2023

Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 1

GENERATIONS

The year 2023 has arrived and with it a new issue of "Generations" – our 21st year of publication. As a reminder, all 20 years of "Generations" are available on our Family website at http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~guedrylabinefamily/genealogy/newsletters.html

The website also contains a wealth of other information about our Guédry-Labine and Petitpas families. And it is all free.

As this issue came together, I quickly began realizing it was a "Law and Order" issue. In the issue you will find articles on a brutal murder by and imprisonment of a Guidry, an assault and kidnaping of a Labine family and a Judge Guidry making history in Louisiana. Law and order even creeps into our Book Nook and the Historical Tidbits (Petitpas family). I tried to convince our editor to include Prisoner Stew in Bon Appetit, but she said it was not an Acadian dish.

As Congrès Mondial Acadien 2024 approaches, Jason and Rayanne Guidry of Halifax, Nova Scotia are planning our Guédry et Petitpas Réunion. We will meet at the St. Alphonse Catholic Church Hall in St. Alphonse, Nova Scotia on Saturday, August 17, 2024. We may even have a very enticing activity on Friday evening, August 16th. St. Alphonse is located on the beautiful Baie Sainte-Marie along Highway 1 about 4 miles south of Meteghan. It was founded by Augustin Guédry and Marie Jeanson in 1787. It is never too early to begin planning to attend the CMA 2024 and the Guédry et Petitpas Réunion on 17 August 2024.

Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur recently received our U. S. Internal Revenue Service Section 501(c)(3) approval on 26 January 2023 (IRS Code 501(c)(3) EIN 72-1428808) as a public charity. This allows persons and businesses to donate to Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur and receive a U. S. tax deduction for doing so. Thanks to Mark Labine and Daniel "Chuck" Guidry for spearheading this effort.

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IN THIS ISSUE

Many of our Acadian/Cajun family organizations are ceasing to exist. Of the greater than 90 Acadian family organizations in south Louisiana in 2004, fewer than 20 still are active. Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur is one of those few. Two primary reasons these organizations closed are difficulty recruiting young members willing to take leadership positions and lacking sufficient funds. We have been fortunate in having some younger family members become active and take leadership positions. We also have been able to maintain a minimal amount of funds to remain functional. But it is getting more difficult. Almost everything we offer is free such as our websites, most reunions, genealogical assistance, historic plaque and our newsletter "Generations". Dues are our only recurring revenue source. I encourage everyone to become members of Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur by paying our modest dues (\$6 individual, \$10 family) either using PayPal on our website or completing the attached form.

It is with sadness that I note the passing of two members of Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur who have had a significant impact on our family organization and our genealogical community. **Paul Lewis LeBlanc** of Gonzales, Louisiana died 24 August 2022 at age 76. Paul was buried at Vicksburg National Cemetery in Vicksburg, MS. Paul was a very active genealogist with a blog having members across the United States and Canada. **John Adam Hebert, Jr.** of Raceland/Prairieville, LA died 4 March 2023 at age 78. John was buried at St. Mary Nativity Catholic Church Cemetery in Raceland, LA. John was President of the Hébert Family Association – L'Association des Hébert du Monde. The Guédry family in south Louisiana has had several joint reunions with the Hébert family spearheaded by John. We will miss them both as members of our family and genealogical communities.

To close this "Law and Order" issue, I would like to pay tribute to two members of our family who have served on the "thin blue line" and given their lives in doing so. Police Office *Albert P. Guidry* of the Rayne, LA Police Department was shot and killed on 8 August 1943 while investigating a larceny of \$37. He had served with the Rayne Police Department for 8 years and left behind a wife and seven children. *Randy James Guidry* of the Youngsville, LA Police Department died on 30 July 2021 from Covid that he contracted while serving his community. Randy had worked in law enforcement for 13 years and left behind a wife and two children. The names of both officers are inscribed on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial at Judiciary Square in Washington, D.C. They are the only two of our families inscribed on the Memorial.

"ACADIANS WERE HERE"

Marie Rundquist, Greg Wood and Marty Guidry developed an internet travelogue on Acadian tourism in Maryland called "Acadians Were Here". To view the site visit:

http://acadianswerehere.org/

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

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

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

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

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

Often in "Generations" we present research on the genealogy of our Guédry-Labine and Petitpas family and on the positive aspects of our family history; however, there also are some aspects of our history that are not so positive. Below is one such story.

I want to thank Chad Huval of Breaux Bridge, LA for introducing me to this historic event. On 29 March 2019 at the Louisiana Historical Association Annual Meeting in Lafayette, LA, Chad presented a paper entitled "'The Death of Oswald': The Dixie Rambler's Ballad About a 1934 Murder in Grand Point, Nina, Louisiana". His discussion fascinated me since it involved a pair of local Guidry brothers. I immediately began researching this incident. On 5 October 2022 during the Grand Revéil Acadien celebration I attended the Symposium on Acadian History and Culture in Lafourche-Terrebonne. Chad and his brother Brazos presented Cajun music techniques and discussed the history of Cajun music. After the demonstration, I was able to discuss the Oswald incident with Chad during which he provided me with additional details he had recently learned.

I also want to acknowledge Wade Falcon of Lafayette, LA for his outstanding blog on Early Cajun Music. Wade has a vast amount of well-researched, easy-to-read information on early Cajun music, the musicians and the Cajun bands. Some of the information in this article was found only on Wade's blog. I thank him for sharing his wealth of knowledge with the public.

As was customary on Sundays in South Louisiana, folks in the 5th ward near Cecilia, (St. Martin Parish, LA), gathered on Sunday evening, 9 December 1934 at the local dance hall in nearby Nina to enjoy music, dancing and some refreshments. Nina was a small community located between Breaux Bridge and Henderson just south of today's I-10 on LA 347 (Grandpoint Highway). On this Sunday evening, 9 December 1934, several young men had a disagreement during the dance that later carried to the outside. They apparently were friends; however, alcohol and the tensions of the instant changed their lives and that of many folks in the community for a long time.

Oswald Devillier, sensing danger, decided to leave the dance and return home with the family of Mr. and Mrs. Leonce Dejean and their daughter Uline. Oswald was engaged to Uline Dejean and, as was the custom, the young girl's mother accompanied Uline to the dance. Suddenly, several unidentified, young men attacked Oswald near the dance hall – beating him to unconsciousness with fence posts.

Mr. Dejean and his family hurriedly left the area with Oswald, but, after traveling only about 20 arprents (approximately ¾ mile), they were again waylaid by the attackers. Oswald was still unconscious, but the group continued to beat him. This time the family were able to identify the attackers as Eugene Dupuis, Bennet Talley and Simon Guidry – all from the Nina/Cecilia area.

Oswald Devillier, also from the Nina/Cecilia area, was rushed to the hospital in Breaux Bridge about 4 miles away. In the evening of Wednesday, December 19th Oswald died without having regained consciousness. Only 17 years old at the time of his death, Oswald Devillier was buried at Saint Bernard Catholic Cemetery #1 in Breaux Bridge, LA. He was the son of Theodore Devillier and Sidonie Angelle Devillier.

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Cajun Dance Halls 1930's - the Fais-Do-Do area



Cajun Dance Halls in South Louisiana

Oswald Devillier Jr. Dead from Beating

Oswald Devillier of near Cecilia died Wednesday night from a beating received last Sunday night after attending a dance near his home.

Six young men are held in the parish jail awaiting charges. Left: The Weekly Messenger, St. Martiville, St. Martin Parish 22 Dec 1934, p.1

This incident and subsequent trial had several interesting twists as we will see. This was the first murder trial in St. Martin Parish in almost fifty years in which both the victim and the assailants were white persons. During the trial all witnesses gave their testimony in French and interpreters had to be used. To the outside press from north Louisiana and from other states this was an anomaly that fascinated their reporters and readers. In St. Martin Parish this was the norm as most residents were Acadians and they primarily spoke French. Their Sunday Masses were in French, they conducted business in French and spoke French at home.

On Saturday, 5 January 1935 the court held a preliminary hearing. Although only three of the assailants were identified immediately during the second beating, there were at least six young men involved to some degree in the beatings. During the preliminary hearing Stafford Robert, Joseph Dupuis and Edwin Guidry, older brother of Simon Guidry, were granted a \$1500 bond. They had been in jail since December 9th. District Attorney L. O. Pecot did not object to the bail for these three defendants since he had completed his investigation against them and because he did not want to reveal his evidence against the other three defendants - Eugene Dupuis, Bennet Talley and Simon Guidry – who were not seeking bail. Edwin Guidry, born in 1905, and Simon Guidry, born in 1911, were the sons of Lezin Guidry and Armance Colet Guidry of St. Martin Parish. Edwin was the 11th child and Simon was the 15th child of the 17 children born to Lezin and Armance Guidry.

The Grand Jury met at the St. Martin Parish Courthouse in St. Martinville on 1 April 1935. They examined the evidence against the six defendants and returned a "No True Bill" against Stafford Robert, Joseph Dupuis and Edwin Guidry. They were released and faced no further charges. The Grand Jury returned a "True Bill" against Eugene Dupuis, Bennet Talley and Simon Guidry to the charge of murder. They were held in the parish jail awaiting their trial. Interestingly, the Grand Jury stated that these three inmates were being fed at the jail at a cost of sixty-five cents each per day. Members of the Grand Jury were Joseph Rousseau, foreman, Beauregard Fournet, Frank Ducrest, Moise Champagne, David Trahan, Sidney Mouton, Jr., Jacque Borel, Ben Dugas, Maurice Soileau, Ernest Webre, Iphis Fournet and Michel Simon.

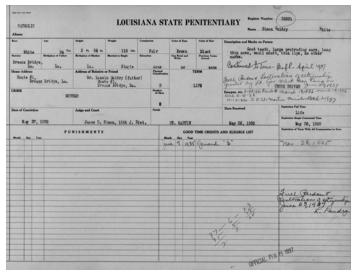
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The court convened on Thursday, 11 April 1935 with Judge James D. Simon presiding. A number of cases were heard and disposed; however, the murder trial was delayed at the request of the defendant's attorney. The court room was crowded to capacity as many folks from the Nina/Cecilia area were attending the trial. Junior defense counsel Lawrence Simon made a plea for postponement because the chief defense counsel Porteus Burke was ill and confined to his bed with influenza. His family physician Dr. C. C. DeGravelle stated that Mr. Burke would not be able to leave his bed for at least two weeks. Judge Simon granted the request and set the trial for Monday, 20 May 1935.

The trial commenced at the local court house on 20 May 1935 with the three defendants represented by Porteus R. Burke of New Iberia and Lawrence Simon of St. Martinville. District Attorney L. O. Pecot and Assistant District Attorney S. C. Landry represented the State. Mr. James Domengeaux of Lafayette was retained by the Devillier family to assist the State. Sitting on the jury were B. S. Dessens, foreman, M. A. Bernard, Alpha Bienvenu, Anatole Fuselier, Achille Gaudin, C. P. Guirard, Garland Bonin, Jean Borel, Eude Bernard, Willie Olivier, Paul Bienvenu, Jr. and Owen Resweber. The witnesses gave their testimony in French and the court appointed P. S. Daspit as the court interpreter to translate the testimony and to ask questions for the state and defense.

Interestingly, all non-local newspapers found the French language unusual and each of their headlines stated a variation of "Testimony Is Given Entirely in French at Louisiana Murder Trial".

After three days of opening arguments, testimony and closing arguments, the jury began deliberations on Thursday morning, 23 May 1935. After only two hours the jury returned a verdict of guilty without capital punishment. The court house was crowded each day of the trial even after increasing the capacity to 600 persons by placing chairs in the aisles and near the judge's bench. Sentencing was set for Monday, 27 May 1935 at which time Judge Simon sentenced each of the defendants to life imprisonment. The three was taken to the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, LA on Tuesday, May 28th by Sheriff E. L. Resweber.



Simon Guidry (25831) - Louisiana State Penitentiary Angola 1866-1963 (Convict Records, Vol. 41, Nos. 25301-15950, 1935, Page 129 of 696)



Louisiana State Penitentiary Entrance 1930's

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On arriving at Angola, the in-processing clerk began a form on each defendant. That for Simon Guidry contains the typed information:

Registration Number – 25831

Name - Simon Guidry

Race – White

Religion – Catholic

Age - 24 years

Height - 5 feet 5 ½ inches

Weight - 118 lbs

Complexion – Fair

Color of Eyes – Brown

Color of Hair – Black

Description & Marks - Good teeth, large protruding ears, long thin nose, small mouth, thin lips, no other marks

Nativity - Breaux Bridge, La.

Birthplace of Father - La.

Birthplace of Mother - La.

Married or Single - Single

Education – None

Can Read and Write - No

Previous Terms Served – None

Home Address - Route #1 Breaux Bridge, La.

Address of Relative or Friend - Mr. Lesein Guidry (Father) Route #1 Breaux Bridge, La.

Physical Classification – 2

Term – Life

Occupation - Truck Driver

Crime – Murder

Number of Shoe – 8

Date of Conviction - May 27, 1935

Judge and Court - James D. Simon, 16th Judicial District, Parish St. Martin

Date Received - May 28, 1935

Expiration Full Term - Life

Expiration Single Commuted Time - May 28, 1950.

In addition, there are some handwritten notes on the form including:

Escapes – February 28, 1936 furlo to March 18, 1936, Returned March 18, 1936;

November 14, 1936 C. O. (Court Order) St. Martin Parish, Returned January 1937

Good Time Credits and Eligible List – June 7, 1935 Guard "E"

Expiration of Term with All Commutation to Date – November 28, 1945.

Louisiana State Penitentiary (better known as Angola from the name of the former plantation on which it is located) is the largest penitentiary in the United States at over 18,000 acres with over 6300 prisoners including 4400 serving life without parole. Not only a penitentiary, Angola is a penitentiary farm where inmates raise crops to feed themselves and for the state to use at other penal facilities.

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The mid-1930s was a dangerous time to be incarcerated at Angola. Convicts were forced to work in the fields, paid pennies per day and treated basically as slaves with armed guards on horseback watching their every move. And the guards had no fear to shoot a disruptive or escaping inmate. Brutality was rampant within Angola with beatings and stabbings occurring frequently from other inmates and even guards brutally beating prisoners. Death was not uncommon. To be incarcerated at Angola in the 1930s was almost a death sentence. Angola Penitentiary was known nationwide as the bloodiest prison in the country. To the inmates, it simply was Bloody Angola.

Left: Louisiana State Penitentiary - 1934

In mid-1937 the convictions of Simon Guidry, Eugene Dupuis and Bennet Talley took a strange twist. On 23 June 1937 Louisiana Governor Richard W. Leche left the State of Louisiana briefly. According to state law, while he was gone, Lieutenant Governor Earl K. Long became the Acting Governor with the full powers of the governor. On June 23rd Acting Governor Long signed full pardons with total restoration of citizenship for Simon Guidry, Eugene Dupuis and Bennet Talley. No motive for granting the pardons was given; however, some folks suspected a motive other than full rehabilitation of the three after only two years and 25 days of imprisonment.

In a statement Acting Governor Long stated that he simply acted for Governor Leche and according to the wishes of the governor. Many St. Martin Parish leaders and townsfolks also favored the releases including the trial judge, the sheriff, members of the jury, members of the Louisiana State Senate and House of Representatives, the assessor and other parish officials.

One news reporter at the time commented that it is puzzling to think that a jury would make so grievous a mistake as to convict three relatively innocent men and sentence them to life terms in prison. Likewise, he found it baffling that so many influential leaders of the community should make such a mistake as to favor the release of the three convicts who had perpetrated such a hideous crime.

One must also remember that these young men came from the very small, rural community of Nina, Louisiana. The families were hard-working, well-respected citizens of St. Martin Parish and, as far as can be ascertained, none of the three had been in legal trouble before. Violence was prevalent at dancehalls in south Louisiana in the 1930s and 1940s and alcohol only compounded the problem. Both the victim and the three charged with the crime were friends prior to the dance. Likely a small disagreement grew to major proportions due to alcohol and possibly because other young men gathered nearby to see the fight. Perhaps in reflection, the local folks felt the three men at Angola deserved a second chance and felt they would become law-abiding, productive citizens. Thus, they asked their elected officials to seek their release.

In the 1930s the sounds of Cajun music could be heard from the open dance hall windows and doors as couples two-stepped and waltzed the night away. The Cajun band Dixie Ramblers from Lafayette, LA had a large following wherever they played in southwest Louisiana – be it the Four Corners in St. Martin Parish, the O.S.T and Wagon Wheel in Acadia Parish or Sidney Duhon's in Lafayette Parish. The Dixie Ramblers were a string

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band in the mid-1930s. Accordionist Lester Lalonde wrote a new song entitled "The Death of Oswald" in 1936 and it was recorded in English by the Dixie Ramblers on RCA's Bluebird record label (B-2181) in New Orleans. Musicians on the 78-rpm record were Willie Vincent on guitar and vocals, Jesse Duhon on guitar, Hector Duhon on fiddle and Hector Stutes on fiddle. The song was an ode to the murder of a Louisiana man. "The Death of Oswald" was one of the few event songs in the early Cajun music era.



The Death of Oswald - Dixie Rambler 78-rpm Record



Dixie Ramblers 1933 (Jessie Duhon, Hector Duhon, Hector Stutes, Willie Vincent)



Dixie Ramblers Advertisement, The Daily Advertiser, Lafayette, LA, 20 May 1936, p.7

The Death of Oswald

I once had a true pal named Oswald, A boy with a heart made of gold, Whenever his honor was at stake, He fought like a man brave and bold.

One evening he took out his sweetheart, A wagon club dance was his goal, But fate had a point in Nina's Grand Point, A tragedy cruel and cold.

A mug pulled a long white new saber, Caused trouble among friends and foes, He somehow perceived the danger, For home he decided to go.

Three hostile men prompted by liquor, They lay in wait for their prey, I closed my eyes to the slaughter and cried, Was far too atrocious to say.

For long weeks and cold in deep slumber You, neither mother nor friend, His sweetheart at his bedside kept praying, Good God, won't you please save my man.

His eyes fast and firmly towards heaven, His hands became stiffen and cold, He passed with a sigh to his maker on high, He fought like a man brave and bold.

What alcohol do to good people, In pain it will leave you torn, A good man of fortune may bolster, And wake up behind prison bars.

Dear Oswald, in your place in heaven, Down as to where your killers now hide, May they be forgiven by God and by man, They were friends of yours and of mine.

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In 1937 the Dixie Ramblers began playing "The Death of Oswald" at dances and parties. By late June 1937 Simon Guidry, Eugene Dupuis and Bennet Talley had been released from Angola and word of the song of their exploits soon reached them. The three former convicts did not take kindly to the song and let it be known to the band in no uncertain terms. Hector Duhon, fiddler for the Dixie Ramblers, explained "They got out of the pen and they came to the dance one night and told us: 'Don't play that number if you want to stay here tonight!'" This quickly shut down the song's career in south Louisiana dance halls.

For a sample of "The Death of Oswald" click the link below. There is a short 5-second commercial at the beginning.

https://youtu.be/fGJ5G5iT3WM

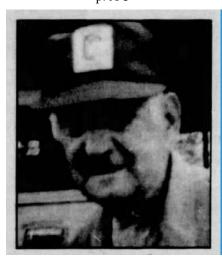
What happened after Simon Guidry, Bennett Talley and Eugene Dupuis gained their freedom from being pardoned? From the available evidence all three rejoined their local communities and lived productive, law-abiding lives.

Simon Guidry, born on 8 October 1911 and the son of Lezin Guidry Sr. and Armance Colette, was the 15th child of 17 in his family. His older brother Edwin, who was released from custody on a "No True Bill" by the Grand Jury and who was born 11 December 1905, was the 11th child of the family. The Guidry family lived near the small hamlet of Nina in St. Martin Parish, Louisiana. On 16 October 1940 Simon reported to the World War II draft board and registered his name in the 3rd precinct, 5th ward of St. Martin Parish. He was 29 years old and reported that his sister Laurence would be his contact person. He was employed by his father Lezin Guidry. His physical characteristics were white race, 5 foot 4 inches tall, 125 lbs, brown eyes, black hair and a light brown complexion. Interestingly, the registrar recording his information was Bennet Tally. Simon provided his mark as his signature. He was given the serial number 2288 and order number 1088. Simon Guidry married Flavia Mouton on 19 June 1954 and had one son with her. Flavia Mouton had a son and daughter in her previous marriage to Dolphy Kidder. Simon died on 20 January 2004 at his home in St. Martin Parish at age 92 and was interred at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Cecilia, Louisiana after a Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church. In addition to his wife, son and two step-children surviving him, he had six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Guidry, Simon; U.S. World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947; 16 Oct 1940; Serial No. 2288; Order No. 1088

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Obituary of Simon Guidry Photo-(Teche News; St. Martinville, LA 28 Jan 2004) p. A-3



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

The only son of John William Talley and Marie Agnes Dupuis, Benjamin "Bennett" Talley was born on 25 February 1912 in St. Martin Parish, Louisiana. He had three half-brothers by his father's two previous marriages and five additional half-brothers by his mother's two other marriages. After leaving Angola, Bennett Talley became a very successful and innovative sugar cane farmer in the Henderson, LA area and was president of the Breaux Bridge Sugar Co-op during the first half of the 1960s. In the 1940s and 1950s he organized and led the Nina Red Bird softball team. Bennett married Ella May Arnaud on 23 December 1939 in Arnaud-ville, LA and they had two sons and two daughters. As with Simon Guidry, Bennett Talley lived his entire life in the Nina area of St. Martin Parish. On Tuesday, 23 January 2001 Bennett died at Doctors Hospital in Opelousas, St. Landry Parish, LA at age 88. He was laid to rest at St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery in Cecilia, LA.

The last of ten children of Beauregard Joseph Lucius Dupuis and Adele Guidry, Jean Eugene Dupuis was born near Nina in St. Martin Parish, LA on 9 March 1901. After being released from Angola in 1937, Eugene registered for the World War II draft on 14 February 1942. He listed his address as Nina, LA and was employed by A. J. Dupuis of Nina. His physical characteristics were white race, 5 foot 9 inches tall, 165 lbs, gray eyes, black hair and dark brown complexion. At the time of his registration, he was able to sign his name in a clear, strong script. Eugene was a truck farmer in the Nina area. About 1921 Eugene married Lidney Trahan and they had two sons. On 20 December 1945 Eugene Dupuis died at his home at the age of 44 years. His services were held at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Cecilia, LA and he was interred in the family tomb at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery.



St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Cecilia, LA



St. Bernard Catholic Cemetery No. 1 Breaux Bridge, LA



St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Cecilia, LA



St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Cecilia, LA

THE DEATH OF OSWALD - SOURCES

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The Weekly Messenger (St. Martinville, LA; 18 May 1935; page 1; "Special Term of Court Set for Monday")

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The Birmingham News (Birmingham, AL; 23 May 1935; page 7; "Testimony In French; St. Martinville, La. Trial In Century Old Courthouse")

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Teche News (St. Martinville, LA; 10 Oct 1984; Section 2 page 1; "Writer Researching St. Martinville Murder")

Monroe News-Star (Monroe, LA; 23 Jun 1937; page 12; "3 Life-Termers Pardoned by Long"

Alexandria Daily Town Talk (Alexandria, LA; 23 Jun 1937; page 10; "3 Pardons Signed by Earl Long")

The Opelousas Herald (Opelousas, LA; 25 Jun 1937; page 1; "Acting Governor Earl Long Signs Pardon for Three; Restoration to Citizenship is Authorized for Convicted in St. Martin")

The Weekly Messenger (St. Martinville, LA; 26 Jun 1937; page 1; "Dupuis, Talley, Guidry Granted Pardon")

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CHRISTINE GUIDRY LAW GARNERS NATIONAL TEACHING HONOR



Christine Guidry Law has been selected as the 2022 National Virtual Teacher of the Year. The award selects the best virtual teacher nationally that demonstrates "Tech Excellence" by seamlessly integrating digital resources and using technology as a platform to develop engaging and meaningful lessons. In addition, the teacher must demonstrate "Visionary Leadership" by creating innovative and effective ways to reach students and help them build a brighter future. Finally, the virtual teacher must demonstrate "Outstanding Student Achievement" by supporting the well-rounded development of the students through academic performance, community involvement and extra-curricular engagement.

Although from Zachary, Louisiana, Christine currently lives in Pennsylvania where she won the 2022 National Virtual Teacher of the Year honor. This is a prestigious honor for an outstanding teacher dedicated to educating her students and improving their lives. Congratulations to Christine on an exceptional honor recognizing her outstanding talents.

An educator for 30 years, Christine has twice received the Louisiana History Teacher of the Year including in 2020 in Louisiana. She has sat on the State of Louisiana Board to rewrite Social Studies and History Standards.

On 27 July 2020 the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History selected Christine Guidry Law of Zachary, Louisiana as the Louisiana History Teacher of the Year. Christine is truly dedicated to her students and to ensuring that each receives both a quality and an interesting educational experience. This is a well-deserved and an earned honor for Christine.

Many of you may remember Christine. In October 2015 Christine and her family entertained us at our Guédry & Petitpas Reunion in Henderson, Louisiana with wonderful Cajun music. Christine's Cajun band – Chére Mom Family Cajun Band – includes Christine on diatonic accordion and voice, her daughter LeeAnn Law Guidry on fiddle, other instruments and voice, her son Taylor Law on bass guitar and her husband Wallace Law on rhythm guitar. And then at our August 2019 Guédry & Petitpas Reunion on Prince Edward Island, Canada, we heard Chére Mom with Christine and her family and including Emily Simon (percussion) provide great Cajun music and old-time stories of growing up with Cajun music at home. Some of you may have even heard Chére Mom on the Louisiana Stage in Moncton, New Brunswick during the Congrès Mondial Acadien in August 2019. The CMA invited them to play for the entire CMA audience.

During our 2019 Reunion the Board of Directors of Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur installed Christine into the Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur Circle of Distinction for her many accomplishments promoting her Acadian and Mi'kmaq heritage and our family.

"KNOCK ON DOOR AND TERROR WALKED IN" Transcribed by R. Martin Guidry

Appeared in <u>The Ottawa Citizen</u> (Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; 10 Nov 1971; page 21; written by Eleanor Dunn & David Smithers)

FORT COULONGE – A day of terror began for the family of Regent Labine, 31, with a knock on the door in the night.

The man who knocked on the door of the humble frame home – on the Bois Franc Road about three miles northeast of here – requested help for a stalled automobile.

Mr. Labine went with the man to a small side road about a mile from his home.

There, the young father of four was shot and stabbed in what police describe as a "murder attempt." Mr. Labine was left sprawled on the gravel trail, bleeding profusely from his wounds, as the assailant drove away in the injured man's car.

The attacker then returned to the family residence.

He grabbed Mrs. Regina Labine, 23, and manhandled her towards the front door.



Back into bush

"I told him that he would have to kill me right there. I was not leaving the children in the house. He had told me that he'd fought with my husband and killed him." said the mother in an interview a short time after she and her family were rescued by police.

The assailant herded Mrs. Labine and her children, aged 10 months to seven years, into the family's 1962-model car and drove north along the winding gravel track. The roadway leads nowhere.

About seven miles from the home the car plunged down a 20-foot embankment and could not be moved.

The abductor forced the family – Mrs. Labine dressed only in nightie and housecoat and children in pajamas – to walk more than a mile back along the snow-covered trail.

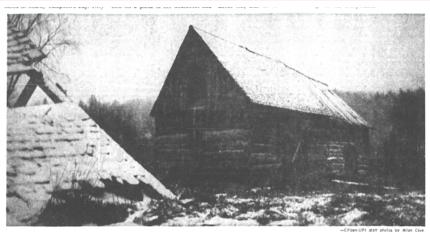
Crying and whimpering with the cold and lack of food, the children were led across a treacherous bridge to a barn which became their prison for the next eight hours.

An examination of their jail revealed that a fire had been lit between timber-dry hay bales on the wood floor of the dilapidated building.

Even casual observers could not understand why the entire structure had not become enveloped in flames.

But it was the same fire which resulted in the family's rescue about 2 p.m.

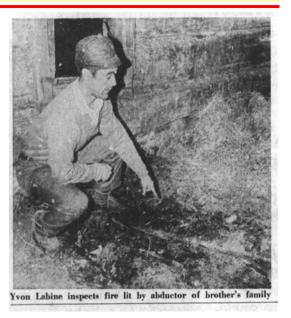
"KNOCK ON DOOR AND TERROR WALKED IN" Transcribed by R. Martin Guidry



Barn where Mrs. Regina Labine and her four children were held hostage

Above: Barn where Mrs. Regina Labine and her four children were held hostage.

Right: Yvon Labine inspects fire lit by abductor of brother's family



Two wandering hunters, Gerard Labine, cousin of the wounded man, and Liveol Mallette, both of Fort Coulonge, spotted smoke coming from the building.

They peered through a glassless window and spotted a man whom they knew was wanted by provincial police based in nearby Campbell's Bay. They telephoned police from the closest residence, about two miles south.

Police moved in and the hours of and father was dead (sic) ended for Mrs. Labine as the family sat huddled for warmth in the barn. Only the infant's feet were covered. Mrs. Labine had torn off a piece of her house-coat and tried to comfort the child.

A man identified by police as Normand Turcotte, 20, was taken into custody. He surrendered without a struggle. He was apparently unarmed.

Yvon Labine, 28, brother of the victim, said he had passed the barn about 7:30 am as he was searching for his brother's missing family.

"I first knew something was wrong where there was a rap on the door early today," he said in an interview. "I opened it and there was Regent. He had his hand cupped over his mouth. He was all covered in blood. It was everywhere. I will never know how he got to my place."

Yvon lives with his parents on a small farm about three miles from his injured brother's residence and two miles from where the shooting and stabbing occurred.

It was Yvon who donated the parcel of land on which Regent Labine built his home after his construction accident.

"He came to this place along the trail some of the way and then must have cut through the bush. Pretty good for a man who was half-dead. He lost an awful lot of blood."

"KNOCK ON DOOR AND TERROR WALKED IN" Transcribed by R. Martin Guidry

Yvon awoke two of his four other brothers and arranged for Regent's transportation to hospital.

"I just wish whoever did it came to my place," said an emotional Yvon Labine. "He would have been going to the hospital in the same car as my brother. I was ready for him."

Mrs. Labine and her children are staying with her parents in Davidson. The small home is crowded, but as her father, Armand Belair, said: "I don't have much money but I have a big heart."

The family was listening to the radio newscasts to learn of Mr. Labine's condition. A brother remained at the hospital but a heavy snowfall and absence of cars made it impossible for Mrs. Labine to travel to her husband's side.

The assault-kidnapping has become the last of a series of unfortunate events to befall the Labine family this year.

In the spring, a cow and a horse owned by the family for use on their meagre farm apparently were poisoned. Both animals were found dead.

And weeks later, a shack at the dump used as a shelter by Mr. Labine was burned to the ground.

A construction accident five years ago cost him the sight in his right eye. Aside from negligible income from his job, his family was being supported by welfare.

Father of 4 fights for life

The humble Labine home stood quiet and empty under a light snowfall Tuesday night on a little-travelled gravel road about three miles northeast of here.

The head of the house is in hospital fighting for his life.

His wife and four children are staying with relatives. The children – Claudette, 10 months, Jacques 4, Yvette 5, Jacqueline 7 – don't really understand what occurred during the day.

They knew their father was called away in the middle of the night and has not returned.

They have recollections of a drive in a car, and a cold day spent in an isolated barn. They had been hungry too.

But the children remember the man who is being held by police on suspicion of wounding their father and kidnapping them and their 23-year-old mother.

Normand Turcotte is his name.

And they remember occasional visits he made to their home.

He lived less than half a mile from their house.

"KNOCK ON DOOR AND TERROR WALKED IN" Transcribed by R. Martin Guidry

They didn't know he paid \$1 a month rent for the one-room shack in which he lived. He apparently did not work and had come originally from Pembroke about two years ago.

His house too lay silent under the falling snowflakes.

His 1958-model Oldsmobile is parked close to the dwelling's outhouse.

But the children's grandparents' home where they are staying "until things are settled away" is warm.

They likely will notice little difference – save the absence of their father.

Shot and stabbed, man recovering (The Ottawa Citizen; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; 15 Nov 1971; page 1;

Regent Labine, the 31-year-old father of four who was shot and stabbed last Tuesday by a man who later kidnapped his family, is showing signs of recovering from his injuries.

Pembroke Civic Hospital said today Mr. Labine's condition is now fair and "he is showing signs of improvement."

Mr. Labine underwent five hours of surgery after he was admitted.

[NOTE: Throughout the articles in <u>The Ottawa Citizen</u>, the name of man shot and stabbed is misspelled. Given in the articles as Regent Labine, this man's name is actually Réjean Labine.]



Chemin du Bois Franc, Chemin Labine & Rue Labine today



View of road today, Fort Coulonge, Ontario

Judge John Michael Guidry Makes History by R. Martin Guidry

On 19 January 2023 Judge John Michael Guidry of East Baton Rouge Parish, LA was sworn in as the 15th Chief Judge of the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal. Judge Guidry is the first African-American Chief Judge in the more than 100-year history of the Louisiana Circuit Court of Appeal. The First Circuit serves sixteen parishes in south Louisiana.

Born in Baton Rouge on 19 January 1962, Judge Guidry graduated from McKinley High School in 1980 and from Louisiana State University in 1983 with a B.A. in Political Science. In 1987 he graduated cum laude from the Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge with his Juris Doctor.

Prior to serving on the judicial bench, Judge Guidry served as a Legislative Assistant and Assistant Clerk in the Louisiana House of Representatives. He also was an Assistant Parish Attorney for East Baton Rouge Parish. In 1991 he was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives and two years later to the Louisiana Senate.

In 1997 Judge Guidry was elected to the First Circuit Court of Appeals where he has served to the present.



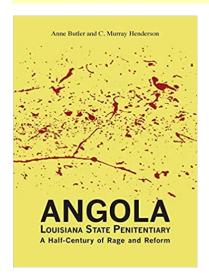
He has also served as a commissioner to the Greater Baton Rouge Port Commission and the Greater Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport Commission. Since 1988, he has been an Adjunct Professor at the Southern University Law Center. He holds memberships in several judicial organizations including the American Judges Association, the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association and Louisiana Conference of Appeal Judges. In 2014 Judge Guidry served as President of the Louisiana Judicial College Board of Governors.

Judge Guidry is an ordained minister. He and his wife Carol have two children.

every family has a story to tell

BOOK NOOK

"Angola - Louisiana State, A Half-Century of Rage and Reform" by Anne Butler and C. Murray Henderson



One tried to swim his way out, masquerading in woman's finery that dragged him beneath the raging waters of the Mississippi River. Others tried to rehabilitate their ways out, only to find themselves after all still mired inescapably in the turbulent murky quagmire of Louisiana politics. Yet others tried merciless self-mutilation to rivet the attention of the press and an uncaring public upon brutalities of the system, and this worked, but only briefly.

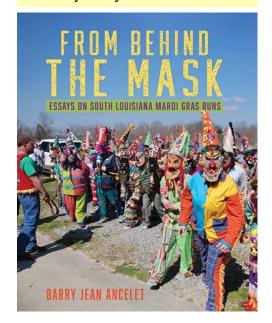
Louisiana's immense and infamous state penitentiary called Angola held them all. The more they struck out in despair and desperation and yes, violence, in protest against the system and the place, the more tightly it clutched them.

And so the ones who are not dead are still in there, their fascinating stories providing heart-rending glimpses into what it was like to grow up black and deprived in South Louisiana and awaken to the dichotomy between what life promised and what it actually delivered. And yet, these stories are as universal as they are unique, for in every penal system in the country may be found similar cases. Each case has been carefully chosen to represent certain facets and failings in the American criminal justice system.

At a time in the late sixties when it was at the height of its "knock 'em down and drag 'em out" days, Angola was considered one of the nation's worst, a brutal world of violence and intrigue, political abuse and racial turmoil, where one in ten inmates would suffer stab wounds annually and others slept with thick mail-order catalogues taped to the chest to deflect knives at night. Nationally respected professional penologist C. Murray Henderson was hired to clean up the country's largest maximum-security penitentiary, and his comments following each fascinating chapter give intimate details from the inside and an expert's perspective on what we must do to make our criminal justice system work.

From Behind the Mask brings together essays written over a period of more than forty years, based on Barry Jean Ancelet's observations and experiences. Ancelet explores critical elements of the traditional Mardi Gras runs of Cajun and Creole South Louisiana, including strategies for masking, costuming, begging, singing, playing, and moving through the countryside. He addresses historical issues, including the tradition's roots in European and Afro-Caribbean festivals, as well as its contemporary dynamics and ongoing evolution, including local social, cultural and political issues involving class, identity, gender and race. Mardi Gras runs can seem at first glance to be wide-open public celebrations, but they are actually intimate expressions of community solidarity. Carnivalesque play is most effective when the players and their hosts would know each other except for the masks and costumes of the moment. Singing, dancing, intense begging, and verbal play create the improvised theater provided in exchange for contributions to the communal gathering and meal at the end of the day. Mardi Gras is an elaborate game designed to entertain and generate laughter, and because every game has its rules and masters, Mardi Gras *capitaines* and their deputies ride herd on the revelers to keep play from devolving into chaos. The processional nature of this ritual enables it to move through what the participants think of as their little worlds, turning everything around them into temporary props and stages and drawing observers into their improvised farces, driven by a sense of deep play that tickles power with inversions of social structures and intense interaction from behind the masks.

"From Behind the Mask - Essays on South Louisiana Mardi Gras Runs" by Barry Jean Ancelet



BON APPETIT





Bundt Pan Crescent Cinnamon Rolls with Pecans and Apples from Lindsey Tyler, Baltimore, MD

3 containers Pillsbury refrigerator crescent rolls 1/2 stick of butter, melted 1/4 cup brown sugar 1/2 cup chopped pecans 2 tsp ground cinnamon 1 apple or pear, thinly sliced

Preheat oven to 350°. Lightly spray bundt pan with a non-stick cooking spray.

Add the melted butter to the pan. Sprinkle the brown sugar, cinnamon, and pecans over the melted butter, then spread the sliced apples or pears across the bottom of pan. Press the 3 rolls over the mixture (as pictured). Bake for 35 minutes or until golden brown.

Carefully remove from the pan and enjoy.

This recipe is from Susan's great grandmother, Marie Helena Guidry Gisclard

2 large onions, chopped
1 tsp. minced garlic
Olive oil
2-3 lbs. chopped okra
1 lb. peeled shrimp (or crawfish)
1 - 16 oz. can beef or chicken stock
2 cups water
Boiled rice

In a large heavy skillet sauté onions and minced garlic in olive oil. Add okra and stir fry until okra starts to wilt. Add beef or chicken broth and water and simmer over medium heat until liquid is absorbed. Add salt to taste. Add shrimp or crawfish (she used river shrimp) and cook until done. Serve over boiled rice.

Smothered Okra with Shrimp from Susan Gisclard Finch, Roswell GA



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

IN THE NEWS-HISTORICAL NEWS TIDBITS

Kayne, La.

JOE GUIDRY & SONS PLUMBING & HEATING CO.

Rayne, La.

ACADIANA GULF OIL CO.

Crowley, La.

SADIE'S FLOWER SHOP

Rayne, La.

BICKHAM MOTORS

Rayne, La.

BANK OF COMMERCE

• Rayne Office •

GUIDRY LUMBER CO.

Rayne, La.

GUIDRY'S LUMBER YARD

• Douglas Guidry & Staff

303 W. Branche

Rayne, La.

The Rayne Acadian-Tribune Rayne, Louisiana 17 May 1979



EMPTY TILL, WHOLE SKIN—David Pettipas, 19-year-old attendant at Marcel's Service Station, 5584 Tecumseh Rd. E., surveys the till which three holdup men emptied at they held him at gunpoint early Sunday morning. The thieves took everything but some pennies and also relieved Pettipas of a small wad of notes he was carrying on his person as change for gas sales.

(Star Staff Photo)

The Windsor Star Ontario, Canada 16 April 1956

A COMPLETE ONE STOP FOOD STORE

WE DELIVER !!!

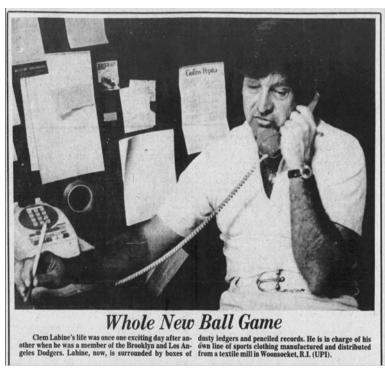
HUGH GAIDRY'S GROCERY & MARKET

205 Arthur Ave.

Lake Arthur, La.

The Sun-Times, Lake Arthur, LA 13 Oct 1966

IN THE NEWS-HISTORICAL NEWS TIDBITS



Hartford Courant, Hartford, Connecticut 23 Sep 1979



St. Landry Clarion, Opelousas, LA 04 June 1910

St. Landry Clarion, Opelousas, LA 25 Sept 1920

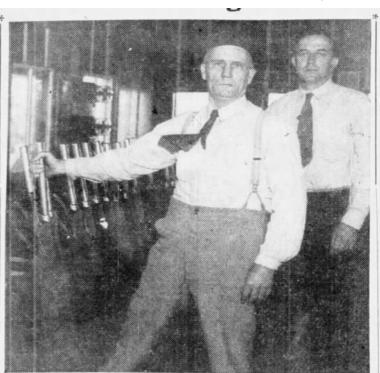
4% Paid on Savings Deposits

OFFICERS:

Robt. Chachere, President;
Dr. J. P. Saizan, Vice President;
J. P. Savant, Vice President;
J. A. Perkins, Cashier;
Fred Guidry, Assistant Cashier;
Louis Guidry, and F. N. Halphen, Bookkeepers;
Miss Stella D. Lambert, Stenographer;
R. L. Garland, Attorney.

4% Paid on Savings Deposits

El Paso Herald-Post, El Paso, TX - 11 May 1937



A tower man has to keep his eyes and ears open. He has to nurse automobile traffic across a street crossing, and switch scores of trains and engines in and out of El Paso daily.

Above are two operators in El Paso's busiest signal tower, at Dallas street and Cotton avenue. Left: Charles Guidry, veteran signal operator, holding a mechanical lever which throws a switch in the vicinity; and John J. Hopkins, who takes the 3 p. m. to 11 p. m. shift in the tower.

Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur

What's in a name?

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

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

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

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

DUES REMINDER

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

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



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

Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur

To share your ideas for the Newsletter contact:

Marty Guidry 6139 North Shore Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70817 225-571-9726 guidryrmartin@gmail.com The Guédry-Petitpas Family Newsletter '*GENERATIONS*' serves as a focal point for family members to share and learn about us.

"GENERATIONS" newsletter is now in its 21st year. We hope to provide our readers with an interesting, informative and entertaining newsletter. Your input is always welcome and we look forward to another year of sharing family history and news with you.

Allie Guidry txguidry2000@yahoo.com

Marty Guidry guidryrmartin@gmail.com















Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Asteur Officers and Committees

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CAFA Board Member - Jeanette Guidry Leger (LA)

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

Name (Nom)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
	Last (Nom de famille)	First (Prénom)	Middle (Deuxièr	me prénom)
Spouse (Épo	use)			
	Maiden (Nom de	jeune fille) First (Prén	om) Middle (Deuxièr	me prénom)
Children (Enf	ants)			
Address (Adr	esse) Street (Rue)			
	City (Ville)	State (État/Province)	Zip Code (Code postal)	(Pays)
Telephone (Γéléphone)			
Fax (Numéro	de télécopieur)			
E-mail Addre	ess (Courriel)			
Hobbies or S	Special Talent			
	ou talent particulier)			
Type of Men	nbership (Type de cotis	sation):		
Ind	dividual (Individuelle)	\$ 6.00 U.S. Dollars (Dollars américains)		
Fa	mily (Familiale)	\$10.00 U.S. Dollar	S (Dollars américains)	
Benefactor	Levels (Niveaux de bi	enfaiteur):		
dit	Jovial Level	\$50.00 U.S. Dollars (Dollars américains)		
dit	Labine Level	\$100.00 U. S. Doll	ars (Dollars américains)	
dit	Grivois Level	\$500.00 U. S. Doll	ars (Dollars américains)	
	n form and payment ormulaire et le paiement		0: Les Guédry et Petitp jue à: Les Guédry et Peti	
		Inc.		

lota, LA 70543