

DAVIS GENEALOGY CLUB

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Unearthing my French Roots – A Black Woman's Story

Speaker: Céline Walker

Please join us to hear the personal account of one woman's 3-year quest to find her roots in France. Although she is descended from Honorédavis Gaillard de Laubenque, as a member of the "black" Gaillard branch, Céline knew very little about the white family while she lived in St. Lucia. Purely by chance she chose to live in Toulouse, France, and there she discovered that her Gaillard ancestor had been born and had lived in that same city. In one chateau, she and the present day owner found a dilapidated box in a remote corner of the attic that contained Gaillard family documents dating back to the early 18th century.

Our speaker, Céline Walker, is a St. Lucian American who has been an American citizen for many years. She has worked as the Chief of Science and Technical Libraries at Stanford and as the Director of Co-ordination of Information systems for the United Nations in Geneva. Her research, including found portraits and the family tree dating back to 1592 that she was able to reconstruct, is summarized in her fascinating book entitled, The Gaillard de Laubenque family of France and St. Lucia.



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