

**DÉCUIR: EARLY CREOLE FAMILY OF
LOUISIANA**

8) Albert de Quire natif de Mayon
marié à son épouse en qualité
de membre luy se femme et cinq
enfants le vingt sept octobre mil
sept cent dix neuf pour six ans en
raison de ces quatrevingt livres
d'engagement ces quatrevingt livres
paran en leur nourriture la quarante
sept par jour par le commandement
et les signé al de ta de quire



signé Mauberge 27 Octobre 1719

CREOLE HERITAGE DAY 2005

Décur: Early Creole Family of Louisiana

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Creole Heritage Day 2005
Friday October 7th, 2005
Marksville, La
Hosted by the Creole Heritage Center
at Northwestern State University at Natchitoches

Julie Eshelman-Lee, presenter and panel chairperson
joined by panelists
Hon. W.E.B. Blackmon, Brian J. Costello,
Randy DeCuir, Winston DeCuir, Thomas Honoré,
and Geraldine Porche West

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85) *Albert de Guire, native of Macon near Chimay, has contracted to be a miner with his wife and five children, the twenty-seventh of October, one thousand seven hundred nineteen, for six years, with payment of one hundred eighty pounds a year, and food at forty pence per day until the end of the term, and has signed here*

albert de guire

Cover graphic: Albert deCuire's original contract with Ste. Catherine concession, signed October 27, 1719 in Mauberge. In 1987, André Haussy found the original contract in the Lille, France archives.

We dedicate this event to George DeCoux

Resident of Gulfport, Mississippi and Director of Leisure Services for the city of Gulfport, George's workplace seats him in the exact region where his Décuir and Decoux ancestors arrived in the Louisiana colony in 1720. Aboard the *La Loire* for the St. Catherine concession, they anchored just offshore of Ship Island on November 9, 1720. George has devoted years to meticulously retracing and documenting their early voyage, arrival to the colony and experiences with the Ste. Catherine and Ste. Reyne concessions. His travels have taken him to the ancestral homelands and the places where the ancestors signed the contracts. George has an extensive recorded history on the DeCoux family in America connecting to the family in France today. Daily he looks out at the gulf and Ship Island in appreciation of his family's beginnings in colonial Louisiana.

Hurricane Katrina ravaged the physical remnants of the beginnings of the early colony of Louisiana along the gulf coast. Through devoted research of descendants like George, the legacy of Louisiana will remain alive for generations to come.



George DeCoux, André Haussy, Randy DeCuir
St. Francis Chapel bell c 1738
photo courtesy of Brian J. Costello & Randy DeCuir ©1996

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Brian J. Costello	“The Creole Trail: Pointe Coupee, Avoyelles, Rapides and Natchitoches Parishes”
Randy DeCuir	“Hainaut: Ancient Homeland of the DeCuir Family”
Julie Eshelman-Lee	“To Be Créole”
Gina Colin Greenlee	“I Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans”
Thomas Honoré	“Josephites in Louisiana: Three Who Returned to Their Roots”
Connie Mae LaMotte	“Migration West”
Geraldine Porche West	“My Journey”
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Creole Heritage Day 2005

Paragon Resort & Casino
Marksville, LA

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Thursday October 6th, 2005

- 1:00 pm** Reception hosted by Randy & Susan DeCuir
533 S. Washington St. Marksville, LA
- tour exhibits in afternoon at Paragon Resort & Casino
- 6:00 pm –
9:00 pm** Reception to kickoff Creole Heritage Day 2005
Paragon Resort & Casino

Friday October 7th, 2005

- 9:00 am** Michelle Pichon—Metoyer family presentation
- 10:00 am** Julie Eshelman-Lee—Décuir family
presentation
- 11:00 am** Panel conversation about Metoyer, Décuir
and Haydel families with audience
participation
- 12 noon -
5 pm** lunch (on your own); informal gathering and sharing of
Décuir and connected family information; tour of
exhibits; book signing with Thomas Honoré author of
*Grace At Every Turn: The Journey of an African Creole
Into and Out of the Priesthood*
- 7 pm – 11 pm** Banquet
Keynote Speech, Creole People Awards, &
Tribute to Lieutenant General Russel L. Honoré
Zydeco Dance Benefit with Thomas “Big Hat” Fields
for Hurricane Katrina & Rita families