



Les Nouvelles de la Famille Doucet

NEWSLETTER OF LES DOUCET DU MONDE

OCTOBER 2004

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MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

By Carol Doucet

At the Doucet/Doucette reunion on August 2, 2004, Les Doucet du Monde signed up fourteen new members! We extend a warm welcome to all of them!

It's time to renew memberships for 2005. We are sending each member two membership/renewal forms. Use one for yourself and pass the second form on to a Doucet/Doucette cousin and ask them to join LDDM.

We need to have more Doucet/Doucette descendants become active and to participate in chapter activities. If more of you become active, participate in chapter activities, send articles to the newsletter editor and send in your genealogy line to our web master, or add to the information which is already on our LDDM web site, Les Doucet du Monde will be able to serve Doucet/Doucette cousins even better.

The genealogy information which you send in may be the very link that someone else has been needing.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE LDDM WEB SITE

By Lou Doucet

I am sure by now most of you have seen the new look of the LDDM web site. Over the summer it was redesigned to make it more user friendly. It is our goal to continue to improve and enhance it with new areas and improved features.

Recently Dean has added over 10,000 new names to the Genealogy section. He is currently working on adding information on descendants of the daughter who married Pierre LeJeune. After that he plans to add several more families and work on the indexing.

Recently Lou has redesigned the CMA section and it is now called "CMA & Reunions". It will contain photos and information on the Doucet/Doucette reunions and CMA events. Currently there are around 50 photos from
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Deadlines for submitting material are: January 31 for February issue, May 31 for June issue and September 30 for October issue.

WEB SITE

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<http://www.doucetfamily.org>

New Additions *(Continued from Page 1)*

the reunion in Nova Scotia. Information will be posted there for CMA 2009, as it is made available.

Another project we are working on is adding photographs from the 1999 Reunion, in Louisiana, to the CMA & Reunion section. We will need some help with that. Photos of the events are needed. If you have any photos that you would like to share with others, let me know. I would like to have them in digital format if possible. They can be from digital camera (there were not too many of them around in '99), or they can be scanned from photographs. One important thing is, do not reduce them to low resolution. If you scan photos, scan them at 300 Dots Per Inch. If they come from a digital camera, send them without any resizing or modifications. You can email them to me, or burn them to a CD and mail them. Also if you can identify any of the people in the photos please do so. Just give me the photo number (file name), and name the people from left to right.

We hope that you enjoy the changes to the site. Please visit it and check out the photos and new additions to the Genealogy section. If you have any questions, about the web site, contact Dean at ajcajun@mchsi.com or me at ldoucet@fsfa.com.

Please send Dean your genealogical line. If you have already submitted your family's line, send in any updates which you may have. The information which you submit may be just what someone has been looking for.

And please be patient! Some parts of our web site may not be working at times because Dean and Lou are continually working to add new information and keep the our fantastic Doucet family site as current as possible.

NOVA SCOTIA REUNION

On Sunday, August 1, 2004, the Fundy Restaurant in Digby, Nova Scotia was the setting for a luncheon attended by Les Doucet du Monde members, their families and guests. This provided an opportunity for the thirty persons present to meet one another, chat and get to know one another before the Doucet/Doucette reunion.



The Association des Doucet de la Nouvelle Écosse, Glenda Doucet-Boudreau, President, hosted the Doucet/Doucette reunion at l'Université Sainte-Anne in Church Point. About 850 were in attendance. On Sunday evening, following early registration, Marielle Bourgeois, published genealogy author, lecturer and professional researcher, spoke on the topic, "Where Did the Acadians Go Around 1755 and Where Did They Settle in Quebec and Louisiana?" A wine and cheese social followed along with a musical concert, "A Taste of Acadie" by Jeanne Doucet-Currie. On Monday, August 2, the Mass, the conference by Stephen White – "Les Doucet dans l'Acadie ancienne," and the dance group "La Baie en Joie" were the highlights of the day.



Our LDDM booth seemed to have the most attention from the many visitors. People stopped by wanting information on their genealogical lines. The whole board and some of the spouses were kept busy answering questions, comparing family lines, selling LDDM t-shirts, doing computer searches and having visitors fill out family charts, and taking pictures.

LDDM gained fourteen new memberships at the reunion and four more shortly after the reunion.

Our Treasurer, Jackie Auclair, was interviewed by BBC reporter Lise Doucet (who is from New Brunswick) about her shirt which showed her Doucet line!

Thanks to the following LDDM members for a great job at the reunion: Dean Doucet, Darlene Nielson, Jackie and Gary Auclair, Carol and Eldine Doucet, Jim Gaboury, Becky Lavergne, Lou and Doris Doucet, Norman and Linda Doucette, George and Bertha Doucette, Gaetan and Delores Doucet, Pat and Alan Hayes.

Thanks are also due to l'Association des Doucet de la Nouvelle Écosse for making our reunion a most enjoyable one.

Several Doucet cousins took advantage of their trip to Nova Scotia to visit historical sites, family cemeteries, genealogy centers and to enjoy the beautiful scenery of Acadie.

Ceux parmi nous qui parlons français, nous avons ressenti un autre grand plaisir – c'était de parler avec nos cousins Acadien dans la langue de Champlain et de du Gua, de Razilly, de d'Aulnay et Denys, et de Germain Doucet, Sieur de La Verdure!

Those of us who speak French had the added pleasure of communicating with our Acadian cousins in the language of Champlain and de Gua, of Razilly, d'Aulnay and Denys, and of Germain Doucet, Sieur de La Verdure!

MORE PHOTOS OF THE REUNION AND YOUR COMMENTS

Many Doucet cousins mentioned how they enjoyed the Doucet/Doucette reunion. Most felt that the reunion was too short and would have preferred two full days to allow more time for visiting with Doucet cousins. These are a few of the comments received:

The reunion was great. I think our kiosk was the busiest place on the convention floor. And our board was terrific with everyone pitching in from time to time. The remainder of our trip was wonderful and I loved Cheticamp where my ancestors hailed from in NS. Visited with Edmond Burns at the genealogy center at Trois Pignons and discussed genealogy with him. He and I have corresponded for years. We went to St. Joseph du Moine cemetery and church and every other headstone was a Doucet. Amazing. Our trip around Cape Breton was a rainy day and so we didn't do much stopping along the way to Fortress Louisbourg. That was a great place to visit. So much history. All in all a wonderful trip in a very pretty country.

---Jackie Auclair

I was glad to finally meet the ones I have talked to (through e-mail and the chat room) over the years. I will try to have a meeting here in the near future to see what interest it raises.

---George Doucette

*Opening Mass for
the Doucet/
Doucette reunion
at St. Mary's
Church
In Church Point,
NS*



I had a great time at the reunion meeting everyone. I spent some time helping at the table for the morning. I had [many relatives and friends from Massachusetts and Nova Scotia] for most of the weekend's festivities. We met two sons and two daughters of the boat builder Roy Doucette mentioned in the "Wooden Boat Articles." My uncle and aunt enjoyed the speaker Marielle Bourgeois from California. I did meet author Clive Doucet and his wife from Ottawa at the local Chez Jean's Dairy Twirl. He has two new books since Louisiana (1999). The first, "My Grandfathers Cape," is about Clive as a young boy and his grandfather growing up on Cape Breton and "Lost and Found in Acadie," is an adult Clive sequel to "My Grandfather's Cape."

---Norman Doucette, Jr.



One of our newest LDDM members, Father Daniel Doucet (originally from Cheticamp, now living in Sydney) was celebrant of the Mass for the reunion.

Glad I was able to be there to help pitch in at our booth just like all the others who were able to see the need and fill it. It was an enjoyable experience as was the reunion. When Darlene, Jackie, Gary, George, Bertha and I visited the Habitation, one of the guides was a Joel Doucet. He had his genealogy with him so several of us took pictures of these sheets. The ones I took came out pretty good. It was good that we were able to get some new genealogies from visitors to our booth. I assume we should be getting more new ones as time goes on.

---Jim Gaboury

What a wonderful Congrès Mondial Acadien! Cousins from all over the world. It was so nice to meet the two of you. I just wanted to say hello and hope you had a wonderful time with us in Nova Scotia! Quelle belle idée d'avoir des photos de cet été! Un grand merci.

---Jeanne Doucet Currie

We both really enjoyed the reunion and time spent with everyone. It was fun working with everyone on their quests to trace family trees. I met a lot of nice people in

the mean time and picked up a golf partner for this winter. I met a Doucet from Nova Scotia who lives down here (Florida) in the winter. He and I are getting together to play golf when he comes down. I really enjoyed Stephen White's talk. I was impressed with the reunion and plan to attend the next one in New Brunswick. We had great weather on the day we did the Cabot Trail on Cape Breton. You just couldn't of asked for nicer weather.

---Lou Doucet



We did manage to stop long enough during our busy day to take this picture during a slow period.

On the way up to Nova Scotia, Eldine and I enjoyed Niagara Falls. We visited a couple of days with Mitch and Irene Doucet in Dieppe, New Brunswick. We enjoyed viewing paintings by Acadian artists, visiting "Le Pays de la Sagouine," and the town of Schediack. We had our first real taste of lobster and scallops, thanks to Mitch and Irene. They were great hosts.

A couple of days later an evening gathering at Glenda and Stanley Boudreau's home near Church Point was très enjoyable.

George and Bertha Doucette were very hospitable and we visited with them several times as we made our way past Halifax and Bedford during our travels. They even arranged for a fantastic barbeque meal at Bertha's sister's home.

After the luncheon on Sunday and reunion on Monday – both very enjoyable – Eldine and I visited Fort Point and Le Hève where Germain Doucet arrived in 1632 with Razilly to retake control of Acadie for France. Fort Edwards had special significance for us, for Eldine's Prejean ancestor was imprisoned there with his family while awaiting deportation. Fortress Louisbourg, l'Habitation of Port Royal, and Grand Pré were also magnificent. La Baie Sainte Marie, Lunenburg, Peggy's Cove and Cape Breton Island would have been worth visiting just for their scenic beauty. We were fortunate to have our reunion in the Clare area on the beautiful Baie Sainte Marie and to experience the thriving Acadian culture of the area. Chéticamp was great with the view of the fishing boats coming in for the blessing of the fleet

(so much like South Louisiana) and the festivities going on for the Mi-temps. We saw the fantastic play about the history of the Acadians. And so many people were speaking French. They are proud of their culture and they live it. Young girls about 8 to 12 danced proudly in groups of nine or twelve (one boy amongst them) to traditional fiddle music, not rock and roll. The people were great. They made the celebrations really come alive.

We were fortunate to attend the Opening, Mi-temps, and Closing Ceremonies of CMA 2004 – all fantastic.

On the way back home, we just had to visit Sainte Anne de Beaupré and Ile d'Orléans near Quebec City.

Like so many of our Acadian cousins, we returned home with fond memories of the Congrès, the reunion, visits with Doucet cousins and visiting beautiful Acadie's historical sites.

---Carol Doucet



People in period costume were a common sight.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Unfilled Positions Several positions on the LDDM international board and on the chapter boards remain unfilled.

The Louisiana Chapter has only one board member, Becky Lavergne, who has been active since the inception of LDDM. The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer are unfilled. Three chapter board members are also needed. If the chapter is to remain viable and offer activities for its members, we need members to step up and fill these positions and help to plan and prepare get-togethers.

George Doucette, President of the Acadian/Canadian Chapter, could use more people to help plan activities for his chapter. At present there are two board positions vacant and the office of Secretary-Treasurer.

Highlights Most articles which have been submitted to be included in the newsletter were sent by board members. We have had articles about the Acadian and Cajun cultures, chapter activities, holidays, historical sites and genealogy for instance. Recipes have been included. We have received articles which showed several places where ancestors lived and toiled, leading to their settlement in the area where the submitter lives.

Check out the newsletters on our web site. You may find inspiration for an article.

You may want to submit an article about your family line, or about one particular person who stands out. For example, George Doucette sent an article about his ancestor, Grand David.

You don't need to be a Nobel prize winner, not yet. If articles are not your original composition, please provide us with the source (author, name of publication, date) so that we can give proper credit.

DEAN DOUCET APPOINTED VICE PRESIDENT

At its September 25 meeting, the LDDM International Board appointed Dean Doucet to serve as International Vice President. Dean has been active in LDDM since 1999. He was the first president after the 1999 Doucet/Doucette family reunion and has served as an International Board Member since completing his term. Dean has served as our web master since 2000, presently handling the genealogy portion of the web site. Congratulations, Dean!

BIOS OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Lou Doucet

As a new member of the board my job is to help Dean with the web site. This past year we have redesigned it, in order to make it more user friendly.

I was born in Lewiston, Maine and raised in Woodsville, New Hampshire. In 1968 I married Doris Sarrasin, of Lewiston. We moved to South Florida, in 1972. I worked for the City of Margate Fire Rescue, for 28 years, until my retirement earlier this year. While there I worked running the fire training division and implemented and maintained the computer systems, for the fire and police departments. When I retired in January of 2004 we moved to Melbourne, Florida, where we now reside.

It was a pleasure going to the reunion, in Nova Scotia, this summer and meeting everyone. Doris and I really enjoy traveling and found the trip a real treat. We are looking forward to the next reunion, in New Brunswick.

Patricia Doucette Hayes

I was born in Toronto, Ontario on February 7, 1948 and currently live in Aurora, about 20 miles north of Toronto. Because I showed aptitude for languages in secondary school, I continued my studies at the post-secondary level and became a high school French teacher. I also spent time teaching Special Education and English as a Second Language, but ended my teaching career as Head of Guidance at Aurora High School.

During this time, I married and now have two almost grown-up children. My interests include gardening, reading and cooking. Reading My Grandfather's Cape Breton by Clive Doucet of Ottawa inspired me to begin to map my genealogy. I am very fortunate to have gained a whole new family of relatives over the past few years. My Doucet grandfather died in Toronto in 1934, leaving his sons with no knowledge of his Acadian heritage or his large family in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.

My husband and I have recently undertaken a new pursuit. We have become small business owners dealing in the distribution of smoked and exotic foods to fine restaurants and hotels in the Toronto area. Perhaps if you visit Toronto you will have the opportunity to sample our products at one of our local dining establishments!

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2005!

ENCLOSED ARE TWO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORMS. USE ONE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND GIVE THE SECOND APPLICATION BLANK TO ANOTHER DOUCET COUSIN AND INVITE HIM TO JOIN.

WE HAVE MEMBERS FROM ALL OVER THE US AND CANADA AND FRANCE AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE FOLLOWING LIST:

ALBERTA	NEVADA
ARIZONA	NEW BRUNSWICK
BRITISH COLUMBIA	NEW HAMPSHIRE
CALIFORNIA	NEWFOUNDLAND
CONNECTICUT	NORTH CAROLINA
FLORIDA	NOVA SCOTIA
ALBERTA	NEVADA
FRANCE	ONTARIO
LOUISIANA	QUEBEC
MAINE	TEXAS
MASSACHUSETTS	VERMONT
	WISCONSIN



GENEALOGY DAY – SEPTEMBER 25 – RAYNE, LA

On Saturday, September 25, Louisiana Chapter members represented LDDM at Genealogy Day in Rayne, Louisiana which was sponsored by the Pointe de l'Église Genealogical Society. Dean Doucet supplied a CD with the genealogical information from our Doucet Family web site. Sam Doucet, Becky Laverne, Carol and Eldine Doucet, Eva Richard, and Daniel Doucet, Jr. from LDDM attended. We assisted several individuals with genealogy searches.

Warren Perrin spoke of his work in petitioning Queen Elizabeth II to issue an apology for the deportation of the Acadians from Acadie in 1755. Read about this in Perrin's new book, "Acadian Redemption: From Beausoleil Broussard to the Queen's Royal Proclamation."

About 15 other groups displayed genealogy charts, books, CDs, etc. Besides visiting the various displays, many spent the day chatting with relatives and friends and sharing genealogy.



WARNING **GENEALOGY POX** **(VERY CONTAGIOUS** **TO ADULTS)**

Submitted by: Michele Doucette

SYMPTOMS: Continual complaints as to need for names, dates and places. Patient has blank expression, sometimes deaf to spouse and children. Has no taste for work of any kind, except feverishly looking through records at libraries, courthouses and internet. Has compulsion to write letters and send e-mail. Swears at mailman when he doesn't stop and leave mail. Frequents strange places such as cemeteries, ruins and remote desolate country areas. Makes secret night calls. Hides phonebills from spouse and mumbles to self. Has strange far away look in eyes.

TREATMENT: Medication is useless. There is no known cure. Disease is not fatal, but gets progressively worse. Patient should attend genealogy workshops, subscribe to genealogical magazines and be given a quiet corner in the house where he or she can be alone.

REMARKS: The unusual nature of this disease is . . . the sicker the patient gets, the more he or she seems to enjoy it.

GENETICS AND ACADIAN FAMILIES

By Dr. John P. Doucet

Why is Genetics important to Acadians?

The story of civilization is the story of groups. Groups of settlers founded villages, and strong villages grew from within. That strength forged the type of cultural cohesiveness that we see in many contemporary groups, like modern Acadians. This cohesiveness, strengthened by the geographical and political forces that have shaped our history as Acadian descendants, contributes to our common identity.

One result of our historical cohesiveness is genetics. Articles in recent issues of *Les Nouvelles de la Famille Doucet* have shown us how genetics impacts our families. The recent passing of Lesley Anne Doucet of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, to complications from Niemann-Pick disease reminds us that to be Acadian is to be part of a group that, together with innumerable beneficial characteristics, has increased risks for rare genetic diseases when compared to the general population.

In this respect, however, we are no different than other cohesive groups of history. Certain rare genetic diseases are more frequent in descendants of the Ashkenazi Jews, the Mormons, the western Africans, the American Indians, and each of the ethnic nations of Europe and Asia, to list only a few examples. The large, nameless group of Caucasians that inhabits all of North America has a higher prevalence of a specific genetic disease than the rest of the world. So, indeed, the story of Acadians and genetics is the story of civilization.

What are genetic diseases?

Humans are remarkably similar at the genetic level, despite obvious differences in physical attributes like height, weight, intelligence, eye color, skin color, and responses to medicines. What makes all humans similar to one another is that 99.9% of our DNA is similar. DNA is a very long and complex chemical: Each time the body needs to make a new cell, the cell must conduct over three billion chemical reactions to make a new, perfect copy of DNA to place in the new cell. Given that the adult human is made of trillions of cells that live, die, and sometimes are replaced over the course of a lifetime, these billions of chemical reactions must occur perfectly for the innumerable copies of DNA made over many years.

The function of DNA is to serve as information for cell structure and function. DNA contains information for the cell to make other chemicals, called *proteins*, that undertake functions. Proteins control eye, skin, and hair color; proteins control height, weight, intelligence; and proteins control responses to medicines, food, and germs. Each cell ensures that DNA is copied accurately so that it can make all the proteins it requires to survive and contribute to the health of the human being. The specific part of DNA that makes a specific protein is called a *gene*, and humans have an estimated 30,000 genes.

Because human babies are conceived through the union of cells from parents (sperm cells and egg cells), DNA is carried from parent to baby through these cells. Another reason why it is important that DNA is copied accurately is to ensure that babies receive the DNA of their parents. Each baby receives two copies of DNA—one from each parent—and, because that DNA makes proteins, the cells of each baby will be making the proteins that it made for its parents. This is why babies resemble their parents as they grow to adulthood.

But babies are neither identical to their parents nor identical to one another. In the process of copying DNA for new cells, cells accidentally make mistakes in the DNA copies. Although these mistakes, which are called *mutations*, are relatively rare, we all carry them, and they contribute to our physical differences.

Mistakes in genes sometimes mean mistakes in proteins. When a protein has a mistake in its structure, the function it undertakes can be affected, and sometimes these dysfunctions can cause medical problems. If mutations occur in the DNA of sperm or egg cells of parents, the mutation has a chance of being transmitted from parents to each of their babies. The mutation will occur in the DNA of all cells of the baby as it becomes an adult, because all adult cells derive from the originating sperm and egg. Therefore, the mutation will be transmitted to consecutive generations. When a mutation causes a medical problem that is recognized in a family across several generations, physicians and scientists recognize the medical problem as a *genetic disease*.

Because humans receive two copies of DNA—one from the father's sperm cell and one from the mother's egg cell, which combine during fertilization—humans have two copies of each of the 30,000 genes. There are two general types of genetic disease, *dominant* and *recessive*. The difference between the two is a matter of the nature of the protein that results from the mutated gene causing the disease. Sometimes, one mutated gene makes a defective protein that causes a disease, despite the fact that the other gene makes a normal protein; this disease is called *dominant*. In other cases, one mutated gene causes no medical problems because the other gene makes enough normal protein for the cell to function normally. In this case, it would take two mutated genes, neither of which is making normal protein, to cause a disease; this type of disease is called *recessive*.

What are some diseases found among Acadians?

Because two mutated genes are necessary to inherit a recessive disease, each parent of an affected child must have at least one of their two genes mutated; these parents are called *carriers*. Recessive diseases typically show increased frequency in historically cohesive populations when compared to the general population. Perhaps the most well known is Tay-Sachs disease, which is increased among the Ashkenazi Jewish. Lesley Anne Doucet's affliction, Niemann-Pick disease, is also recessive. Although Lesley's disease is found world-

wide, there is a high prevalence in Yarmouth County, the home of her Acadian ancestors, and those residents afflicted with the disease are all descendants of an eighteenth century Acadian couple, one of whom may have been the first carrier of the mutation in *Acadie*.

In Louisiana Acadians, the two most studied diseases are Usher syndrome and Friedreich ataxia, both recessive diseases. In Usher syndrome, children are born deaf and progressively lose most of their vision by the second decade of life. Friedreich ataxia causes progressive damage to the nervous system, resulting in symptoms ranging from muscle weakness and speech problems to heart disease. In the case of both of these diseases, genealogical and genetic research shows the origin of disease-causing gene mutations in ancestral couples who settled in *Acadie* prior to the expulsion.

Interestingly, however, there is little information on genetic diseases common between Canadian Acadian and Louisiana Acadian families. It is likely that the carriers for these diseases were separated by the expulsion. Subsequently, the number of carriers for each disease grew independently in separate settlements over many generations. On the frontier, in both *Acadie* and Louisiana, these communities remained cohesive. In such cases, the probability that any two carriers would enter marriage and conceive children is higher than in the general population. Such a social framework is common to all historical cultures and, in fact, all of civilization, and this is why we see the specific genetic diseases in different cultures and in different populations around the world.

Usher Syndrome, Friedreich ataxia, and Niemann-Pick disease are rare. Although they occur more frequently in specific groups of Acadian ancestry, they are still rare among Acadians. It is notable that none of these diseases is unique to Acadians and in fact occur in different peoples around the world. And finally, it should be noted that it is equally as probable of inheriting a mutated gene that causes an improvement in health as it is to inherit a disease like Usher syndrome. As scientists and as members of a compassionate society, we recognize and study the diseases because of the deficits and suffering they cause.

What are the benefits of studying Acadian genetics?

There are 12 different types of Usher syndrome found worldwide. One of these types (Type 1c) has been identified in about 300 individuals who all descend from the same mid-18th century Acadian villages in southwest Louisiana. At first thought, studying such a small group of Louisiana Acadians might not seem to have a large or global benefit for mankind. However, through their cooperation, and through the hard work of Louisiana geneticists and their colleagues around the world, the one mutated gene among 30,000 that causes Type 1c Usher syndrome has been discovered. Not only has this discovery led to an understanding of the function of the protein it encodes, but it also provides information to precisely counsel couples on the chances of having affected children. In addition, the discovery has allowed scientists to better understand other forms

of deafness and blindness, which will help better understand vision and hearing for all people.

How have Acadians contributed to genetic science?

The year 2000 marked the end of the 34-year search for the gene that causes Type 1c Usher Syndrome in Acadian families. Fortunately, current technological improvements are making gene discovery more feasible and efficient. There remain three groups essential to gene discovery and the remediation of genetic diseases. First of these, of course, are the geneticists and researchers who work to identify the patients who suffer from and the genes that cause disease. Essential to this work are the second group—the families who have members suffering from genetic disease. It is the selflessness of these families to share family history and to donate DNA samples for testing that form the fundamental basis of genetic research and any effort to remediate genetic diseases. In between researchers and patients, is the third group—those individuals whose vocation or avocation is to research family history—the genealogists. Through the work of genealogists, researchers are able to make conclusions about genetic disease that will limit their work from testing hundreds and thousands of individuals to sometimes testing only a handful. In this way, a geneticist can expect to make a substantial contribution to curing a genetic disease within the precious shortened lifetime of a patient.

Where can I find more information on genetics and Acadian families?

To address the need to share information about genetics, we have established the website, *Genetics and Louisiana Families*, which contains contributions from physicians, scientists, counselors, educators, and patients. Much of the information in the website pertains to genetics issues deriving from our study of Acadian genetics. We not only invite the readers of *Les Nouvelles de la Famille Doucet* to visit the site, but we also invite readers to tell us about issues that are important to them. We are particularly interested in hearing from our friends, relatives, and colleagues in Canada and elsewhere outside of Louisiana, with whom we share an interest in Acadian genetics and well-being.

Genetics and Louisiana Families can be found at www.lsuohsc.edu/no/centers/genetics/louisianafamilies.

About the Author. Dr. Doucet is associate professor of biological sciences at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana, where he teaches genetics and conducts genetics research. He received the Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from LSU Medical Center in New Orleans in 1992 and subsequently received a National Institutes of Health Research Fellowship to study molecular genetics. He serves on the Executive Board of the Center for Acadiana Genetics and Hereditary Health Care and is co-editor of the website **Genetics and Louisiana Families**. A native of Golden Meadow and a resident of Raceland, Dr. Parish Doucet's Acadian ancestors were settled in Lafourche after arriving in Louisiana on L'Amitié in 1785. He can be contacted at john.doucet@nicholls.edu.

GENEALOGY QUERIES

We would like to have as a regular feature in each newsletter a section for members to submit genealogy queries. If you have reached a "brick wall" in your research and would like to seek help from other members, submit your query, including as much information as possible. Include your name, address, E-mail address (and phone number, if you wish). We will publish it and ask members to reply to you. Please advise our web master Dean Doucet (see contact info on page 1) of any information you receive so it can be added to the Miscellaneous Section of the Genealogy Section on our web site.

Maybe you can help me as I am a wayward Doucet looking to find my way home to my family line.

I had no luck tracking down family roots for my great grandmother Rose Ann Doucet of Massachusetts. She was married to Raphael (or Louis Raphael) Pelletier, b. 3/30/1865 in Trois Rivières, Quebec and d. 1/16/1940. They eventually had six kids with Henry, my grandfather, being number five and having been born in Haverhill, 4/21/1899.

She was 74 (or not) and living in Arlington when Raphael died in 1940 but the 1900 census showed her as 31 with her birthday as February 1869. I know nothing about her death, or for that matter, about her life, her family and her background.

That census record shows that she was born in Massachusetts and that both her parents were from French Canada. She and Raphael had been married

eleven years at the time of the census, which would mean she was probably 20 at her wedding in 1889.

At the time of the 1930 census "Rosie" and "Ralph" were still living in Arlington and he was working as a barber. They were also hosting their daughter Blanche, my grandfather Henry's wife, Sadie, and their son, Ralph – my dad (1927-2003). Henry at that particular moment was away from the family enjoying the hospitality of the State of Massachusetts courtesy of the legal authorities. He was later released, the charges dropped and his record expunged.

Can you help me locate Rose Doucet and her history? I live in Washington state so on site investigation isn't possible and hours of looking on the net hasn't pulled up anything yet.

---Mark Pelletier

b. 5/28/52 Argentinia, Newfoundland
marlpeltier@fhtm.us

My name is Norman Doucette. I live in Winchester, Massachusetts which is next to Arlington....Some towns like Winchester have annual lists of resident books available in the library and town clerk's office -- a source of names, occupation, and residence and birth year. A reference librarian or town clerk might be willing to help find a name in some of these books. The town clerk will also have vital records in her safes for births, marriage and death records occurring in Arlington.

My great grandmother Aledia Doucet was born in 1876 in Acadia Parish, Louisiana and died on June 12, 1966 in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Her parents were Zephyrin Doucet and Alicia Lavergne. She married Oscar Chete on March 24, 1894. On some records her first name is spelled Aledia, Alidier, Alidie, and Aledia. She is buried at the St. Francis Cemetery in Iota, Louisiana in the same vault as her husband Oscar but there is no headstone for her. Thank you for any information you may be able to give me.

---Jerry M. Esthay, Sr.
jmgette@bellsouth.net

Editor's Note: Jerry was at the Genealogy Day in Rayne and we've been communicating since. Can anyone help him?



A word I'm sure you've heard before -- HELP! This is what I have so far.

Germain Doucet b. abt. 1595. I've read the articles about wives unknown and four children.

(I have either one or two generations missing here)

Pierre Doucet, b. abt. 1715, m. Marie Francoise Pago

Pierre Doucet, b. about 1756, m. Marie Therese Brignac

Hubert Doucet, b. 1795, m. Adrienne Lafleur

Lastie Doucet, b. 1824, m. Amelia Deville

Francois Doucet, b. 1864 m. Mary Alice Fontenot

Lamare Doucet, b. 1886, m. Lapearl Lafleur

I don't know which of Germain's sons, Germain or Pierre, fill in the gaps. Thanks for any help you can give.

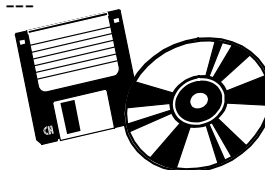
---Sylvia Devillier
 Opelousas, Louisiana
sueah@bellsouth.net

It's amazing how you wrote to Michele Doucette in Newfoundland and she forwarded this message to about a dozen of us, including me in Lafayette about 30 miles away.

We refer to the first Pierre (c. 1715) in your list as Pierre Doucet of Alabama. We have him and his descendants in our genealogy material on our web site: www.doucetfamily.org. I know some persons who have

been working on Pierre's genealogy and they have not been able to find Pierre's parents. Some believe that he comes from a completely different line than those of us from Germain Doucet (c. 1595). But some have said that they heard that only the officers came directly from France and that the soldiers who were in Alabama were from Canada. So there may be a connection to Germain (1595), who arrived in Canada in 1632. Let me know if someone helps you fill in the gaps; this could help a lot of people.

Carol Doucet



AVOIDING CONFUSION: DATA ENTRY MADE SIMPLE

By Erin Rigby

Submitted by: Jacqueline Auclair

A few months ago, a friend of mine handed me her family tree on a disk. At first I was really excited about the project, but then I opened the file. It was a conglomeration of information she downloaded from various web sites and imported into a genealogy program. It was a complete mess. There were major problems throughout the file, but what got on my nerves most was how dates, names, sources, notes, and locations differed from one entry to the next and sometimes within a single entry. There were many times when the way the data was entered into the file made the data worthless. I became increasingly frustrated and spent hours trying to get it into some kind of usable form. I realized that this is a common problem in genealogy, so I have put together some tips for entering your data that will hopefully keep your information easy to interpret and stress-free for you and those who use your work.

Entering a date seems like an easy enough task, but it can be done incorrectly. Generally, it is suggested you write a date as day, month, and then year (e.g. 15 May 1895). Don't use all numbers as this can cause a lot of confusion about whether the date was May fourth or April fifth. Other problems with dates include the Julian calendar, double dating (our ancestors way of dealing with the switch from the Julian to Gregorian calendars), the Quaker calendar, and abbreviations for month names. For more information on all these date related problems see Kip Sperry's excellent article "[Time to Take Note: The 1752 Calendar Change](#)".

Names are essential to genealogy research so it is very important that they are entered into databases correctly. This can be difficult when there are alternate spellings or names for a person. Many people lump those in with the known name of their ancestor so they end up with something like Robert John (Bert) Beard or Barth as their ancestor's name. If you have more than one first or last

name for a person, or a name with different spellings, pick one to have as a primary name. This should be the name that appears most in trustworthy records. The alternate names or spellings should go in your notes. You should also decide how you are going to denote Junior and Senior and other suffixes and prefixes.

The area where I saw the most mistakes on my friend's file was the location name. You should always write out the complete name of the location in the same order: city, county, and then state. State abbreviations aren't a good idea since many of them can be misinterpreted. For example, the abbreviation AK (Alaska) is often interpreted as being for Arkansas (AR). Writing out each name completely will eradicate any confusion.

Another important thing about locations is to use the original name of the location. If you try to look in Marion County and it didn't exist or had different borders at the time your family was in the area and they were actually in Hancock County you aren't going to find much. This is fairly common as borders shifted and places got new names over time. To be accurate, you should put the original name in the entry and any changes and additional information in your notes.

Documentation is crucial. Documenting your research helps you and others find the source you gathered your information from. If someone looking at your research can't find a source you refer to, it won't be of much help to him or her. There are many different acceptable ways to document your research. That is why being consistent is so important. A good resource for those who want to know more about documenting your sources is *Evidence! Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian* by Elizabeth Shown Mills.

This may seem like pretty simple, basic information, but how you enter your information into your genealogy program of choice makes a difference to those who try to use it. Being consistent in how you enter your data is the best and easiest way to combat misinterpretation of your file.

Erin Rigby has a B.A. in Family History/Genealogy from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. Erin specializes in the Southern States and has research experience in the entire country.. She can be contacted at airinjune@yahoo.com.



YOU KNOW YOU'RE A GENEALOGIST WHEN

Submitted by: Michele Doucette

1. Your kids think picnics in cemeteries are normal or that EVERYBODY does it.
2. You're the only person in the bridge/poker club who knows what a Soundex is.
3. "It's only a few miles down the road" means at least 50.
4. Some of your best friends live over 200 miles away.
5. You have more pictures of tombstones than of the kids.
6. "I need to spend just a little more time at the courthouse" means forget the cleaning, washing, dinner, chores; the day is shot.
7. The mailman can't believe that you got this much mail from someone you don't even know.
8. You explain to mother why you can't go 25 miles for Sunday dinner, but can go 100 miles to check out another cemetery.
9. "As soon as I check out this census record, I'll fix dinner" means "call the local pizza parlor."
10. Your neighbors think you are crazy, your friends wonder, and YOU know you are.
11. You can't drive past a cemetery without wondering if your ancestors are buried there.
12. You have to watch the credits of a movie to see if any of the surnames are ones you are Researching.
13. You ask all the people you meet, what their grandparents surnames are.
14. You move to a new town and the first thing you look for is a historical or genealogical society in the area.
15. You go on vacation and beg your spouse to please drive 80 miles out of the way so that you can try and find your granddaddy's grave in 100 degree heat.
16. Youthful fantasies of traveling to exotic places are replaced with plans to get to those little towns with graveyards, or larger towns with Archives!
17. Your fear of snakes and bugs is overshadowed by the need to get through those brambles to that old gravestone.
18. Old friends who knew you before you were into genealogy begin sending clippings about dead or live people with your surnames (and you know you have been talking about genealogy too much)!
19. You worry about the roof's leaking only if the drips threaten your genealogy section.
20. When you can recite all the counties of a Province or State that you've researched but have never lived there.
21. When you find your ancestor's execution by hanging or burning at the stake, far more interesting than the mass-murder that just took place next door.
22. You're not invited to family functions because your relatives are tired of filling out family group sheets.
23. When you read the New Testament in Sunday School and find yourself comparing the pedigrees in Matthew and Luke.