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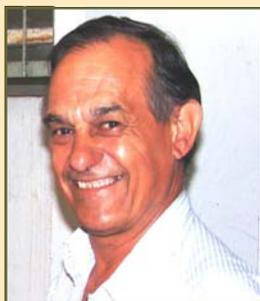
Cercle de Généalogie Maurice-Rodrigues

CGMR INFO

June 2011

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Message from the President



Henri Medan
President 2011

It is now already 17 months since our association was born. First genealogical association created in Mauritius, the CGMR was the response to a need which many amateur genealogists had felt for quite a long time. The first newsletter

of the CGMR arrives on time to enable our members and supporters to follow our evolution. This first issue traces the genesis of the creation of the CGMR, its achievements, its projects, its strong moments, its more painful events. This newsletter will be published regularly, and will present the evolution of our tasks, namely the digitization of the archive documents and their transcription, as well as the new projects which we hope to undertake successfully. We also need the cooperation of one and all to make it more fruitful and more attractive. Your ideas will be welcome. I thank you in advance for your help and your cooperation, and wish you a pleasant reading.

Henri Medan

The Creation of the CGMR

From the clash of ideas light gushes forth

For many years Mauritian and expatriate amateur genealogists, facing all sorts of difficulties in their research, had each in their own corner thought of regrouping themselves in an association to facilitate the proceedings and advance in their research. These questions had been discussed many times in Mauritian genealogical forums.

Further to the visit of Henri Maurel, who had met twelve resident amateur genealogists at La Mivoie on 5 September 2005, some volunteers had tried to set up a genealogical association in Mauritius. For many reasons, two attempts in the year 2005 and 2007 could not materialize despite numerous proceedings and meetings with the persons in charge of the Mauritian archives, the Civil Status and the Nelson Mandela Centre.

In September 2007, on the initiative of Henri Maurel, volunteers formed



Réunion à La Mivoie Septembre 2005

From left to right (Front): Alain Matthieu, Mme Rohan, Jean-François Guimbeau, Marie-France Chelin-Goblet, Henri Maurel, Lorraine Lagesse, Jean-Marc Blancard, Bernard Maurice.

Second row: Arnaud Guibert, Jean Marie Chelin, Mr Rohan, Henri Medan, Mr Rohan & inset top left : Gérard Langlois

the Dynarobin Group who obtained from the Mauritian archives the access to parish registers and civil status records of the French period (1722-1810). With the permission of the archives most of these registers have been digitized by Jérôme Giblot-Ducray, Philippe Chaperon, Yves Heeraman and Guillaume Devienne. This group was joined by other volunteers who started to transcribe the digitized documents.

(Continues on page 2)

Digitisation of Mauritius Archives Documents by Dynarobin



Jérôme Giblot-Ducray Digitising For Dynarobin

(Continued from page 1)

In August 2008 in order to continue the work of Dynarobin, the Association Maurice Archives was created, a French association made up of expatriates. This association set up branches in Mauritius as well as in Australia where the Mauritian Diaspora counts many amateurs of genealogy.

One year later, further to issues concerning the management of the association and problems related to specific Mauritian rules governing archive documents, the president, Gérard Yves Heeraman, left the association, followed by several Mauritian residents and Australian citizens

Birth of the CGMR



11 September 2009 Meeting

Left to right: Jean-Claude Dantier, Serge L'Ecluse, Jocelyn Chaillet, Gérard Yves Heeraman, Noël Marie-Jeanne, Raymond Houbert, Ronald Bégué, Henri Medan, en médaillon: Bernard Maurice.

On Friday 11th September 2009, a meeting of nine former members of AMA including Gérard Yves Heeraman took place at the Cercle de Rose-Hill. This meeting laid down the foundation for the creation of the first genealogical association of Mauritius.

On 12th September 2010 a first constitutive General Assembly was convened.

Discussions then took place to find a name, motto and a logo for the new association. The final choices were:

Radices Oriunda Forem

Roots from Other Places

Cercle de Généalogie Maurice-Rodrigues (CGMR)

The new association was registered by the Registrar of Associations after having obtained from the Prime Minister's Office the right to use the words Mauritius and Rodrigues in the association's name. On 17th August 2010, we finally received the official registration certificate bearing number 11726 from the Registrar of Associations

An Executive Committee was set up as follows:

President: Henri Medan

Vice-President: Jean-Claude Dantier

Secretary : Noël Marie-Jeanne

Assistant Secretary : Serge L'Ecluse

Treasurer : Raymond Houbert

Auditors : Guillaume Devienne and Jean-Marc Blancard

The Committee started to work immediately because at that time we had only

one discussion forum in order to quickly reach a consensus on important issues.

Henri and Jean-Claude were already setting up the website, the database, and the Nimègue Software to record the data.

We were starting from scratch.



Founder Members at the Constitutive General Assembly Meeting

From left to right: Jean-Claude Dantier, Jocelyn Chaillet, Guillaume Devienne, Henri Medan, Ronald Bégué, Noël Marie-Jeanne, Raymond Houbert, Jean Marc Blancard.

Our Discussion Forum

This group is open to all amateur genealogists who have family ties, present or past, in Mauritius or Rodrigues, as well as all those who are willing to help trace the genealogy and history of the families of our islands.

To join, write to:

Imaugen@yahoogroupes.fr



Our President in Kangarooland

While on leave in Australia, the President, Henri Medan, took the opportunity to meet members of the Mauritian Diaspora who were interested in genealogy. This is how he came to be interviewed on 18 September 2010 by Radio 3ZZZ. He seized this occasion to present the CGMR to listeners of this local radio which is very popular among Mauritians living in Melbourne. This introduced us to the Mauritian Diaspora living in Australia. This operation was a success and we registered enrolments in the CGMR and also on the Imaugen Mutual



Assistance Forum.

Henri on Radio 3ZZZ Interviewed by Solange Lajoie



Many thanks to Clancy Philippe for the organization of this interview thanks to his local contacts.

other researchers.

We wish to thank all those who have provided us with data, which they have compiled through many years, to be published on our website. We are all very grateful to them for having shared their work with us to enhance our mutual assistance. Special thanks to Henri Maurel and the members of Dynarobin.

All the genealogical data cannot be published. Prior authorization from owners of archive information must be obtained. This is the reason why the CGMR maintains and manages two databases. This first is only accessible to the managers of the website and contains all the data gathered to date.

Our websites are updated regularly, as we input data received from volunteers. Some of the data has not been published for lack of authorizations. But we can privately communicate the information

2011 Executive Committee

President: Henri Medan

Vice-president: Jean-Claude Dantier

Secretary: Noël Marie-Jeanne

Asst. Secretary: Serge L'Ecluse

Treasurer: Raymond Houbert

Members:

Jean-Noël Gordon-Gentil

Yann Lazare

Maurice Randabel

Marie-Noëlle Richard

we have to all those who make the request through our mutual assistance forum IMAUGEN.

There are more than 200 000 entries in that database.

The second database contains only information which can be published, and which can be accessed on line, free of charge, at the following address:

<http://www.cgmr-genealogie.org/actes/>

With more than 50 000 entries, this website has attracted more than 33 000 visitors since 8th January 2011

Special thanks to the team of volunteers involved in the digitization and transcription for the CGMR.

Our Genealogy Databases

Our databases are organized around the free software Expoactes which, allows the efficient data management and display. Our team of volunteers transcribe genealogical data from archives documents through a special software: Nimègue.

This data is then downloaded on Mysql/ Apache database. A PHP platform makes it possible to view this information on web pages through standard internet browsers. Some of the data which, are on our website are donations from genealogists and

Archives Documents to be Digitised

Owners of Archive Documents

Discussions

Diocese of Mauritius (Church of England)

On 15th March 2010, further to attempts made by Jean-Claude Dantier, Noël Marie-Jeanne and Henri Medan, the CGMR obtained the official authorization of the Mauritian diocese to digitise Anglican reg-

isters and publish the transcriptions online (already partly published on our website).

These registers will be computerized and progressively handed over to the diocese. A copy of the BMS transcriptions will also be given to the person responsible for the Anglican diocese to facilitate research and avoid the handling of registers.



Saint James Cathedral

Diocese of Port-Louis (Roman Catholic)

After having obtained the permission of the Catholic diocese to digitise two parish registers of the Cathedral as a test and completed their computerization and transcription, Serge L'Ecluse, Jean-Claude Dantier and Henri Medan have attended a working session in March 2010 with Father Jean-Maurice Labour about the digitization and transcriptions of the association. Jean-Maurice Labour has been favourably impressed by the work done.

He intended to organize a new presen-



La Cathédrale Saint Louis

tation with the Bishop, and we should obtain a formal authorization to computerize the parish registers.

A copy of the digitized documents and transcriptions has been given to Father Labour.



Church of Scotland

Henri Medan and Jean-Claude Dantier have met the Administrative Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Mauritius for an explanatory meeting on 15th April 2011. They explained to her the aims of our association and presented examples of our work. They requested authorization to digitize their Birth, Marriage and Sepulture registers, to transcribe them and post the transcriptions online on our website. The Synod Council of the Presbyterian Church was going to meet on Thursday 19 May to discuss the computerization of their files and take a decision.

Imaugen

Imaugen is the discussion forum of the Cercle de Généalogie Maurice - Rodrigues

Why should one join and use IMAUGEN?

- It is possible that other forum members have already searched the family names which you are investigating.
- You have not found the family name you are looking for on our website

[http:// www.cgmr-genealogie.org/actes/](http://www.cgmr-genealogie.org/actes/)

- It is possible that the information is on the offline database . You must therefore make a request on the IMAUGEN website.
- You have compiled a great deal of information on Mauritian ascendancies and you wish to share them with others.

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Newsletter

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on

<http://www.cgmr-genealogie.org>

† In Memoriam George Bancilhon (CGMR Founder Member)

George Bancilhon, born in Mauritius in 1951, interested himself in genealogy thanks to old family documents which he had received after the death of his father and also from one of his aunts. Between 1981 and 1987, he literally haunted the archives and the civil status office at Coromandel



in search of documents allowing him to trace the Bancilhon family line and relate between them a maximum of persons bearing that name. He transmitted the genealogy virus to one of his uncles residing in France. This person managed to find a distant cousin, Yvonne Bancilhon, who lives in the village of Vergougnoux in Lozère, in the house where Jean Antoine Bancilhon, the ancestor of the Bancilhon family who arrived in Mauritius in 1793, was born. From Sydney in Australia, where he had settled down, he continued his research and maintained close contacts with his island birth place thanks to the discussion forums. He participated in the creation of the CGMR, in which he had placed many hopes, and which he assisted in spite of his illness. We will remember him as an intelligent person, who was humble, whose contributions were always moderate and tinged with humour.



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The CGMR And The Mauritius Archives

The CGMR has always maintained good relations with the Archives of Mauritius. In a meeting with Mr. Chung Sam Wan, we have been able to show him our project on the computerization and transcriptions of the parish registers. Particularly, the work we had accomplished until then. He assured us of his support with the relevant Government Ministry.

The CGMR has obtained the official recognition of the Ministry of Art and Culture in a letter addressed to us on 15th October 2010, assuring us of its support to our projects.

Henri Medan and Jean-Claude Dantier have been invited to an information meeting at the Ministry of Art and Culture in presence of the Permanent Secretary and officers of the Ministry on 13th January 2011. Representatives of the Nelson Mandela Centre and the Mahatma Gandhi Institute were also present. We have seized this opportunity to explain the aims of our association and make a practical demonstration of our works. Some CDs of the computerization done by the CGMR (two districts (French period) as well as the decennial tables for the period 1861-1870) were given to the Permanent Secretary.

On the 2nd February 2011, during a meeting with Mr. Alain Gordon-Gentil, the Prime Minister's Cultural Advisor,

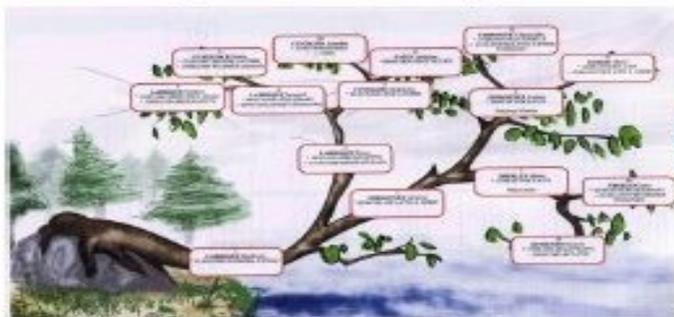
Henri Medan and Jean-Claude Dantier have once again explained the aims of our association and presented our project for computerizing and transcribing the archive documents. They requested his support to obtain the necessary authorizations to computerize the civil status documents both in the National Archives and the Civil Status Office, and to put the result of our transcriptions online on the CGMR website. Further to this meeting, a written agreement was obtained from the Minister Of Culture authorizing the CGMR to computerize a duplicate of

the index of ten-year tables kept at the National Archives. It is to be noted that the decennial tables are under the responsibility of the Civil Status Office, department under the the responsibility of the Prime Minister's Office. This is quite an achievement because the CGMR is the only association which has obtained an official authorization to do this type of work so far. We will very soon surely be able to link the index of the French period to the index covering the period 1861-1960.



Handing over of Digitised Registers DVDs to the Mauritius Archives Director

La Généalogie – Son virus se répand



Son virus se répand partout dans le pays
Et je l'ai attrapé il y a quelques années
Certes, il ne propage aucune maladie
Mais... il rend un peu fou ceux qu'il a atteints.

Il ne faut pas, c'est sur, avoir toute sa tête
Pour passer ses vacances à hanter les archives,
Dans tous les coins du monde, poursuivre son enquête,
Et le congé suivant, voilà qu'on récidive !

Faut-il être vraiment sain d'esprit, dites-moi,
Pour venir s'enfermer, les jours ensoleillés,
Avec de vieux registres qui nous mettent en émoi,
Des actes centenaires pour nous émerveiller ?

Il doit certainement nous manquer une case
Pour qu'un nom gribouillé nous transporte de joie,
Pour qu'un acte trouvé nous remplisse d'extase,
Pour qu'un lieu illisible nous mette aux abois !

Devant de sombres écrans qui fatiguent nos yeux
Nous passons maints moments dans des salles obscures,
Afin de dénicher de très lointains aïeux
Et pouvoir les léguer aux époques futures.

Il arrive parfois qu'on perde les pédales
Dans cette profusion de frères, de parrains,

Il arrive parfois qu'on perde les pédales
Dans cette profusion de frères, de parrains,
De tantes, de cousins, qui forment un vrai dédale
Où il est parfois dur de trouver son chemin !

C'est un puzzle géant aux innombrables pièces,
Qu'avec beaucoup d'ardeur et de persévérance,
Il nous faut rechercher et assembler sans cesse
En demandant souvent de l'aide à Dame chance

En haussant les épaules, d'aucuns pourront trouver
Qu'il y a mieux à faire qu'à fouiller le passé,
Que l'avenir étant plus digne d'intérêt,
C'est bien plutôt vers lui qu'il faudrait se tourner.

Mais on pourrait répondre à ces indifférents
Que leurs ancêtres aussi leur ont transmis la vie,
Qu'ils devraient tout au moins être reconnaissants
Et pour les remercier, les sauver de l'oubli.

Même si un chercheur découvrait un vaccin
Pour nous remettre un peu le cerveau à l'endroit,
J'entend continuer cette quête sans fin
Rester un peu toqué.... Après tout, c'est mon droit.

Amicalement à tous les bénévoles et aux autres aussi
bien sur....

Texte de Annie NOUVEL-ARMAND

The Rougaille Connection is the Newsletter of the Mauritius Australia Connection (3000 members)-Rougaille mailing list at

www.cjp.net.

This association informs the Mauritian Community in Australia of everything that happens in Mauritius and in the world. This list is moderated for your security. You may join at the following address:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rougaille/join>

This popular website receives 4500 visits per day.

Subscription via:



† In Memoriam—Jean Absalon (Associate Member)



Jean ABSALON; born in the French region of Alsace, had a professional career in French speaking West Africa. Married to a Mauritian, Dany Lafond, he paid several visits to Mauritius, looking for the origins of his wife.

I met him in 2003 following a request for genealogical information. As we lived close to each other, we often met and spent a lot of time exchanging our memories of Mauritius which he always evoked with warmth and enthusiasm.

Jean was fascinated by the history and the genealogy of the island's families. It is therefore quite naturally that he accepted in 2006/2007 to join the Dynarobin working group which I had set up for the transcription of baptism, marriages, and deaths registers of Grand-Port district (French period).

When the Cercle de Généalogie Maurice-Rodrigues was created, he accepted, again with enthusiasm, to participate in the transcription of certificates of the Port-Louis district. Soon after, Jean Absalon informed me that he was suffering from a terrible illness, and that he hoped to work "between two treatment sessions", but his health deteriorated so rapidly and he passed away in a very short time.

I remember Jean as an exceptional person, intelligent, learned and hard worker, but also humble, good husband and father, excellent at cooking Mauritian cuisine.

With the demise of Jean Absalon, the CGMR loses a very efficient collaborator.



Henri Maurel

Cercle de Généalogie Maurice-Rodrigues (CGMR)

MSIRI Quarters,
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Meet the CGMR on the web

Web site: <http://www.cgmr-genealogie.org/>

Online Database: <http://www.cgmr-genealogie.org/actes/>

Discussion Forum: <http://fr.groups.yahoo.com/group/Imaugen>

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Entrance of the Britton Cemetery at Grande Rivière Nord-Ouest, Mauritius, seen from the inside.

Cimetières de l'Ile Maurice

When we have exhausted all the sources of information to trace back our ancestors, we must very often visit the cemeteries. On the epitaphs, there are useful dates which can enable us to better focus our research in the archives and civil status office.

We have included a compilation of the transcriptions of some epitaphs found in various cemeteries of the island on the online CGMR website.

<http://www.cgmr-genealogies.org/actes/>

Sometimes, it happens that the dates are incomplete or that they have been weathered by time and environmental conditions. In such cases, please be indulgent as it is beyond our control. Should you detect a transcription error, kindly inform us and we will make the correction as soon as possible.