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#### Les Guidry d'Asteur



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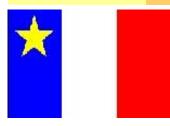
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This issue of "GENERATIONS" contains several interesting articles about the Guedry-Labine family. A truly extraordinary woman, Malvina Labine captured the hearts and votes of the townspeople of Azilda, Ontario to become its reeve. On the opposite end of the continent Edwin Guidry, Sr. and his descendents have had a similar impact on a small rural parish of Louisiana. Their lives hightlight the strengths and accomplishments of our Guedry-Labine family.

#### The Woman Who Can Do Anything-Malvina Menard Labine

In the Winter 2007 edition of "Generations" Claudette Mancini shared with us the inspiring story of her grandmother Malvina Menard Labine. Upon reading Claudette's story, Andre Labine, also a grandchild of Malvina, remembered a 1959 article in Maclean's Magazine about "The Woman Who Can Do Anything". Truly Malvina Labine did do everything – rising from near poverty after her husband's untimely death to become reeve (mayor) of Azilda, Ontario. Her story is truly one of courage in the face of troubled times - a woman with a huge heart and the will to better the lives of her people. The story of Malvina Menard Labine is one of an ordinary woman doing extraordinary things.

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#### The Guidry's of St. John The Baptist Parish, LA

Just west of New Orleans, St. John the Baptist Parish is often overlooked as one travels to Baton Rouge. St. John, however, lies on the German Coast of the Mississippi River and has a rich history. First settled in the early 1700's by German immigrants and later by Acadians moving southeastward, St. John was plantation country – with large homes and sugar cane as the main crop. And among the largest cane planters of St. John Parish were Leon Graugnard and his son-in-law Edwin Joseph Guidry, Sr. As he matured in the sugar cane business, E. J. Guidry gained increasing responsibility in the operations of the family business – eventually assuming full ownership and management of Terre Haute Plantation. His significant contributions to St. John Parish during the twentieth century are widely recognized. Today his descendants are leading the parish into the twenty-first century.

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# DEDICATION OF PLAQUE TO AUGUSTIN GUEDRY AND MARIE JONSON by Marty Guidry

Sunday afternoon, August 12, 2007 at 4:00 pm approximately 100 Guédry descendants met near the cemetery of St. Alphonse Catholic Church in St. Alphonse, Nova Scotia to dedicate a memorial plaque honoring Augustin Guédry and his wife Marie Jonson – founders in 1787 of Chéticamp on St. Mary's Bay in Nova Scotia. This community is known now as St. Alphonse.

Today the numerous descendents of Augustin and Marie are settled principally in St. Alphonse and nearby Meteghan although small numbers can be found throughout Nova Scotia and in the New England states. Few today are called Guédry as the learned priests and scribes of yesteryear transformed the name to Jeddry, Jedry, Jeddrie, Jeddrey, Geddry, Gedry, Gidry, Guidry and other similar phonetic spellings.

As Master of Ceremonies, Albert Geddry of Meteghan welcomed everyone to the ceremonies and then briefly discussed the life of Augustin Guédry, a grandson of Claude Guédry and Marguerite Petitpas and the youngest son of Pierre Guédry and Marguerite Brasseau. Born in 1740 in Acadia, Augustin was only fifteen years old when the Acadian deportations began in 1755. Through cunning, good luck and skill he evaded the British and was not deported - the only Guédry not deported. Helped by the friendly Mi'kmaq, he survived near Merligueche (today Lunenburg) until 1763 when the Treaty of Paris ended the deportations and allowed some Acadians to return to the 'new' Nova Scotia. Augustin emerged from hiding in 1764 and settled at Hobb's Hill near Gilbert's Cove in Digby County where he fished and farmed, married and began a family. As the new English settlers began to encroach near his land, he became uncomfortable and yearned to "escape" the British once again. With all his belongings in a boat he left Hobb's Hill in 1787 for a more isolated area. Making landfall at Bear Cove, he settled about a mile from the seashore near today's St. Alphonse



There he and Marie began anew their life of fishing and farming while raising their growing family. From his humble home near Bear Cove the community of Chéticamp grew as his children matured and had families of their own and as new settlers moved into the area. In 1826 Augustin died near Chéticamp at the age of eighty-six years.

An Acadian with a close connection to the Guédry family through his wife Aurore Geddry, Senator Gerald Comeau described the rich cultural heritage of the Acadians - developed over the past two hundred years. He emphasized the pride that all feel today in being Acadian.

Martin Guidry of Louisiana, representing Les Guidry d'Asteur, thanked the communities of St. Alphonse and Meteghan for welcoming our family to their communities in 2004 during our Guédry-Labine and Petitpas Reunion. Here began the genesis of this plaque and ceremony. Folks attending the Reunion felt a special connection to our cousins in the St. Mary's Bay area and wanted to 'leave behind' a special remembrance of our good times here. Working together with our counterparts in St. Alphonse and Meteghan, we developed the concept of a plaque honoring Augustin Guédry and Marie

Jonson. With funding from Les Guidry d'Asteur and the hard work of several folks from St. Alphonse and Meteghan the plaque was completed – letting us appropriately honor the founders of Chéticamp (St. Alphonse) and commemorate our 2004 Guédry-Labine and Petitpas Reunion.

Bernard (Bernie) Geddry of Arizona, the closest living relative to Augustin Guédry, related several interesting stories about Augustin and his family. Of particular interest to the attendees was Bernie describing his visit to Meteghan in the 1970's when he first learned of his Acadian heritage and his seeing Philippe Geddry's home for the first time. Philippe was Augustin's son and Bernie's great great grandfather. Bernie crawled under the house and observed rough axe markings on the beams – perhaps cut by Philippe or Augustin. The home still stands on Highway 1 between St. Alphonse and Meteghan.

Adding a very special touch to the ceremony was Father Paul Belliveau, pastor of St. Bernard Catholic Church in St. Bernard. Father Belliveau stressed that the hardy spirit and religious strength of Augustin Guédry and the other Acadians returning to Nova Scotia after 1763 played a major role in the survival and the growth of the Acadian communities in Nova Scotia.

With the ceremony concluding Father Abeni d'Entremont, pastor of St. Alphonse Catholic Church led everyone in singing "Ave Maris Stella"- the Acadian national anthem.

Afterwards all walked across Highway 1 to the parish hall to enjoy a nice bowl of chicken fricot and other treats prepared by the parishioners of St. Alphonse. Visiting with our Acadian cousins over a bowl of fricot culminated a wonderful afternoon honoring our ancestors Augustin Guédry and Marie Jonson.



L-Albert Geddry



Above-Bernie Geddry, R-Father Belliveau, Below-Attendees







Generations Volume 5, Issue 3

#### **BON APPETIT** - Recipes from The Guedry-Labine Cookbook

One large chicken/rabbit (some people even use clams or beef) 15-20 lbs. of potatoes
Salt and pepper
3 large onions diced

2 large diced onions (additional)

Cook meat until tender with salt/pepper and 3 large diced onions, remove meat from water and save water. Grate about 10 pounds potatoes, squeeze the water from potatoes (a juicer works nicely for this). Put a cup at a time of the boiling water from the meat into the grated potatoes and stir fast (this cooks the potatoes). Put the 2 large diced onions, uncooked, into the potatoes and stir, then put meat into the potatoes and stir, salt and pepper to taste. Place in a buttered roast pan to 2 inches from top. (Optional to put a few slices of bacon or salt pork on top to give it that nice crust)

Put in oven at 350 F for about 3 hours, then 400 F for approx. 1 hour to get the nice crust. Enjoy.

# RAPPIE PIE - Vawn Jeddry Alberta, Canada



There is an old saying that the English put butter on their Rappie Pie and the French put molasses on top when cooked, and that was to distinguished the difference between the two.

I got this recipe from a Belliveau woman in New Brunswick, CA.
- Vawn Jeddry

#### PERSIMMON CAKE - From Charlene Guidry Lacombe, Jennings, LA



- 3 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 tsp. soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 1/2 cups of persimmon pulp
- 1 cup oil
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup pecans

Mix together everything and pour in greased bundt pan or two loaf pans. Bake at 350 F for 35 minutes, check with toothpick or knife to make sure it's done. At 65, after bearing 20 children, "Grannie" Labine is reeve of a flourishing Ontario township. This doesn't country eaters, dig ditches and run a farm. They call her

# The woman who can do anything



With reeve-like dignity, Malvina Labine strides through her bailiwick near Sudbury. Her election ousted the former principal of a school where she'd once been janitor.



For her houseful of hearty young eaters, Mme. Labine buys bread 400 loaves at a time and stores it in her freezer.

# By Dorothy Sangster PHOTOGRAPHS BY HORST EHRICHT

December 2, 1958, found the nickelmining city of Sudbury, in northern Ontario, in the paralyzing grip of a strike. Christmas was coming but nobody had any money. Almost eight thousand miners had been idle for more than two months and settlement seemed as far off as ever. In desperation, a motorcade of a hundred and fifty cars was heading for Toronto, where union spokesmen would discuss the critical situation with Premier Leslie Frost.

Yet the most eye-catching item on page one of the Sudbury Star that day had nothing to do with the strike. It was a large picture of a sixty-five-year-old French-Canadian grandmother named Malvina Labine, who had just been elected reeve of adjacent Rayside Township.

"Widow Scores Upset," the caption said, and there she sat, looking as if there was nothing odd in a grey-haired farm woman with only grade-school education defeating the forty-one-year-old incumbent reeve, who had once been principal of the school where she had worked as janitor.

If Malvina Labine was not overly surprised by her victory, neither was anybody else up her way, where she is often referred to as The Woman Who Can Do Anything. Since her husband died eighteen years ago, she has looked after sixteen children, successfully run a farm and market garden, kept a dairy herd, dug ditches, built two houses, taken an active role in church affairs, cared for a dozen foster children, and cooked sitdown dinners for as many as six hundred people at a time. Last November, when she announced her intention to run for reeve, her admirers figured she was as good as in.

One morning not long after her election victory, I taxied eight miles out of Sudbury to interview Madame Labine in Azilda, the hamlet where she lives. Her house was the square brick one on a raised foundation, right next to the Catholic church. The door was opened by the new reeve herself, who greeted me in English (a language she'd learned in childhood from her English-speaking cousins) and suggested I make myself comfortable on the chesterfield while

## surprise her constituents, who've watched her build houses, cook for 600

Township affairs are conducted by telephone, while 15-year-old foster daughter Gloria waits by Grannie's rocker.



From a parlor chair, she dispenses love, justice, first aid. Ron, youngest foster child, has a cut lip.

she lowered herself into a rocking chair and reached for her knitting.

"Everybody calls me Grannie," she said. In a corner of the big living room a little boy with soft brown eyes, too young to go to school, was playing with some tin soldiers. This was the youngest of the eight foster children (some sent to her privately, some by the Children's Aid Society) currently being boarded in the Labine household. In the adjoining kitchen, Madame's unmarried daughter Germaine was busy at the stove, for the other children would soon be home for lunch.

As I took in the scrubbed kitchen floor and the blue oilcloth on the table, Grannie Labine gave me the first clue to her character: She is a plain woman and likes plain things.

"The more you have, the more you have to look after," is her philosophy.

She told me, "Back in 1913 I bought myself a nice muskrat coat for sixty-nine dollars and getting out of the buggy at Mass one Sunday I tripped and fell in the mud. I guess it served me right for my vanity. Now I'm not so vain about my appearance. I don't envy anybody their fancy clothes

and twenty-dollar hats. I have a neck like a turkey and I weigh two hundred and twenty pounds. I could live for quite a while on my fat, so if I have a few cents it's better if I give them to the poor."

According to what I'd already heard, that is exactly what she does. If anyone's sick. Grannie Labine's in there helping; if anybody needs something, she brings it. When the miner who rented a farmhouse she owns went on strike and couldn't pay his rent, she told him to forget it until he was working again. As the strike persisted and townsfolk began to suffer, she quietly despatched cases of canned goods, children's shoes, strained baby food.

One of her daughters had told me, "Mother never buys anything for herself." But Madame Labine scoffed: "Nonsense! Just last summer I paid a hundred and sixty dollars for some stainless-steel pots for my banquets! You know I make banquets? From Palm Sunday to October I catered for sixteen affairs. The one on Palm Sunday was a sit-down dinner for six hundred people in aid of the church in Chelmsford. I bought fourteen turkeys and ninety pounds of ham for that one, continued on page 54



Family affairs are conducted after a hearty lunch. "Growing children must eat well," says Mme. Labine.

The new reeve is never too busy for a moment's play.



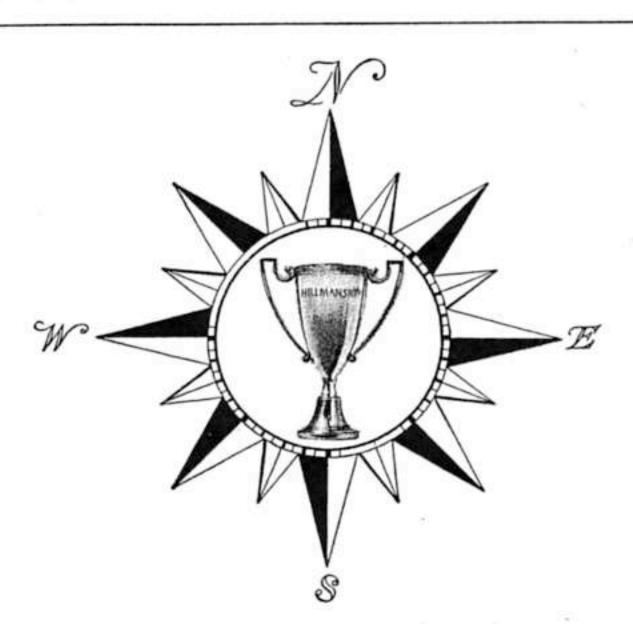


## "When her husband was in the lumber camps, she was a farmer. One year she made \$1,240."

and carrots and corn and peas, and we made homemade beans, and bought icecream roll for dessert. The women in the parish cooked the turkeys and I spent a whole day slicing them. Then I prepared two banquets for the church in Espanola, and three ordination dinners, and a picnic for my own church, and twice in the summer I catered for wedding banquets three days in a row."

The telephone rang and she excused herself to answer it. One of her friends, it appeared, was ready to buy half a calf if she would buy the other half.

Back in her rocking chair again, Madame Labine gave me character clue No. 2: She is a good provider and fortunate are her foster children.



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She was saying, "Last winter I bought a five-hundred-and-twenty-six-pound cow and some pork and it was gone in seven months. We have two hundred and thirty pounds of veal in my big freezer right now. I buy a hundred pounds of beans at one time, and twenty pounds of shortening, and thirty pounds of peanut butter, and a dozen cases of corn and tomato juice and tomato soup (I make my own pea soup) and four hundred loaves of bread. I fill the freezer with bread and sell the remaining loaves to my neighbors at three for twenty-nine cents, the same price they cost me. The children drink four quarts of milk a day. Their favorite foods are spaghetti and cabbage rolls and home-baked beans with a chunk of fat pork in them for flavor. It's important that growing children should eat well."

Even as she spoke, seven healthy-looking youngsters trooped in the side door, removed their snowy overcoats, washed their hands at the sink, nodded a polite hello in our direction, and jostled into place at the table, where Germaine was ladling out a rich beef stew.

Listening to their chatter, Madame Labine said thoughtfully, "I don't know what gets into people to give their children away. I wouldn't have done that. Germaine and I never leave these children alone. They're good children, and we're willing to work hard to see they don't go astray."

#### A queen and her family

According to those who know her best, Malvina Menard has always worked hard. She was thirteen when she left home to work as a nursemaid in Sudbury and nineteen when she married a young blacksmith named Joseph Labine. They settled down in a small shack on a few acres of flat farmland, twelve miles from Azilda, in Rayside County. In the next twenty-nine years she gave birth to twenty babies. Four died in their infancy. Six sons (Romeo, Gerrard, Robert, Leo-Paul, Raymond and Bernard) and ten daughters (Yvonne, Germaine, Lucienne, Aline, Laurette, Lorraine, Adrienne, Jeanne, Thérèse and Claire) still survive.

Too many children? She never thought so.

"When I went to Mass on Sunday with all of them walking behind me, I felt like a queen," she says.

She didn't have a queen's life. During six months of the year when her husband was off in the lumber camps, she was the family farmer. Each spring, she sowed a garden of one acre that she could hoe herself. One year she made \$1,240 profit from its produce. She milked cows, baked bread, lugged buckets of water up the hill, heated them in big boilers on a wood stove and gave every child a Saturday-night bath. Twice a week in summer she climbed out of bed at 3 a.m. and worked in the cucumber patch till dawn, an old oat bag tied around her waist. (When it was full, by her reckoning, it was a bushel.) Then she piled fruit and vegetables and eggs into her rickety old truck and headed for the Sudbury market. Whoever arrived first got the best vendor's stall, next to the butcher. She always arrived first.

Joseph Labine was a good man, but cautious. For years he saved lumber to build a house, but then he decided to build a barn for his eight horses and cows instead. The house would come next, he promised.

That was how things stood one morning in 1941 when he set off for the market. Madame Labine stayed home that day with her new baby (as she puts it in her colorful English, "When you have your twentieth child you don't come out of bed like a cork pops out of water!"). Her friend, Madame Sara Trothier, recalls bumping into Joseph Labine as he emerged from the market cafeteria at noon. He was a big, jovial man who weighed two hundred and eighty-six pounds and enjoyed his food. He told Madame Trothier, "Well, if I die today at least I had a good meal!" Two hours later he dropped dead of a heart attack.

Malvina Labine thus became a widow at forty-seven, with nine children under sixteen to support, and nothing but debts. The shack was so old that snow came in the windows. The children crowded around the stove hoping to warm themselves for the long march to school, but what heat the stove gave out the draughts along the floor dissipated.

Another woman might have called it quits, but not Madame Labine. She traded five of the horses as down payment on a tractor and scrapped the old jalopy with the dangerous brakes for a new truck, payments to be carried by her three oldest sons who had just found work in the mines.

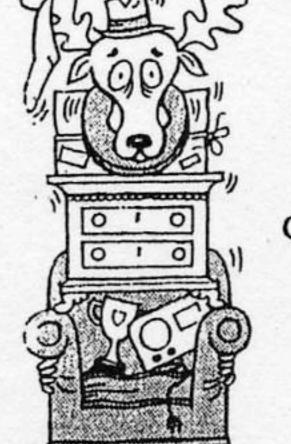
Then she turned her attention to the house.

Her daughter Laurette recalls the day her mother called the family together and told them, "Tomorrow I'm bringing the stuff to market and I'm going to see Monsieur Labarge (the lumber dealer). Watch for me when I come back. If I've made a deal, I'll toot the horn and that means we'll tear down the old house and build a new one."

"We waited and we heard the horn," Laurette says. "Fifteen minutes later the chimney was down. I still don't know how it was done."

Madame Labine was determined to have a good basement, so the boys got explosives and blasted away enough rocky terrain to build a cement foundation. The school board gave permission for the three oldest girls to stay home and help'their mother build the house. A carpenter brother-in-law donated services and advice for fifty-five days at five dollars a day, but it was Malvina Labine who directed operations and did most of the heavy work, sawing lumber, hoisting two-by-fours, pounding in nails, laying hardwood floors.

The only time she slipped up was when she put hot lime instead of hydrated



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lime in the shavings for insulation, with the result that when it rained the house caught fire. Her son Gerrard, now a garage owner in Sudbury, says, "We were all sleeping in the grain shed and I had to take the alarm clock to bed with me and wake up every hour to make sure the house wasn't on fire. One morning I didn't wake up until 10 o'clock, and five men with fire hoses were fighting the flames. We had to take the boards off and let the lime out."

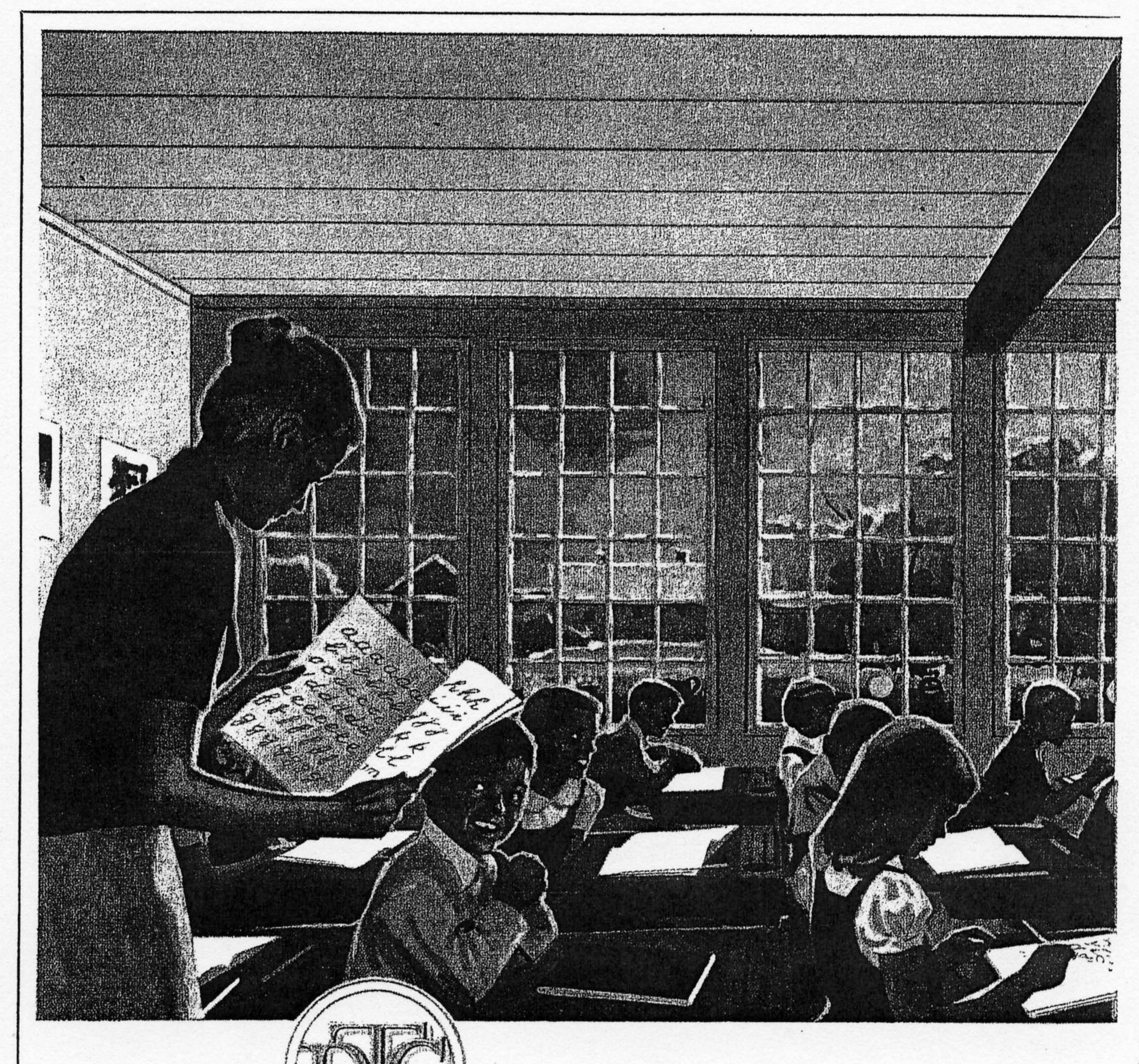
By the end of September, they had moved into the house, but it wasn't until

late November that they got the brick siding on. Since they had no more money, the house stayed unfinished inside until the following summer, when the whole family picked potatoes for their neighbors and spent their wages on paint. Then, as the girls crack-filled the Gyproc and enameled the four upstairs bedrooms, Madame Labine rolled up her sleeves and skilfully papered the downstairs. The only job beyond her was the construction of an outdoor steambath where the children could scrub up after a day in the fields. A

Scandinavian workman built her one for seventy-five dollars.

Now that she was a widow, she worked harder than ever. She pressed hay, threshed grain, picked potatoes, hoed her one-acre garden, cooked meals, sewed, and knitted warm winter clothes. Once she and Germaine earned fifty-five dollars helping workmen install a heavy culvert, and when a janitor was needed for the new school Madame Labine applied and got the job.

"It wasn't human the work my mother did!" marvels her daughter Adrienne.



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She knew a spot where succulent raspberries grew, and she'd pick them at night and start selling at dawn. By 9 a.m. they'd be gone, and Leo-Paul would be despatched home to the berry patch where his sisters were gathering a second load. One summer they made two hundred dollars on black currants alone.

When it came to training her children, Madame Labine enforced strict rules. The young Labines were expected to attend church, pray devoutly, make themselves useful, help one another, and do what they were told without argument.

If a child carelessly tore his clothes, he was made to sit down and mend them. If he misbehaved, he was punished at once. She discouraged her sons from smoking, but when she discovered them in the barn passing around cigarettes she invited them into the house. Her daughters were brought up to believe that smoking and drinking were for men only.

"I'm lucky in my children," Madame Labine says. "All my daughters are good girls, and my married sons, thank God, are crazy about their wives." Her children recall that she never showed favoritism. When eleven of them married in seven years she gave each one the same send-off: a big celebration with turkey and vegetables and pickles and pies and ice cream. After an early nuptial Mass the wedding party would return to the big farmhouse for breakfast, then off to the photographer's for the wedding portraits, then home again for another bite to eat, and then the long afternoon filled with dancing and joking and singing, leading up to the big dinner laid out on the best tablecloth

and centred by the towering bride's cake. With mother at the piano and Leo-Paul or Gerrard on violin, and Jeanne on guitar, and Romeo on clarinet or sax—for they were all natural musicians and had accumulated an assortment of second-hand instruments over the years—they had no need to hire an orchestra.

Almost before she realized it, all her children except Germaine and young Bernard were married and gone. The big farmhouse seemed empty and meaningless. That's when she decided to take in foster children.

Daniel Fenny, executive director of the Sudbury Children's Aid Society, says "This is a family-loving community and plenty of middle-aged women apply for foster children when their own families are grown up and married."

What made Madame Labine's case unusual was that she applied for four at once. Two months after her youngest daughter's wedding she had installed a family of two brothers and two sisters in her home; six months after that she had found room for four others. It was almost like having her own children back again.

Over the years, the Children's Aid Society has had the best of relations with Madame Labine, whom they regard as a warm, understanding person with a lot of common sense. A case worker who has known her for ten years says, "She got around thirty dollars a month for each child in her care, but she was never in it-for the money. Whenever I had a problem child I thought immediately of her. She was a real grandmother type, the kind that gives kids little bits of dough when she bakes. I remember when one troubled little boy confided that he'd never gone fishing, she bought him a fine new rod and delegated one of the older lads to take him down to the creek. When a little girl set her heart on a winter coat that cost more than the budget provided, she chipped in four dollars from her own purse. She kept in touch with their teachers, and checked on their homework, and Saturdays she'd pack them into the truck and take them to a Bingo or a church picnic. Sunday morning saw



THE LUXURY WHISKY AT A POPULAR PRICE-IN THE NEW DECANTER

# IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Quebec editor Ken Lefolii
blends his colorful
prose with some striking
full-color photographs
to tell the story of

# MOUNT ROYAL'S VALIANT STAND AGAINST PROGRESS

How one of our best-known
and best-loved
landmarks has withstood the
invasions of time
and traffic—though it
splits our biggest city up
the middle

ON THE NEWSSTANDS MARCH 17 them all lined up for Communion. It's considerable training for a Catholic child to live in her home."

The Church has always loomed large in Grannie Labine's life. On its behalf, she has sold raffle tickets, organized bazaars, arranged Bingo games, cooked innumerable dinners. For six years she was president of the local Catholic women's organization, and she spearheaded the drive for funds for a new rectory.

The only time her children ever saw her cry was when one daughter wrote home that she was marrying a Protestant. Finally Madame Labine dried her tears and decided to leave it to the Blessed Virgin, to whom she has great devotion. She organized the whole family in a round of prayers and novenas, and after a year they received word that the son-in-law had become a convert!

For years, Madame Labine's dearest wish has been to go to Rome and see the Pope. Last spring, she had saved up \$2,200, but she decided to pay off the mortgage on her house in Azilda instead. "I felt more comfortable that way," she explains.

Until last November, she had no political aspirations, although she had spent all her life in Azilda and was thoroughly acquainted with township affairs.

# She throws clean dirt

To realize what she stepped into, it is necessary to know something of Rayside, a township of thirty-six square miles, northwest of Sudbury, of which Azilda is the hub. Ten years ago a farming community, today Rayside is practically a suburb of the city. In six years its population has jumped from 1,460 to 3,790, and its interests are reflected in such Sudbury Star news stories as: Azilda Passes Curfew Law for Children, Wild Fowl Sanctuary Considered for Azilda, Dog Sled Derby Coming to Azilda, St. Jean Baptiste Day Celebrated with 25 Floats in Azilda, Volunteers raise \$15,000 for New Azilda School, Fire Brigade Organized for Azilda, and Principal of Bilingual School in Azilda Denies English Pupils Taught Prayers in French.

Over this colorful community, until Grannie Labine came along, presided Tyne Castonguay, onetime school principal who has lately devoted his talents to running a patent-medicine business.

When she was asked to run against Castonguay for reeve, Madame Labine thought it was a huge joke. But, after consideration, she consented.

"Some people throw an awful lot of dirt at other people when they get into politics. Some day they'll get it all back on their own heads, but it won't be from me. I intend to fight a clean fight," she told her cheering supporters.

Nevertheless, dirt-good clean dirt, that is-played its part in her campaign. Culverts and ditches are important issues in the country, and last year Grannie Labine built her own culvert and braced it with muck from the smelters at Copper Cliff at fourteen dollars a load. When people stopped to stare and ask "Why are you doing this hard work yourself?" she told them characteristically, "I am doing it myself so I will know how to do it." Later, a road gang widened Azilda ditches and propped up her displaced culvert with light dusty sand at five dollars a load. Grannie Labine was furious. "Muck costs more, but it stays where you put it," she told reporters, and at least one newspaper story was headed, More Muck in Ditches if Azilda Widow Wins.

Election night found Madame Labine setting out sandwiches and cakes and

doughnuts and coffee in the town hall for campaign workers of both sides, at her own expense. "Win or lose, I'll have a party," she had sworn. An unprecedented turnout of women voters swung the tide her way on the last poll and when the defeated Castonguay shook her hand and told the press "Madame Labine is a fine lady whom I've always admired" she learned she was the new reeve by a majority of sixty-eight votes.

An hour later, in line with French-Canadian 'custom, bonfires were burning in front of the homes of the defeated candidates for council. The biggest blaze of all illuminated the front of Tyne Castonguay's Patent Medicine and Confectionery Store.

Now that she's reeve, Malvina Labine has her work cut out for her. There are trees and flowers to be planted in the civic centre, gravel to go on the shore of a nearby swimming hole, amalgamation with neighboring townships to discuss, roads to improve and, above all, people to be helped.

How she'll do it remains to be seen. Her admirers have no doubts. Dan Fenny of the Children's Aid Society says, "She'll be more concerned about people than about the budget" and Philippe Lefèbvre, the butcher who worked alongside her at the market for thirty-six years, says, "She's going to be the best reeve Rayside ever had." Townspeople testify to her honesty and good intentions. But the supreme accolade comes from her son Gerrard.

"Mama can do anything," he says proudly. "I predict she'll improve the whole township and take the taxes down too."



#### GUEDRY-LABINE & PETITPAS MINI-REUNION ACADIAN VILLAGE AT LAFAYETTE, LA by Marty Guidry

On Saturday, October 13, 2007 approximately fifty Guidry and Petitpas cousins from Louisiana and Texas gathered at the old Stutes Store in Acadian Village, Lafayette, LA to renew friendships, meet new relatives and share our family history.

On arriving at 10:00 am each person grabbed a cup of Louisiana coffee and began studying the several displays setup by various family members. Among the displays were two computers displaying Guidry genealogy, a large map describing the worldwide dispersion of the



Guidry family during the period 1755-1800, several volumes honoring our Guidry-Labine ancestors who have served in their country's military, copies of published articles and old documents about the Guedry-Labine and Petitpas families and two superb photographic displays of the Guidry family.

Within a few minutes several small groups were seen at various tables poring over family genealogy and discussing their mutual history. Some blanks were filled in, lots of questions asked and contacts made to continue their mutual work on the family.

Others ventured outside to see the extensive Guidry agricultural equipment on permanent display at Acadian Village. Les Guidry d'Asteur member John Guidry of Metairie, LA loaned the agricultural implements of his father to Acadian Village for the enjoyment of all visiting the area. John's father used this equipment for many years on his Church Point, LA farm. During the Mini-Reunion John and his son Lance described the implements and their uses to all visiting the very informative display.

At noon po-boy fixings were spread on the buffet table along with various soft drinks and cookies. It wasn't long before someone discovered the spread and a line formed. After filling our plates, we all enjoyed a pleasant meal together – discussing our family as recorded music by Guidry and Labine musicians filled the air.



John Guidry demonstrating family farm equipment on loan to the Acadian Village.

Generations Volume 5, Issue 3

# GUEDRY-LABINE & PETITPAS MINI-REUNION ACADIAN VILLAGE AT LAFAYETTE, LA - continued

After lunch folks continued discussing their genealogy with family members, viewing the interesting displays and enjoying the old homes and buildings of Acadian Village. One person even discovered an old death certificate of Lessin Guidry hanging on the wall of one of the historic Acadian Village homes. And on view in the old Stutes Store was an authentic Acadian diatonic accordion built by Paul Guidry of Carencro, LA.

Of particular interest to attendees was the boyhood home of Dudley LeBlanc, Louisiana state senator, early Acadian historian and inventor of the elixir Hadacol. Items in the home included a history of Hadacol with examples of this historic cure-all and an extensive collection of early Cajun music. Also, catching the eye of many was the Aurelie Bernard House which contained several large paintings by Robert Dafford describing the dispersion of the Acadians around the world and their arrival in Louisiana.



Attendees viewing displays on the Guidry family



Chuck Guidry discussing genealogy with attendees



John Guidry & family members enjoying lunch

As the four o'clock hour approached, cousins said their good-byes, exchanged contact information and departed Acadian Village with new information, new friends and great memories.

Whoever said "Seek and Ye Shall Find" was NOT a genealogist!

## PRECIOUS GEMS FROM FADED MEMORIES:

A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH



BY GERALD J. KELLER Ph.D. LISA KELLER-WATSON DARROCH WATSON



LEON GRAUGNARD FAMILY (Left to Right) Leon Graugnard, son Emile, dtr. Marie (Nancy), dtr. Eva, Mrs. Leon Graugnard, son Fernand Adam. Both sons are in uniform of Jefferson College, Convent.

#### TERRE HAUTE (High Grounds) PLANTATION LEON GRAUGNARD AND EDWIN JOSEPH (E.J.) GUIDRY, SR.

Plantation Owner and Dairyman

A pioneer in the sugar industry, Leon Graugnard was one of the Barcelonnet Valley men who settled in St. John the Baptist Parish. One of seven children of Jean Joseph Graugnard and Angelique Caire, Leon Graugnard was born on February 1, 1855 in the tiny Alpine village of Faucon, France. At the age of 16, Leon Graugnard came to America and went to work on the sugar cane plantation of Jean Teissier, an earlier arrival from the Barcelonnette Valley. Soon, Mr. Auguste Servell, another native of France established in St. James Parish encouraged young Leon to better himself by starting in business as a peddler and advanced Leon Graugnard enough money to begin his enterprise with the purchase of two mules, a cart, and a stock of merchandise. He sold fabrics and other sewing essentials and was very successful in this venture.

Within five years, in 1876, he was able to form a general merchandise partnership with Firmin Maurin, under the firm name of Maurin and Graugnard. The business thrived and in 1880 the business expanded and was moved to a new location in lower Reserve.

On April 19, 1882, at the St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans, Leon Graugnard married Marie Eve Bacas, a daughter of Anatole Joseph Bacas and Marie Madeline Celeste Conrad. Of the six children born to this couple, three died in infancy. A fourth child, a son died one month following his 19th birthday. Only two children, son Emile and daughter Eve, lived to maturity. Eve was educated at St. Joseph's Academy in New Orleans and

would marry Edwin Joseph (E.J.) Guidry, Sr. on September 22, 1914. Emile married Azelie Eleonore Breaud on February 6, 1922 and would raise seven children. The son of Philemon Guidry III and Marie Adele Porrier, E. J. Guidry Sr. was born in St. James, Louisiana on September 4, 1890. He was educated at Jefferson



Wedding Picture of Edwin J. Guidry, Sr. and Eve Graugnard

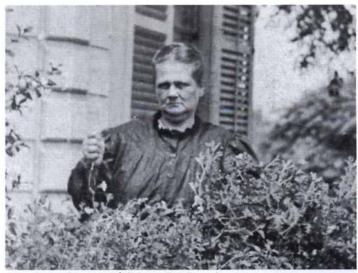
College in Convent, Louisiana. The Guidrys had twelve children—Sister Celeste, Inez, Edwin, Jr., Marion, Leon, James, Manual, Lionel, Albert, Francis, John, and Theresa. In 1913, E.J. Guidry, Sr. went to work for the New Orleans and Great Northern Railroad near Tylertown, Mississippi.



In 1892, after twelve years in the general merchandise business with Firmin Maurin, Leon Graugnard sold his interest to his partner and established the Four Seasons Store on the upper end of St. John's east bank. The following year, on January 27, 1893, Leon Graugnard bought the 785 acre Glencoe Plantation from Mrs. Felicie Perilloux Reine and Mr. Paul N. Bossier for \$11,000. He cultivated red sugar cane on 275 acres of the property until April 4, 1901 when he sold Glencoe to a representative of the Lyon Lumber Company for \$14,500. The Lyon Lumber Company operation, as well as a large portion of the town, which later became Garyville, were situated on the land which was once Glencoe. After the sale of Glencoe, the Graugnard family moved to New Orleans, where Leon Graugnard, along with Firmin Reynaud had an interest in the Clerc Wholesale Grocery. When the business proved unsatisfactory, both partners disposed of their interest in 1904.

Meanwhile Leon Graugnard purchased river front land from the San Francisco Plantation and the Doherty Family. On this land, he built a large general merchandise store and a house a short distance down-river from the San Francisco Plantation House. In later years, the house and store were painted dark green and became known as "The Englade Store and House." The Englade Family were long-time occupants of the property until it was sold to the Inger Oil Company, predecessor of Marathon Petroleum Company.

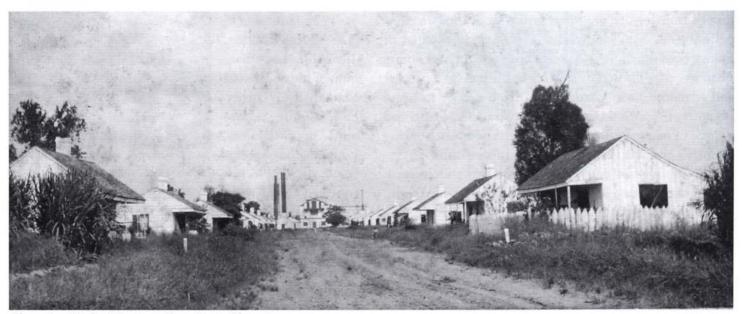
On February 3, 1905, the Firmin Reynaud-Leon Graugnard partnership bought Terre Haute Plantation



Mrs. Leon Graugnard (Marie Eve Bacas)

from Catherine Davis Trenton, widow of John Cofield and wife of James Webster. The purchase price was \$100,000. In 1910, the partnership also bought the 600 acres Lilly Plantation in Convent, Louisiana. Sugar cane was grown on both plantations and the larger Terre Haute sugar mill ground not only the sugar cane from Terre Haute and Lilly, but also cane grown by surrounding sugar cane farms. Graugnard's son-in-law, E.J. Guidry, Sr. returned to St. John the Baptist Parish in 1915 and became the overseer at the Lilly Plantation sugar cane operation in Convent. As on other plantations of the era, workers had cabins and were paid in tokens, which were redeemed in the community store located on the plantation.

In 1922, the Reynaud family sold their undivided half interest in Terre Haute Plantation to Leon Graugnard in



Plantation Worker Houses on Terre Haute Plantation



exchange for full interest in Lilly Plantation plus \$65,000. The Guidrys moved from Lilly to the Terre Haute Plantation where Mr. Guidry would assume co-responsibility for operation of the plantation, and Leon Guidry, Jr. would be the first Guidry child to be born after the Guidrys had moved to the Terre Haute plantation.

Following his wife's death in 1929, Leon Graugnard had two marble statues of St. Peter imported from Italy and inscribed in his wife's memory. One statue was place on the exterior of St. Peter Church and the other on St. Peter School, where they remain until this day. The Guidrys and Graugnards and others were very instrumental in working with Monsignor Eyraud in getting a Catholic school for the community—St. Peter School. Sixty-seven years after leaving his homeland thousands of miles away, Leon Graugnard, the little Shepard from Faucon in the Barcolonnette Valley of France died at the age of 83 on December 26, 1938. He was laid to rest in the family tomb in St. Peter Cemetery in Reserve.

By 1944, E.J. Guidry and his wife, Eva Graunard Guidry had assumed full ownership and management of the Terre Haute Plantation. Besides the sugar cane operation and operation of the Terre Haute Company Store, E.J. Guidry, Sr. also managed the Sunnyside Dairy on the property from 1930 through World War II. The dairy had 65 cows and delivered milk throughout Reserve from the plantation to Our Lady of Grace. Milk was sold for eight cents at the plantation store and was sold for ten cents on home deliveries. Milk was also delivered to LaPlace, Norco, and Good Hope. Guidry utilized cap-



Wedding Picture of Francis Guidry and Gertrude Rome

tured German soldiers to assist with cane cultivation and cutting during World War II. E.J. Guidry, Sr. was an active member of St. Peter's Council No. 3436, Knights of Columbus and frequently attended the laymen's retreat at Manresa House in Convent.

Through the years, the Guidry family has made major contributions to St. John Parish. All were active members of the St. Peter Church and St. Peter School. Following the death of E.J. Guidry, Sr. on December 6, 1949, two of his sons continued the sugar cane growing operation of the plantation--Edwin Guidry,



Edwin J. "Fils" Guidry, Jr. and daughter, Claire

Jr. and Francis Guidry. Francis Guidry would marry Gertrude Rome and they had ten children—Michelle, Francis, Jr., E.J. Guidry, III, Steven, David, Chris, Greg, Fran, Barry, and Leon Guidry. Francis also served on the St. Peter School Board and was elected to the St. John the Baptist Parish (Public) School Board.

In 1973, Marathon Petroleum Company assumed possession of the refining operation on the former Terre Haute land, and Cargill purchased 622 acres from Terre Haute's remaining acreage for the construction of their grain elevator in Reserve. To meet the region's growing industrial needs, the Guidrys started Highlanders Fabrication, a maintenance and pipe fabrication company in Reserve.

A third generation of Guidrys have continued their business enterprises in St. John the Baptist Parish into this early part of the 21st century. Steven Guidry manages Guidry Industries, a tree cutting, lawn service grass cutting operation. The brothers also formed Gen-G Corporation, a real estate and land development company. Chris Guidry served as an aid to U.S. Representative Clyde C. Holloway and worked with Parish President Nickie Monica as his chief administrative officer. Currently, Chris Guidry manages Guidry Associates, LLC. Commander Greg Guidry is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and is an aviator on the aircraft carrier, U.S. John C. Stennis.



#### CARAQUET-Capitale de l'Acadie



For information on travel accommodations, events and attractions visit: http://www.ville.caraquet.nb.ca/

Caraquet is situated on the shore of the Chaleur Bay in the Acadian Penisula, its name is derived from the Micmac term for 'meeting of two rivers'. The Caraquet River and Riviere du Nord flow into the bay west of the town.

Caraquet was first settled in 1757 after Acadians, led by Alexis Landry, moved there after being expelled from southern New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in the Expulsion of the Acadians. The original town site is now called Sainte-Anne-du-Bocage. Land was officially granted for the town in 1774.

The town still calls itself the unofficial capital of Acadia, and as such hosts the annual Acadian Festival in August.



#### The National Archives of Quebec

This is the official website for the Quebec National Archives. It provides an excellent overview of the archival collection and some virtual expositions. There are no images of original records at this time.

http://www.townshipsheritage.com/Eng/Articles/Research/archives.html

#### The National Archives

This is the official website for the U. S. National Archives. The site primarily describes the holdings of the U. S. National Archives. Click on the Genealogists/Family Historians button for an overview of genealogical holdings. There are also a publications store and an online ordering service for records. Images of original records are found under the Access to Archival Databases (AAD) button.

http://www.archives.gov/

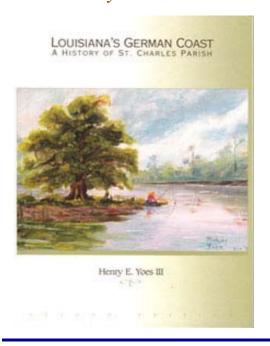
#### **The Louisiana State Archives**

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

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

### **Book Nook**

#### LOUISIANA'S GERMAN COAST A History of St. Charles Parish by Harry E. Yoes III



St. Charles Parish was one of the earliest settlements in Louisiana when French plantations began around 1719. Shortly thereafter, German settlers destined to settle in Arkansas as part of John Law's Louisiana concession were persuaded to settle in the parish, located two parishes upriver on the Mississippi from New Orleans. The Germans eventually expanded to the Second German Coast, which was later to be called St. John Parish.

These early German planters largely fed New Orleans during the 1700s and were a large part in the Rebellion of 1768 to overthrow Spanish rule. Later, in 1811, the largest slave insurrection in the United States ended in St. Charles Parish. Three of its most famous plantations still standing are Destrehan, Ormond and Home Place, the former two opened to visitors. Later the parish became the site of numerous oil and chemical refineries and is one of the most industrialized parishes in Louisiana.

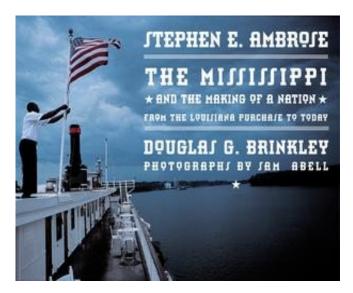
'The book <u>Louisiana's German Coast: A History of St. Charles</u>

Parish is an update of <u>A History of St. Charles Parish to 1973</u> written by the same author, Henry E. "Gene" Yoes III, a former associate editor of the St. Charles Herald which was founded by ex Governor Michael Hahn in 1873.

Stephen E. Ambrose, renowned author of Undaunted Courage, historian Douglas G. Brinkley, author of The Unfinished Presidency, and award-winning National Geographic photographer Sam Abell traveled the entire length of the Mississippi—from its mouth at Delacroix Island, Louisiana, to its source at Itasca, Minnesota—to bring readers the full, rich history of America's great river. In 11 chapters, each covering a length of the river, readers will witness the early explorations of DeSoto and the momentous signing of the Louisiana Purchase; they will meet Jim Bowie, Ulysses S. Grant, and Robert Johnson; they will relive the Civil War and the Great Flood, the Underground Railroad and the Trail of Tears; and they will discover the immense impact of the Mississippi on American arts, from the birth of the Blues to the literature of Mark Twain and T.S. Eliot.

To expand the book's visual dimension, each chapter of <u>The Mississippi And The Making Of A Nation</u> is illustrated with period paintings, lithographs, artifacts, and maps, and features unique photographic essays by Sam Abell.

# THE MISSISSIPPI \* AND THE MAKING OF A NATION By Stephen E. Ambrose



The result is a lively, comprehensive, and beautiful work that panoramically explores and celebrates the American icon that is the Mighty Mississippi as it celebrates America itself.

#### Book Nook - continued

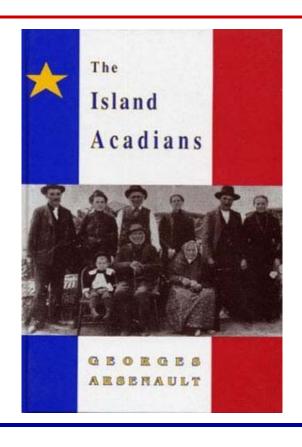
#### THE ISLAND ACADIANS 1720-1980

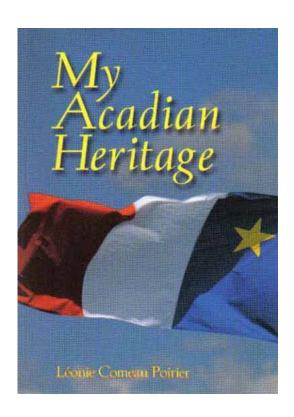
By Georges Arsenault

<u>The Island Acadians</u> is a history of the Acadians on Prince Edward Island and their importance not only within their own community and province, but also regionally and nationally.

In five chapters: Under the French Regime, the First Century After Expulsion, Period of Transition, Successful Initiatives and Post-War Period, this historical book traces the early Acadians of Prince Edward Island from the community's founding through the 1980's. It is a valuable resource for anyone with roots to Canada or PEI.

<u>The Island Acadians</u> is a work of cultural preservation - breaking new ground in establishing the importance of the PEI Acadians.





#### MY ACADIAN HERITAGE By Leonie Comeau

In <u>My Acadian Heritage</u>, the author, Leonie Comeau Poirier, vividly describes, with many amusing anecdotes, life in earlier years in St. Mary's Bay, Nova Scotia, an Acadian community. While the old ways have largely disappeared, the spirit of the Acadians is enduring and is seen in their attitude, language, and distinctive cuisine. Poirier gets to the heart of their very spirit.

#### Les Guidry d'Asteur

#### Share your ideas for the Newsletter

#### Contact:

Marty Guidry 6139 North Shore Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70817

225-755-1915 guidryrm@cox.net 'GENERATIONS' newsletter is now in its fifth year. We hope to provide our readers with an interesting, informative and entertaining newsletter. Your input is always welcome and we look forward to another year of sharing family history and news with you.

The Guedry-Labine Family Newsletter, GENERATIONS, serves as a focal point for family members to share and learn about us. To submit your ideas, articles or comments, please contact:

Allie Guidry txguidry2000@yahoo.com

Marty Guidry guidryrm@cox.net

# Les Guidry d'Asteur Officers and Committees

#### **OFFICERS:**

President - Martin Guidry (LA)
Vice-President - Warren Guidry (TX)
Secretary - Billy Harrell Guidry (LA)
Treasurer - Daniel "Chuck" Guidry (LA)

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CAFA Board Member - Jeanette Guidry Leger (LA)

#### Les Guidry d'Asteur Membership Application (Formulaire d'adhésion)

Name (Nom)							
Last	(Nom de famille)	First	(Prénom)		Middle (Deuxi	ème prénom)	
Spouse (Épouse)							
	Maiden (Nom de	jeune fille)	First (Prénd	om)	Middle (Deuxi	ième prénom)	
Children (Enfants)						<del></del>	
Address (Adresse)							
	Street (Rue)						
	City (Ville)	State (Éta	nt/Province)	Zip Cod	le (Code posta	al) (Pays)	
Telephone (Téléph	one)						
Fax (Numéro de télé	ecopieur)						
E-mail Address (C	Courriel)						
Hobbies or Special (Passe-temps ou tale							
Type of Members	hip (Type de cotis	sation):					
Individu	Individual (Individuelle)		\$ 6.00 U.S. Dollars (Dollars américains)				
Family (Familiale)		\$10.00 U.S. Dollars (Dollars américains)					
Benefactor Leve	els (Niveaux de bi	enfaiteur):					
dit Jovia	dit Jovial Level		\$50.00 U.S. Dollars (Dollars américains)				
dit Labii	_ dit Labine Level		\$100.00 U. S. Dollars (Dollars américains)				
dit Grive	ivois Level \$500.00 U. S. Dollars (Dollars américains)						
Please return forn (Retournez le formula				•	to: Les Guides Guides Guides	dry d'Asteur, Inc eur, Inc.)	
Les Guidry d'Aste							

Les Guidry d'Asteur, Inc. Charlene Guidry Lacombe Membership Chair 141 Lesim Lane Jennings, LA 70546