: A Handbook on Styles French Creole", Office of Cultural Development, Division of Historic Preservation; Edwards, Jay, D., *Louisiana's Remarkable Vernacular Architecture*, Department of Geography and Anthropology, LSU, 1988, p.4.
- 20 Iberville South, Article about Rev. Jean Honoré Dubernard, May 16, 1985.
- 21 Baudier, Roger, "St. Gabriel of Iberville 1773-1953", (1953), p.42, 50.
- 22 Ibid, p.33.
- 23 Ledford, Paul, Broussard, David, "Exploring the Old Stt. Gabriel Church", Video Documentary, 1995.
- 24 Boyer, Marcel *Plantations by the River*, Dept. of Geography and Anthropology, LSU, 2001, p.62-63.
- 25 Edwards, Jay D., "Addendum to Old St. Gabriel Church, Iberville Parish, Louisiana, HABS 1994.

GUÉDRY ET PETITPAS REUNION

Our Guédry et Petitpas Reunion is quickly approaching – just one year away. Seems like an eternity, but it will be here before the bullfrog leaps into the pond. Set the dates aside – **16-17 August 2024 at the St. Alphonse Church Hall in St. Alphonse, Nova Scotia**. St. Alphonse Catholic Church and Hall are on Highway 1 just 4 miles (7 km) south of Meteghan.

We will be sending more detailed information soon as well as a survey about mid-August seeking your opinion on several items. Please read and respond to the survey so we can plan a better reunion for everyone.

On Friday, 16 August 2024, we tentatively are planning two activities. **(1)** During the morning and early afternoon, we will be offering a free guided tour of the Baie Sainte-Marie area with an emphasis on Guédry and Acadian historic sites. Many of these are not well-known, but we will be highlighting them during the tour. We will be carpooling and will limit the number of cars in each group to five vehicles. We will stop at a local Acadian restaurant for lunch at each person's expense. We will leave from and return to St. Alphonse Church Hall which has plenty of free parking. The tour itself will be free. **(2)** In the evening we are planning an old-fashioned Lobster Boil with the fixings. It will be at the St. Alphonse Church Hall. There will be a cost to cover the Boil, but it will depend on the price of lobster in August 2024. So more to come as we get into 2024. This will be a great time for us all to get to know one another.

On Saturday, 17 August 2024, we will have our Reunion at the St. Alphonse Church Hall. We are still working out the details, but plan to have a lot of “free” time built into the agenda so folks can visit and meet each other. Some items being considered are an opening ceremony, Cajun/Acadian band, Circle of Distinction Induction ceremony, presentation potentially on Augustin Guédry and Marie Jeanson who founded St. Alphonse, closing ceremony, family and historic displays, family artisan tables where you can view and/or purchase items as paintings, books, etc., photograph of all attendees and a merchandise sales booth. We will also have a Cajun/Acadian dinner around noon. A Reunion Registration form will be sent in September 2023.

The Congrès Mondial Acadien is being held 10-18 August 2024 in southwest Nova Scotia from Pubnico to Digby covering the Argyle, Yarmouth and Clare Municipalities. Go to the CMA 2024 website at <https://www.cma2024.ca/en> for more information on events and travel. Also, see the Baie Sainte-Marie website at <https://baiesaintemarie.com/en/events/congres-mondial-acadien-2024-cma-2024> and the Yarmouth website at <https://www.yarmouthandacadianshores.com/en/> for information and housing in these areas.

St. Alphonse Catholic Church



Augustin Guedry Plaque at St. Alphonse Church



Augustin Guedry Plaque at St. Alphonse Church



GUÉDRY AND PETITPAS MILITARY WHO HAVE PAID THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE **WORLD WAR I & WORLD WAR II**

by
R. Martin Guidry

For generations a minority of American and Canadian men and women have joined our militaries to ensure the protection and freedoms for the majority of us. A relatively small number of those serving our countries have given their lives for the ideals of our nations. Depending on the sources of information, the numbers below vary slightly.

Approximately 620,000 Canadians served during World War I and 67,000 died from combat and non-combat causes (a 10.8% death rate of Canadians in WWI). At the outset of WWI, the Canadian population was 8,000,000; therefore, the Canadian military comprised 7.8% of the population.

Approximately 4,700,000 Americans served in World War I and 116,700 died from combat and non-combat related causes (a 1.3% death rate of Americans in WWI). The population of the United States at the start of WWI was 103,300,00; therefore, the American military represented 4.5% of the total population.

Canadian military strength during WWII was 1,100,000 of which 45,300 died from combat and non-combat-related causes (a 4.1% death rate of Canadians in WWII). At the start of WWII, the Canadian population was 11,300,000, thus those serving their nation in WWII represented 9.7% of the total Canadian population.

Approximately 16,000,000 Americans served in WWII and 405,400 died from combat and non-combat related causes (a 2.5% death rate of Americans in WWII). The American population at the start of WWII was 133,400,000, thus Americans serving in their military represented 12% of the total American population.

November 11th each year in Canada is **Remembrance Day** in which the country honors all those who serve and have served their nation's defense.

The United States has three special days set aside to honor those who serve in its military:
Armed Forces Day - honoring men and women currently serving in the military (3rd Saturday of May)
Memorial Day - honoring men & women who have died while serving in the military (last Monday of May)
Veterans Day - honoring all military veterans (November 11th)

Below are those in the Guédry and Petitpas families who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in World War I and World War II.

If you know of others, please let me know at guidrymartin@gmail.com.

WORLD WAR I

CANADIAN ARMY PERSONNEL THAT DIED IN WWI

NOVA SCOTIA

PVT Ralph Joseph Pettipas (Canadian Army) (3180676) – East Chezzetcook, NS (DNB – 23 Oct 1918)
(Died of tuberculosis at East Chezzetcook, Nova Scotia)
(Canadian Expeditionary Force; Canadian Infantry – Joined on 13 May 1918)
(Saint Genevieve Catholic Cemetery; East Chezzetcook, Nova Scotia; Plot R.8)
(Commemorated on Page 485 of the First World War Book of Remembrance)
(Son of David Pettipas & Maria Janet Richard Pettipas; Born 4 Jun 1894)

U. S. ARMY PERSONNEL THAT DIED IN WWI

LOUISIANA

PVT Philip Guidry (U. S. Army) (1614956) – Sunset (DNB – 16 Oct 1918)
(Died of disease in France; likely contracted while working on Engineer Dumps of the First Army at Souhesme-la-Grande, Dombasle-en-Argonne, Aubreville, Les Islettes and Rattentout, France)
(815th Pioneer Infantry Regiment; Company G; American Expeditionary Force)
(This regiment was responsible for repairing roads with First Army Engineers)
(Husband of Mary Guidry; Born 1 Jun 1883)

MASSACHUSETTS

CPL Edward C. Petitpas (U. S. Army) (155539) – New Bedford (DNB – 8 Oct 1918)
(Died of Lobar Pneumonnia in France; Initially buried in American Cemetery, Souilly Meuse, France; Grave No. 101, Section B, Plot 2)
(1st Infantry Division; 1st Engineer Regiment; Company E; American Expeditionary Force)
(Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery; Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Meuse, France; H.27.6)
(Son of Camille Petitpas & Marie Domitilde Fougère Petitpas; Born 20 May 1890)

PVT Joseph Alpide (Alfred) Petitpas (U.S. Army) (3193080) – Cambridge (DOW – 1 Nov 1918)
(Died of wounds received in action in the Meuse-Argonne offensive in France; Initially buried in American Cemetery; Haumont-pres-Samogneux, Meuse, France; Grave No. 14)
(79th Infantry Division; 314th Infantry Regiment; Company E; American Expeditionary Force)
(Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery; Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Meuse, France; C.25.1)
(Son of Francis Petitpas & Olive Lapierre Petitpas; Born 29 Jul 1891)

WORLD WAR II

CANADIAN ARMY PERSONNEL THAT DIED IN WWII

NOVA SCOTIA

Rifleman Emery Louis Geddry (Canadian Army) (F/8819) – St. Alphonse (KIA – 28 Sep 1944)

Fighting from a house during the battle for Calais, he was seriously wounded from shelling and taken to the Regimental Aid Post; however, he died on the way to the Aid Post. Initially buried at a Catholic Church cemetery in Coquelles, France)

(3rd Canadian Infantry Division; 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade; 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion; The Regina Rifle Regiment)

(Calais Canadian War Cemetery; Leubringhen, Pas-de-Calais, France; 7.D.5)

(Commemorated on Page 314 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance)

(Son of Joseph Isaac Geddry & Françoise Marie Dugas; Born 10 Jan 1922)

PVT Leonard Francis Pettipas (Canadian Army) (F/45042) – Linwood (MIA – 14 Sep 1944)

(Wounded in head while manning machine gun in a slit trench during the battle to cross the Leopold Canal in northern Belgium; he was taken to a first aid station and then reported missing in action)

(4th Canadian Armoured Division, 10th Canadian Infantry Brigade, 1st Battalion, The Algonquin Regiment, RCIC) [Nova Scotia Highlanders]

(Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery; Groesbeek Memorial; Groesbeek, Berg en Dal, Gelderland, Netherlands; Panel 11)

(Commemorated on Page 416 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance)

(Son of Oscar Leo Pettipas & Harriet Jane DeCoste Pettipas DeWolfe; Born 27 Jan 1920)

LCPL Wilfred Benvie Pettipas (Canadian Army) (F/77522) – Lourdes (KIA – 2 Sep 1944)

(Died from a compound fracture of right femur; Wounded at 8 AM, but could not evacuate from battlefield because of enemy action. Arrived at Command Post at 1330 hours with severe blood loss; Plasma given, but died at 1430 hours; Initially buried near Tomba di Pesaro, Italy in Row C, Grave 1) (Died during the battles for Tomba di Pesaro and Gradara, Italy in the Mediterranean Theater)

(5th Canadian (Armoured) Division; 12th Canadian Infantry Brigade; Lanark and Renfrew Scottish Regiment, RCIC (1st Canadian Light Anti-Aircraft Battalion)

(Gradara War Cemetery; Gradara, Pesaro, Italy; Plot I,H,1)

(Commemorated on Page 416 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance)

(Son of William Joseph Pettipas & Sara Kennedy Pettipas; Born 10 Feb 1922)

SSGT William Howard Pettipas (Canadian Army) (P/10348) – Halifax (DNB – 10 Apr 1940)
(Died at Halifax, Nova Scotia of cancer of the rectum)
(Royal Canadian Engineers) (RCE, CASF); No. 6 Detachment
(Sackville Gate of Heaven Cemetery; Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia; Section 4, Plot J, Grave 54)
(Commemorated on Page 17 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance)
(Son of Howard Pettipas & Rose Manette Pettipas;
Husband of Dorothy Florence Duncan Pettipas; Born 1899)

NEW BRUNSWICK

***PVT Emile Petitpas** (Canadian Army) (G/23545) – Shediac Bridge (KIA – 8 Jul 1944)
(Died in Battle of Carpiquet during Operation Charnwood advancing into the northern parts of Caen, France)
(3rd Canadian Division; 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade; 1st Battalion;
North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment, RCIC)
(Beny-Sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery; Revers, Calvados, Basse-Normandie, France; Plot XI.C.4)
(Commemorated on Page 416 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance)
(Son of George Alfred Petitpas & Sylvia Fougère Petitpas; Born 7 May 1922)

PVT James Joseph (Joseph Jacques) Petitpas (Canadian Army) (G/18558) –
Westmorland (KIA – 18 Sep 1944)
(Died in Italy during the battle for Coriano Ridge and assault on the Ausa River)
(1st Canadian Infantry Division; 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade; Carleton and York Regiment, RCIC;
16th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion, Royal Canadian Artillery)
(Coriano Ridge War Cemetery; Coriano, Forlì, Emilia-Romagna, Italy; Plot IX.C.10)
(Commemorated on Page 416 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance)
(Son of Dominique (Domenique) Petitpas & Précile (Priscilla) Babineau Petitpas;
Husband of Marie (Mary) Vénérante Caissie Petitpas; Born 13 Mar 1920)

QUÉBEC

SGT Raymond Edmund Petitpas (Canadian Army) (P/48861) – Québec City (KIA – 30 Jul 1943)
(Missing in action on 27 Jul 1943 near Catenanuova, Enna, Sicily, Italy; Body recovered on 30 Jul 1943; Initially buried near the Dittaino River southwest of Catenanuova;
Killed during fighting for town of Agira)
(1st Canadian Infantry Division; 3rd Canadian Infantry Brigade; Royal 22nd Regiment, RCIC)
(Agira Canadian War Cemetery; Agira, Enna, Sicily, Italy; Plot D.D.433)
(Commemorated on Page 203 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance)
(Son of Mederic Edmund Petitpas & Louise Bertha Lawrence Petitpas; Born 6 Oct 1922)

CANADIAN NAVY PERSONNEL THAT DIED IN WWII

NOVA SCOTIA

STOKER Guy Dennis Pettipas (Canadian Navy) (A/631) – East Chezzetcook (MIA – 19 Oct 1940)
(Died at sea with foundering of *HMCS Bras D'Or* off Anticosti Island east of Gaspé in early morning hours of 19 Oct 1940 while escorting Romanian merchant ship; No survivors ever found)
(Royal Canadian Naval Reserve; *H.M.C.S. Bras D'Or* minesweeper)
(Halifax Memorial; Point Pleasant Park, Halifax, Nova Scotia; Panel 6, Canada)
(Commemorated on Page 17 of the Second World War Book of Remembrance)
(Son of Dennis Richard Pettipas & Emma Lavinia Roast Pettipas and husband of Mary Edith Horne Pettipas; Born 4 Feb 1913)

CANADIAN MERCHANT NAVY PERSONNEL THAT DIED IN WWII

Fireman Louis Pettipas (Canadian Merchant Navy) - (Died – 21 Jul 1945)
(Canadian Merchant Navy; *SS Victoria Park* (Montréal; Steamship used to transport cargo across Atlantic Ocean)
(Commemorated on Page 210 of the Merchant Navy War Book of Remembrance)

U. S. ARMY & U. S. ARMY AIR FORCE PERSONNEL THAT DIED IN WWII

IDAHO

TEC4 Ila Ruth Lombard Labine (U.S. Army) (A-910105) – Moscow (DNB - 23 Oct 1944)
(Died in U. S. Army hospital in Italy after being crushed by falling rocks in a landslide while touring/climbing Mt. Vesuvius. She was struck by a boulder on 22 Oct 1944)
(4623rd SU-WAC Detachment; Headquarters Company [WAC - Women's Army Corps];
She served as an administrative replacement for soldiers sent to combat lines)
(Woodlawn Cemetery; Nashua, NH; Section I, Lot 059A)
(Daughter of George Lombard & Mae M. Campbell Lombard; Ex-Wife of Louis Urgel Labine;
Born 29 May 1899)

LOUISIANA

PFC Ambrose Guidry (U.S. Army) (38185634) – Lake Arthur (DNB – 14 Nov 1944)
(Died after long illness; Adenocarcinoma (colon cancer): Admitted to hospital Sep 1943;
Discharged from military on 27 Apr 1944)
(802nd Field Artillery Battalion; Headquarters Battery at Fort McClelland, AL)
(Andrus Cove Cemetery; Lake Arthur, LA)
(Son of Arthur Guidry & Lea Cormier Guidry; Born 10 Mar 1905)

PVT Dalton Paul Guidry (U.S. Army) (38258168) – New Iberia (DNB – 28 Mar 1944)
(Injured at camp near Gaizza, Italy on 27 Mar 1944 when rifle he was cleaning discharged)
(U. S. Seventh Army; 2nd Replacement Depot)
(Sicily-Rome American Cemetery; Nettuno, Italy; Plot F, Row 12, Grave 37)
(Son of Madio Guidry and Josephine Blanchard Guidry of New Iberia, LA; Born 5 Feb 1921)

PVT Dennis Guidry (U.S. Army) (38483122) – Basile (KIA – 27 Nov 1943, Missing at sea)
(HMT Rohna, KMF-26, sunk off African coast by German guided missile)
(853rd Engineer Battalion; Aviation – U. S. Army Air Forces)
(Tablets of the Missing at North Africa American Cemetery; Carthage, Tunisia)
(Son of Edmond Guidry and Celemine Ashford Guidry; Born 23 Sep 1915)

TEC4 Donald F. Guidry (U.S. Army) (34003222) – Golden Meadow (KIA - 24 Mar 1945)
(Died during Battle of the Bulge; France; European Theater)
(17th Airborne Division; 3rd Battalion; 513th Infantry Regiment; Parachute Unit)
(Magnolia Cemetery; Houma, LA)
(Son of Asay Desire Guidry and Louise Marie Aycock Guidry; Born 12 Oct 1918)

PVT Eustis Guidry (U. S. Army) (34030081) – Kaplan (DNB – 22 Jul 1944)
(Died from Hemopericardium caused by object cutting or piercing heart)
(45th Infantry Division; 1st Infantry Battalion; 157th Infantry Regiment; Medical Detachment)
(Holy Rosary Catholic Cemetery; Kaplan, LA)
(Son of Theodore Guidry & Mrs. Bazeline Marceaux Guidry; Born 14 Feb 1921)

PVT Howard Joseph Guidry (U.S. Arm) (38651891) – Duplessis (KIA 12 Nov 1944)
(Died during the battle to take the city of Metz)
(5th Infantry Division; 10th Infantry Regiment)
(Lorraine American Cemetery; St. Avold, Moselle, Lorraine, France; C.16.55)
(Son of Oneal J. Guidry & Anisette Gautreau Guidry; Born 20 Sep 1924)

PVT Joseph Chester Guidry (U.S. Army) (38483731) – Arnaudville (DOW – 27 Oct 1944)
(Died in Italy of wounds received in battle at Arracourt, France)
(26th Infantry Division; 101st Infantry Regiment; Company A)
(St. Francis Regis Catholic Cemetery; Arnaudville, LA)
(Relative of Theodule Lormand and Marie Olympe Olivier Lormand; Born 3 Aug 1923)

PFC Lawrence Guidry (U.S. Army) (38657527) – Lafayette (DOW – 2 Apr 1945)
(Died of wounds received during Operation Varsity near Munster, Germany)
(3rd Battalion; 17th Airborne Division; 513th Parachute Infantry Regiment)
[St. John the Evangelist Catholic Cemetery; Section 17, Tomb 103.0; Lafayette, LA]
(Son of Marcel Guidry & Marie Anatile Trahan Guidry
and husband of Ella Mae Guidry; Born 14 Dec 1921)

SSGT Levy Alexander Guidry Jr. (U.S. Army) (34230517) – Cut Off (KIA - 17 Aug 1944)
[Died during Battle for the Falaise Gap and Argentan Pocket; France; European Theater]
(3rd Armored Division; 36th Infantry Regiment; Company F)
(Cheremie Cemetery; Galliano, LA)
(Son of Leavy Bernard Guidry and Eleanora Justine Plaisance Guidry; Born 25 Oct 1918)

PVT Louis Guidry (U.S. Army) (34076435) – Rayne (DNB – 9 Apr 1943)
(Illness – Leukemia; Treatment – Lymphadenectomy) (Died at Lawson Field, Fort Benning, Georgia hospital after 3-month stay)
(29th Infantry Division; Company D)
(St. Peter and St. Paul Catholic Cemetery; Scott, LA)
(Son of Ernest Guidry and Emelie Morvant Guidry; Born 17 Jun 1920)

PFC Morrison Raymond Guidry (U.S. Army) (38652376) – Cut Off (KIA – 29 Dec 1944)
(Died rescuing 101st Airborne Division besieged at Bastogne in Belgium; European Theater)
(80th Infantry Division; 1st Battalion; 317th Infantry Regiment; Headquarters Company)
(Lange Callahan Cemetery; Cut Off, LA)
(Son of Jean Joseph Guidry Jr. and Arthemise Curole Guidry; Born 14 Jan 1923)

SSGT Olin Guidry (U.S. Army) (14016852) – Carencro (DNB – 10 May 1944)
(Died at Cambridge, England as a result of an accident during a blackout in England)
(88th Engineering Battalion; Corps of Engineers)
(St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery; Carencro, LA)
(Son of Leo Guidry & Cecilia Simoneaux Guidry; Born 10 Sep 1915)

PVT Richard J. Guidry (U.S. Army) (38489057) – Franklin (KIA – 9 Aug 1944)
(Died during closing of the Falaise Gap in northern France; European Theater)
(9th Infantry Division; 60th Infantry Regiment)
(Brittany American Cemetery; St. James, France; Plot J, Row 5, Grave 3)
(Son of Lovincy Jean Guidry & Marie Achee Guidry and husband of Lillian Guilbeau Guidry; Born 25 Oct 1915)

PFC Warren Wadsworth Guidry (U.S. Army) (38484173) – Opelousas (DOW – 30 Dec 1944)
(Died of wounds received in the defense of the crossings of the Meuse River at Givet, Dinant and Namur in Dec 1944 as part of the Battle of the Bulge)
(398th Engineer General Service Regiment; Corps of Engineers)
(Luxembourg American Cemetery; Hamm, Luxembourg, Luxembourg; Plot D.4.16)
(St. Landry Catholic Cemetery; Opelousas, LA; Section 9)
(Son of Russell Edwin Guidry & Lillian Tatman Guidry; Born 13 Nov 1923)

TSGT Wilfred Cornelious Guidry (U.S. Army Air Force) (14046598) – Lake Arthur (KIA – 14 Jan 1945)
(Unaccounted for remains; Missing in Action at Sea; His bomber had to ditch in the ocean near Japan due to damage inflicted during war); (Left Mariana Islands with a target of Nagoya, Japan on a bombing mission; Shot down by enemy aircraft; Was in a B-29 named “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”; Crew of 11, all lost)
(498th Bomber Group, Very Heavy; 874th Bomber Squadron; U. S. Army Air Forces; Radio Operator)
(Tablets of the Missing at Honolulu Memorial; Honolulu, Hawaii; Courts of the Missing, Court 7)
(Son of Joseph A. Guidry Sr. & Loretta D. Brinkhaus Guidry; Husband of Mrs. Mary A. Guidry; Born 30 Aug 1921)

PVT Wilson Luke Guidry (U.S. Army) (38267481) – Breaux Bridge (DNB – 29 Feb 1944)
(Died from Hemorrhage after falling from same level at Barnstable, England)
(146th Engineering Combat Battalion; Company A; Corps of Engineers)
(St. Bernard Catholic Cemetery; Breaux Bridge, LA; Section C, Row 3)
(Son of Albin Guidry & Drazella Thibodeaux Guidry; Born 19 Apr 1915)

PFC Wilson W. Guidry (U. S. Army) (38486857) – Kaplan (DOW – 4 Apr 1945)
(On 3 Apr 1945 struck by artillery shrapnel transporting supplies from battalion headquarters to his unit in the hills above Kaplitalan, Luzon, Philippines; Attended by medic and transferred to the 63rd Portable Surgical Hospital in Dig Dig, Luzon. Died 4 Apr 1945 and initially buried at USAF Cemetery at Santa Barbara, Luzon, Philippines)
(25th Infantry Division; 161st Infantry Regiment; Company L; 3rd Platoon; Rifleman)
(Holy Rosary Catholic Cemetery; Kaplan, LA)
(Son of Numa Guidry & Azelia Guidry Guidry; Born 3 Oct 1921)

MAINE

PVT Charles Edward Pettipas (U.S. Army) (20143382) – New Gloucester (KIA – 25 Jul 1943)
(Died of bullet wound in shoulder in Southwest Pacific at Island of New Georgia in Solomon Islands)
(43rd Infantry Division; 103rd Infantry Regiment; Enlisted in Maine National Guard)
(Manila American Cemetery; Fort William McKinley, Manila, Philippines; Plot A, Row 4, Grave 138)
(Son of Joseph Pettipas & Annie Woodford Pettipas & Husband of Lillian G. Pitts Pettipas; Born 13 Dec 1922)

PFC Emery R. Grivois (U.S. Army) (31317659) – Grand Isle (DNB – 27 Jun 1945)
(Died of a non-battle injury in Europe)
(81st Engineer Combat Battalion; Company C)
(Long Island National Cemetery; East Farmingdale, Suffolk County New York; Plot J, 16233)
(Originally interred in Hamm, Luxembourg and then returned for repatriation on 29 Apr 1949)
(Son of Clovis Grivois & Anna Marie Agnes Sirois Grivois; Born 18 Jul 1924)

MASSACHUSETTS

PVT George E. Petitpas (U.S. Army Air Force) (11020713) – Cambridge (DNB/POW – 15 May 1942)
(Died from malaria; Prisoner of war at Camp O'Donnell in the Philippines; Grave located in 1947)
(20th Air Base Group; Headquarters Squadron)
(Manila American Cemetery; Fort William McKinley, Manila, Philippines; Plot L, Row 15, Grave 112)
(Son of Gilbert Petitpas & Marie Amanda Poirier Petitpas; Born 1917)

TEXAS

2LT John W. Guidry (U.S. Army) (02001823) – Orange County (KIA – 28 Apr 1945)
(Died in Italy)
(Saint Augustine Catholic Cemetery; Basile, LA; Section B, Row 6, No. 7)
(Son of Manville Guidry & Lorice Debarge Guidry; Born 19 Oct 1919)

U. S. NAVY, U. S. MARINE CORPS & U. S. COAST GUARD **PERSONNEL THAT DIED IN WWII**

LOUISIANA

AVIATION RADIOMAN 3rd CLASS (ARM3c) Clifford Guidry (USNR) (06448710) – Lafayette
(KIA – 17 Jan 1944)
(Killed in PBV-5A airplane crash into Massacre Bay off Attu Island, Alaska; Plane exploded
on crashing; All of crew killed)
(VP-43 Patrol Squadron; Naval Air Station; Attu; Alaska; PBV-5A)
(Tablets of the Missing at Honolulu Memorial; Honolulu, Hawaii; Courts of the Missing; Court 3)
(Son of Marcel Guidry & Marie Anatile Trahan Guidry; Born 9 Jan 1924)

PFC Elward James Guidry (USMCR) (915230) – Houma (KIA – 13 Mar 1945)
(Died at Iwo Jima, Ogasawara-shicho, Tokyo Metropolis, Japan)
(5th Marine Division; 2nd Battalion; 28th Marine Regiment; Company E)
(St. Francis de Sales Catholic Cemetery #1; Houma, LA)
(Son of Sampson J. Guidry & Olga Duplantis Guidry; Born 10 Jul 1925)

AVIATION RADIOMAN 3rd CLASS (ARM3c) Jasper Guidry (USNR) (6448713) –
Lafayette (DNBO – 26 Jul 1943)
(Died in airplane crash during routine training flight at Cecil Field,
Jacksonville Naval Air Station; Jacksonville, Florida)
(Holy Mary Mother of God Catholic Cemetery; Lafayette, LA; Block 2, Plot F, Grave 30)
(Son of Andrew Guidry & Alba Lagneaux Guidry; Born 5 Apr 1924)

SIGNALMAN 3rd CLASS (SM3c) Jerry Maurice Guidry (USNR) (6453687) –

Lafayette (DOW – 18 May 1944)
(Died of wounds received at Tumbolt Bay, New Guinea in Southwest Pacific)
(Served on the USS *Blue Ridge* (AGC-2) of Seventh Amphibious Force
& it was the Flagship of Rear Admiral Daniel E. Barbey)
(St. John the Evangelist Catholic Cemetery; Lafayette, LA; Section 24, Tomb 65.0)
(Son of Maurice Homer Guidry & Mamie Guidry Guidry; Born 22 Aug 1924)

SEAMAN 2nd CLASS (S2c) Joseph Warren Guidry (USNR) (8473781) - Dusen (MIA – 21 Feb 1945)

(Died off the coast of Iwo Jima in the South Pacific when USS *Bismarck Sea*, while supporting landings on Iwo Jima, sank on 21 Feb 1945 after two Japanese kamikaze attacks killing 318 crewmen)
(Served on USS *Bismarck Sea* (CVE-95 escort carrier; Composite Squadron 86)
(St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery #2; Rayne, LA)
(Tablets of the Missing at Honolulu Memorial; Honolulu, Hawaii; Courts of the Missing; Court 3)
(Son of Venia Guidry & Etha Castille Guidry; Born 20 Jan 1925)

GUNNERY SGT (GySgt) Leo Adam Guidry (USMCR) (331163) - Houma (DOW – 10 May 1945)

(Wounded 5 May 1945 on Okinawa; Died on 10 May 1945)
(1st Marine Division; 7th Marine Regiment; 2nd Battalion; Company E)
(Baton Rouge National Cemetery; Baton Rouge, LA; Section 10, Site 8)
(Name on plaque at Peace Memorial Park in Okinawa, Japan)
(Son of Jack W. Guidry & Lola M. Daigle Guidry; Born 16 Apr 1911)

PFC Louis Benjamin Guidry Jr. (USMCR) (873954) – Baton Rouge (KIA – 9 Aug 1945)

(Died at Okinawa)
(6th Marine Division; 15th Marine Regiment; 1st Battalion; Battery B)
(Baton Rouge National Cemetery; Baton Rouge, LA; Section 14, Site 13)
(Name on plaque at Peace Memorial Park in Okinawa, Japan)
(Son of Louis Benjamin Guidry Sr. & Tessie Pearl Heil Guidry;
Husband of Mrs. Colleen Durham Guidry; Born 22 Aug 1924)

CPL Merrick Samuel Guidry (USMC) (271807) – Lafayette (KIA – 2 May 1945)

(Died at Okinawa)
(1st Marine Division; 1 Marine Regiment; 1st Battalion; Company B)
(St. John the Evangelist Catholic Cemetery; Lafayette, LA; Section 12, Tomb 50.0)
(Name on plaque at Peace Memorial Park in Okinawa, Japan)
(Son of Junius J. Guidry & Lydia Bourque Guidry; Husband of Dorothy Stutes Guidry;
Daughter is Miss Dorothy Marlin Guidry; Born 21 Oct 1918)

**Marie Clements of Shediak Bridge, New Brunswick – a Blue Star mother seven times over. She first married Laurent Petitpas and later married Jude Fougère. Seven of her sons served in the Canadian military during WWII: Georges Alfred Petitpas, Jean Guillaume (William) Petitpas, Benoit Petitpas. Vital Fougère, Armand Fougère, Howard Fougère and Jude Fougère. None were lost during the war. One grandson, Emile Petitpas, did die during WWII as described above.*

DNB – Died, Non-Battle (In war theater of operations)
 DNBO – Died, Non-Battle (Outside war theater of operations)
 DOW – Died of Wounds
 KIA – Killed in Action
 MIA – Missing in Action
 POW – Prisoner of War
 CIC – Canadian Infantry Corps (from 1942 - 29 Apr 1947)
 RCIC – Royal Canadian Infantry Corps (from 30 Apr 1947)
 RCA – Royal Canadian Artillery
 USNR – U. S. Navy Reserve



Clifford Guidry



Guy Dennis Pettipas



Leonard F. Pettipas



Raymond E. Pettipas



Emery Louis Geddry



Wilson W. Guidry



Joseph C. Guidry



Eustis Guidry



Wilfred C. Guidry



Ila R. Labine

TRIBUTES

ROLAND JOSEPH GUIDRY



Roland Joseph Guidry

On 26 June 2023 Roland Joseph Guidry, a 2015 inductee to the Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur Circle of Distinction, passed away. Roland led a full life from being born on a houseboat in the swamps of Louisiana, to living off the natural resources as a shrimper and oysterman during young adulthood to captaining his own tugboat and finally serving as the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator under four Louisiana governors. Always proud of his Acadian heritage, Roland lived on the shore of the Cut Off Canal in Cut Off, Louisiana and could prepare a mouth-watering jambalaya as many of our 2011 Reunion attendees can attest. An Army Reservist from 1952-1960, Roland not only served his country, but also his fellow Lafourche citizens as an elected member of the Great Lafourche Port Commission from 1976-1992. Appointed by Governor Edwin Edwards in 1992 to fill the newly-created Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator position, Roland developed an innovative plan for the State response actions and distinguished himself across the United States as an outstanding Spill Coordinator. His outstanding leadership abilities, administration skills and endearing people skills

led to the next three governors reappointing Roland to this position. Roland directed the Louisiana cleanup efforts for the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, the largest marine oil spill in history, in 2010. At his retirement folks from all walks of life that had worked with Roland lauded not only his outstanding work ethic, strong leadership and ability, but also his warm smile and kind words to everyone he met. Roland's wife of 65 years LouAnna Crosby Guidry, his four children Cindy Guidry Breaux, Kirk Guidry, Suzanne Guidry Morain and Leigh Anne Guidry, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren mourn their loss as do we. His 2015 induction into the Circle of Distinction is at <https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~guedrylabinefamily/genealogy/circle-of-distinction.html> and his obituary is at <https://www.houmatoday.com/obituaries/plou0516947>.

JULES "NONC JULES" GUIDRY

In June 1983, 40 years ago, Jules Guidry, better known in South Louisiana as "Nonc Jules", first lifted those headphones to his ears, talked into the microphone and began broadcasting at KRVS Radio on the campus of the University of Southwestern Louisiana. Today folks from throughout the world tune into his weekly show "Bal de Dimanche Après-Midi" ("Sunday Afternoon Dance") on Sundays from noon – 3:00 pm Central time on KRVS 88.7 and streaming on the internet. It is always a toe-tapping time with great Cajun music, interviews with musicians and wonderful stories told by Nonc-Jules in both Cajun French and English. But this is not the only volunteer work done by Nonc-Jules to ensure the survival of his Cajun language and culture. He also volunteered many years as an artisan at Vermilionville, an historic, recreated Acadian village on the banks of Bayou Vermilion. Nonc-Jules entertained visitors with his accordion and tee fer (triangle), singing Cajun songs and slipping in snippets on the history of his Acadian people. For many years Nonc-Jules entertained local folks at various venues with his band "Nonc Jules et Lachez-Les". Attendees at our 2011 Reunion in Cut Off certainly remember Nonc-Jules, his wife Mary Lou and fiddler Roland Cheramie entertaining us. As an occupation, Nonc-Jules worked for many years at CODOFIL – the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana.



Jules "Nonc Jules" Guidry

TRIBUTES

Jules Guidry was a 2016 inductee into the Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur Circle of Distinction - <https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~guedrylabinefamily/genealogy/circle-of-distinction.html> . We congratulate Nonc-Jules on a long and distinguished career not only at KRVS, but in working tirelessly throughout his life to ensure that our Cajun language and culture thrive into the future.



LLOYD J. GUIDRY JR.

We congratulate Lloyd J. Guidry, Jr., Pharm. D, on being appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Lady of the Sea General Hospital in Cut Off, Louisiana. Lady of the Seas is an acute-care, inpatient hospital founded in 1956 and serves the people of lower Lafourche Parish. His appointment was effective on 1 June 2023. A Lafourche Parish native, Lloyd has a long history at Lady of the Sea General Hospital having worked there over 28 years including the last seventeen as Chief Operations Officer. Congratulations, Lloyd, and many years of success at Lady of the Sea.

DATES TO REMEMBER

28 July 2023 – Acadian Day of Remembrance

(Induction of Warren and Mary Perrin into Order of Living Legends at the Acadian Memorial in St. Martinville, LA. 5:00 pm)

13 Aug 2023 – Acadian Culture Day at Vermilionville in Lafayette, LA (10:00 am – 5:00 pm) – FREE

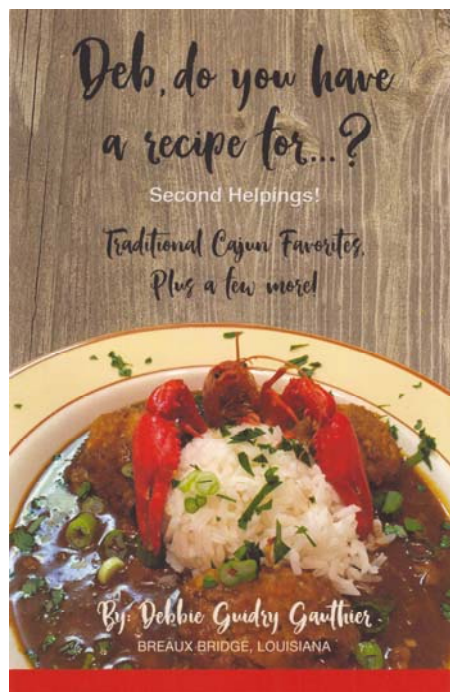
15 Aug 2023 – National Acadian Day – Fête-Dieu du Teche 2023 from Leonville to St. Martinville

13 Dec 2023 – Acadian Day of Remembrance – New Brunswick

10-18 Aug 2024 – Congrès Mondial Acadien – Southwest Nova Scotia

16-17 Aug 2024 – Les Guédry et Petitpas Reunion – St. Alphonse, Nova Scotia

BOOK NOOK



Deb, do you have a recipe for ...? Traditional Cajun Favorites, Plus a few more!

*By Debbie Guidry Gauthier
Breaux Bridge, Louisiana*

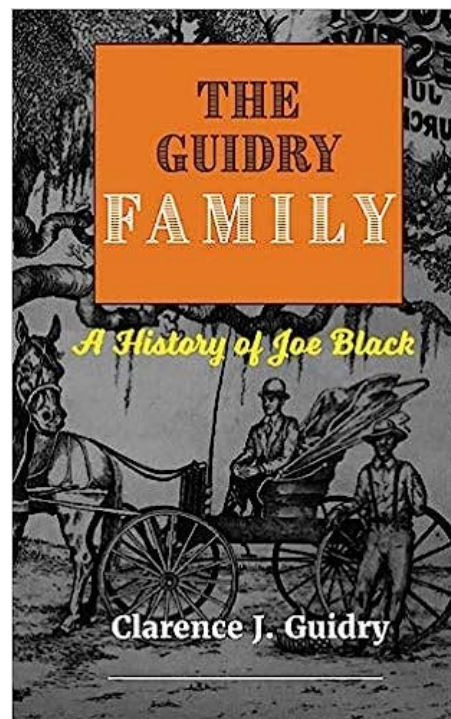
This is a cookbook with traditional Cajun favorites that could win over the heart of any man. In “*Deb, do you have a recipe for...?*” Debbie Guidry Gauthier shares all of her tried-and-true recipes, so you don’t have to rummage through your recipe drawer. There’s even a section of “Paleo-Cajunized” recipes. To purchase a copy, email Debbie at DebGauthier62@yahoo.com.

In her free time she enjoys cooking and baking, and has also created her own cookbook for her immediate family and close friends to enjoy, “*Deb, do you have a recipe for?*” In 2012 she became a Regional Contributor to the unique culinary magazine, Louisiana Kitchen & Culture a pastime and venture which she thoroughly enjoys.

THE GUIDRY FAMILY A History of Joe Black by Clarence J. Guidry

Joe Black is an African American slave. Having been torn away from his family and sold into slavery, he and his brother John must survive. Without any family to lean on, the two brothers find a way to deal with the harsh realities of slave labor. Joe is a gifted cook. At the time when Chefs are not mentioned in most black communities, his master takes advantage of Joe Black's talent and launches a baking business. This however is short lived as the tide turns giving Joe Black a rare glimpse into Power, Wealth and Pleasure. His family known as the 'Guidry' lives on to tell his story. In this book, the Guidry family share intimate details of the pain, the struggles and the victories of Joe Black.

The Guidry family has a remarkable, educational, cultural and rich history for generations to come. And should be embraced for helping in the fight to keep their African American genealogy and heritage alive. The glue that held them together through those tough times is attributed to a 'Pie'. Yes, a Louisiana Pie. Baked and sold in Church Point, LA. For the Guidrys’ its all about the Pie. Unless you want to know more about their ‘Sunday Crawfish Dinners’ do you?



BON APPETIT

Shrimp Stew with Potato Salad *from Debbie Guidry Gauthier* *Breaux Bridge, Louisiana*



¼ - ½ cup prepared roux (and this is more or less depending on your taste)
 2 tbsp. vegetable oil
 1 large onion, chopped
 ½ - 1 cup chopped bell pepper
 2 - 3 cloves of garlic minced
 2 lbs. fresh peeled shrimp
 1 small bag of dried shrimp (soak these in about 1 cup of hot water and set aside)
 ¼ cup chopped parsley
 ¼ cup chopped green onion tops
 1-2 cups water or stock (that's where the water with the dried shrimp comes in)
 Salt and Cayenne pepper to taste
 Boiled eggs, peeled and sliced (optional)

Sauté onions, bell peppers and garlic in vegetable oil until tender, add roux and stir well to break up the roux, adding a little water/stock at a time to completely dissolve. Once dissolved add the dried shrimp with the water and let this cook for about 30 mins to 1 hour. Then add shrimp, lower heat, cover pot and simmer for about 30 minutes. If stew is too thick, add more water.

Add parsley and green onions and let cook for about 10 mins then add sliced boiled eggs.

1 lb. ground Beef
 1 lb. ground Pork
 2 large eggs
 ¼ cup plain bread crumbs
 ½ cup Guidry's Creole Seasoning (onions, bell peppers, celery, parsley)
 2 - 3 tsp. salt, to taste
 Cayenne pepper to taste
 ¾ cup All Purpose Flour seasoned with salt and cayenne pepper
 2 medium Onions, chopped
 1 cup of chopped Bell Pepper
 2 tsp. minced Garlic
 1 tablespoon Dried Parsley Flakes
 ¼ cup (3 - 4 tablespoons) prepared Med-Dark Roux
 4 cups of Water
 2 tsp Chicken Base
 (or use chicken broth/stock)
 1 8 oz. can Dawn Fresh Mushroom Steak Sauce
 Salt & Cayenne Pepper
 Gumbo Filé

Combine meat, eggs, bread crumbs, Guidry's seasonings, salt & pepper. Combine until mixed then shape into meatballs and roll in flour to coat - shaking off excess flour..

Meatball Stew *from Debbie Guidry Gauthier* *Breaux Bridge, Louisiana*



Heat up about 3 T. of extra virgin olive oil in a pot and fry meatballs until slightly browned. Remove meatballs from the pot (I put them back into the pan with the flour to set) and add vegetables; sauté for about 10 - 15 minutes, until slightly tender then add Roux, stirring well to incorporate with vegetables, cook about 10 minutes then add 1 - 2 cups of Chicken Stock, until you reach desired thickness.

Cook for about 10 minutes then add Dawn Fresh Mushroom Steak Sauce, salt and cayenne pepper, stirring well.

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

IN THE NEWS-HISTORICAL NEWS TIDBITS

PATROLMAN FINDS MAN HURT IS FATHER-IN-LAW

[Special Dispatch to The Herald]

NEWBURYPORT, Nov. 16—Responding to a police call because of an automobile accident, Patrolman James Kearney of the Salisbury police found that the victim was his father-in-law, John A. Geddry, 70. Geddry was crossing a street when he was struck by an automobile driven by Nathan A. Dodge of Hampton Falls, N. H., formerly of this city. Mr. Dodge took the injured man to the Homeopathic Hospital here, where it was found he had an injury to his back and to both legs. In the Amesbury court, Dodge was fined \$50 for driving to endanger.

*The Boston Herald, Boston, MA
17 Nov 1932*



FINAL TOUCH TO ITALIAN CLUB'S TREE
... Partygoers are Carolyn Bommarito, Mrs. Charles Peterson and Daughter Christy, Kathy Cornelius, Jerry Petitpas and Stefania Villella

*The Huntsville Times, Huntsville, AL
20 Dec 1970*

SIDNEY GUIDRY GOES ON TRIAL FOR LIFE

Morgan City Police Officer
Charged With Murder
of Jere Dyer.

Franklin, La., April 4—Sidney Guidry, police officer of Morgan City, went on trial for his life here today on a charge of murder in connection with the killing of Jere Dyer, a prominent young man of the same town. It is indicated by questions being propounded to prospective jurors that the case of the defense will be one of self-defense.

Five jurors had been accepted when the regular panel was exhausted and Judge Saint ordered the sheriff to summons talesmen and adjourned court for a night session.

Numerous witnesses have been summoned by both sides and it is thought the case will continue several days. Guidry is being defended by Ex-State Senator James R. Parkerson, while the state is represented by District Attorney Rene Himel. A large crowd from Morgan City attended the hearing today.

*The Times-Picayune, New Orleans, LA
05 Apr 1921*

STAGE COACH DRIVER IS DEAD

L. C. Guidry Claimed Vast Acquaintance During 25-Year Service.

BATON ROUGE, LA., Dec. 17.—L. C. Guidry, for twenty-five years driver of the stage line between Port Allen and Baton Rouge junction, or Addis, died this morning at his home near Brusly Landing.

"Old man Guidry" has driven every governor, every senator, most of the prominent men of Louisiana for a quarter of a century, and was known to traveling men of the entire South. He could have claimed the friendship of all who ever rode with him.

His quaint 'cajan stories and dialect had beguiled the long drive, in sun and storm and by day and night, for thousands who had to take the route which his little Creole ponies and his open stage always followed for so many years.

*The Daily Picayune, New Orleans LA
18 Dec 1912*

IN THE NEWS-HISTORICAL NEWS TIDBITS

GRADUATE OF U. OF M.

Alfred Labine, brother of Oscar Labine of Mohawk, and a graduate of the Calumet high school, will be graduated on June 30 from the University of Michigan where he just completed the medical course. He will come to Calumet immediately after the exercises and take a position on the Calumet & Hecla medical staff as interne at the hospital. Eva Labine, a sister of the graduate, left yesterday to attend the commencement exercises, and will return home with him.

*The Calumet News, Calumet MI
17 June 1910*

MRS MARGARET LABINE WINS ARCHERY MEDAL

Rewarded for Most Improvement in Four Weeks—Perfect Score by L. H. Singleton

The Springfield Archery association, completing its tally for the month at its regular Wednesday shoot at Blunt park last night, awarded the silver medal for the most improvement shown during the past four weeks to Mrs Margaret Labine. Mrs Labine reached her peak in shooting last night with a score of 355.

For the first time this year a perfect score, a rare occurrence in archery circles, was shot by Louis H. Singleton, who scored six goals at 40 yards. Mr Singleton led the night's score with 511. The other scores were as follows: Lou White, 495; Rev Henry S. Hitchcock, 458; Nelson E. Trevallion, 421; Perry Hitchcock, 423; Roland Labine, 396; Margaret Labine, 355; Mrs Charles Warner, 222; Louise White, 220; Mrs Arthur Faneuf, 219; Arthur Faneuf, 218.

Six new members were accepted into the association last night, and many applications for membership have been received.

Mr and Mrs Charles Warner, two of the most prominent of the archers, will leave next week for the national championship tournament at Lancaster, Pa.

WHEAT MOWN AT NIGHT

Minnesota Farmer Works Two Shifts, One Machine, 8 Horses.

ARGYLE, Minn., Aug. 24.—Eugene Labine, a Marshall County farmer, is harvesting 500 acres of wheat with one machine, working day and night. The binder is run with eight horses, four to a shift, and a headlight is used at night.

The night shift of horses stands the work much better than those used in the heat of the day and Labine predicts night-binding will become the vogue in the Northwest.

*Morning Oregonian, Portland, OR
25 Aug 1911*

DEATH CLAIMS CHILD OF J. J. LABINE HERE

Baby Passes Away and Mother is Patient at Local Hospital—Funeral to Be at Larimore.

Dorothy Beatrice Labine, aged one year, one month and 14 days, baby daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Labine of Larimore, died this morning at 10:30 o'clock at St. Michael's hospital. The remains will be shipped to Larimore tomorrow morning for burial. Mrs. Labine, who recently underwent an operation, is at the present time a patient in St. Michael's hospital. Mr. Labine was in the city today.

*Left: Springfield Republican, Springfield, MA
08 July 1937*

*Right: Grand Forks Daily, Grand Forks, ND
03 May 1916*

Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur

What's in a name?

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

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

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

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

DUES REMINDER

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

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



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

Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur

To share your ideas for the
Newsletter contact:

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

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

"**GENERATIONS**" newsletter is now in its 21st 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
guidryRmartin@gmail.com



Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur Officers and Committees

OFFICERS:

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

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

COMMITTEES:

Website - Rachel Killingsworth (VA)
Martin Guidry (LA)

Publicity - Elaine Clement (LA) - Chairperson
Margaret Jeddry (MA)
Warren Guidry (TX)

Genealogy - Daryl LaBine (FL/ON) - Chairperson
Mark Labine (MN)
Daniel "Chuck" Guidry (LA)
Martin Guidry (LA)

Newsletter - Allie Guidry (VA) - Editor
Martin Guidry (LA)

CAFA Board Member - Jeanette Guidry Leger (LA)

Finance - Cheryl Guidry Tyiska (MD) - Chairperson
Paul Labine (IL)
Marshall Woolner (OR)
Gloria Parrent (TX)
Chuck Guidry (LA)

Membership - Charlene Guidry Lacombe (LA) -
Chairperson

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

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

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

Children (Enfants) _____

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

Telephone (Téléphone) _____

Fax (Numéro de télécopieur) _____

E-mail Address (Courriel) _____

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

Type of Membership (Type de cotisation):

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

_____ Family (Familiale) \$10.00 U.S. Dollars (Dollars américains)

Benefactor Levels (Niveaux de bienfaiteur):

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

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

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

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

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

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