



**ST. ANN ST. PRODUCTIONS**  
Relive | Rebuild | Return

Louis Charbonnet, Sr.  
(Father of William Charbonnet)

**CALLING ALL CHARBONNETS...**



*“For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.”*

*Luke 12:48*

November 16, 2007

It's a very exciting time in the Charbonnet family! Our history is coming alive. Sloane, Jacques, and Darin are writing to invite you to participate in the digital documentation of our family tree.

As you can see from our tagline, Relive | Rebuild | Return, this project has three phases:

1. **Relive.** During the first part of the project, we will be coming around to each family to collect stories and memorabilia. Initially, post Katrina we are, in essence, gathering all that's been displaced and presenting it not only to your generation, but for those generations past us;
2. **Rebuild.** The second phase involves the rebuilding of our family history, especially for those who lost memories to Hurricanes Camille, Betsy, and Katrina. San Francisco serves as a place to gather, reconnect and bring it back to NOLA as the rebuilding occurs;
3. **Return.** We will celebrate the completion of our family history with a triumphant return to our roots – New Orleans. The official unveiling of our complete family history will take place during a Charbonnet Family Reunion in the summer of 2009.

Even though the three of us are coordinating this effort, it truly is a family affair. **We can't do it without your help.** Here's what we need you to do:

- Gather all of the information you can that will help us document our unique history (people, photographs, letters, military records, birth



certificates, marriage licenses, obituaries, songs, mementos, keepsakes)

- Contact Sloane, Jacques, or Darin so we can schedule a time to visit with you and your family (we hope to have all visits in California scheduled by the end of the year)
- Identify other relatives/family friends we should speak with
- Check your mail for progress reports and updates
- Start planning now to join us in New Orleans for a Charbonnet Family Reunion in 2009

The most important part of the documentation process is the oral component. As we come around to each family, we will record oral histories in the form of interviews. It may help you to think about the following topics, which are the same topics we will be asking you about:

- Your favorite childhood memories
- If you had the opportunity to talk to your great-great-great-great-grandchild, what would you say?
- Growing up on St. Ann Street
- Leaving New Orleans for California (or elsewhere)
- Your parents
- Your grandparents (on both sides)
- The role the community played in your upbringing

We know some of these memories may be sad or painful, but it is important that we talk about those family members who are deceased. When remembering loved ones, keep in mind that **this documentary is a celebration of life**; a wonderful opportunity for us to immortalize those who have gone on before us, and the chance to give voices to those who are no longer able to be heard.



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The best part of it all is that our family history will be digitally archived and dispersed throughout the country; physical distance will no longer mean that we aren't close, and no one will ever have to worry again about losing these precious family memories to natural disasters.

Like the parable of the faithful servant, we are imminently aware of the noble task that we are undertaking. We are committed to telling the Charbonnet story, a story that will require much from us. It is our duty to preserve our legacy, one that future generations of Charbonnet descendants will refer to over and over again. Please join us on this journey of discovery, knowing that once we get to the other side, we will be forever changed.

Sincerely,



Sloane, Jacques, and Darin



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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Do I have to send any of my memorabilia anywhere?**

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No. We will bring all of the necessary equipment to you (no matter where you are) and will not leave your home with any of your belongings. The only thing we ask is that you try to gather as much information as you can so we can digitize as much as possible.

### **How can I help?**

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Gather as much information as possible, get your family together, and schedule a time for us to come and visit. You can also write down anything you can remember and send it to us. Any information you have will help us tell our story, so please dig deep into your memory bank; this includes talking about those who have passed on – it's important that their stories be told. The more help we get from you, the better our finished product will be.

### **Is this going to cost me anything?**

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In the initial phases of the project, it will cost you absolutely nothing. Our primary focus is getting as much information as we can and putting it into a format to share with everyone. As we move closer to the production phase, we will keep you posted on the expenses we incur, but **right now, you do not have to pay for anything**. Obviously there will be costs associated with the family reunion in 2009.

### **Do I have to wait until 2009 to see the documentary?**

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You will have to wait to see the entire documentary when it is unveiled at the family reunion. However, once production is complete we are planning a series of 'preview parties' in the spring of 2009. The previews will take place in both Northern and Southern California, and in another central location accessible by large numbers of family members.



### **Will I be able to get a copy of the documentary when it is finished?**

Yes, you will. We will present each Charbonnet sibling with a DVD of the documentary along with some accompanying printed materials (which we have yet to determine).

### **Will I be able to get additional copies of the documentary?**

Ideally, our hope is that every member of the family will receive a copy of the documentary and supporting materials. As production draws near, we will look into the most economically feasible options and determine the best way to distribute the greatest amount of material to everyone.

### **How can my family take a more proactive role in this project?**

There are plenty of tasks that we need to accomplish, and we are glad that you want to do more. The best way for families to help is with planning the family reunion. We will keep a running tab of activities that each family has volunteered to do. It would also help if you identified one person to serve as a 'point person' for your family; someone who can serve as a liaison between your family and us to make sure that we all stay on track and prevent overlapping.

### **How can I get in touch with you if I have other information to share?**

**Sloane Signal**  
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You can also e-mail us at [stannstproductions@gmail.com](mailto:stannstproductions@gmail.com)... And be on the lookout for information about our Web site launch!

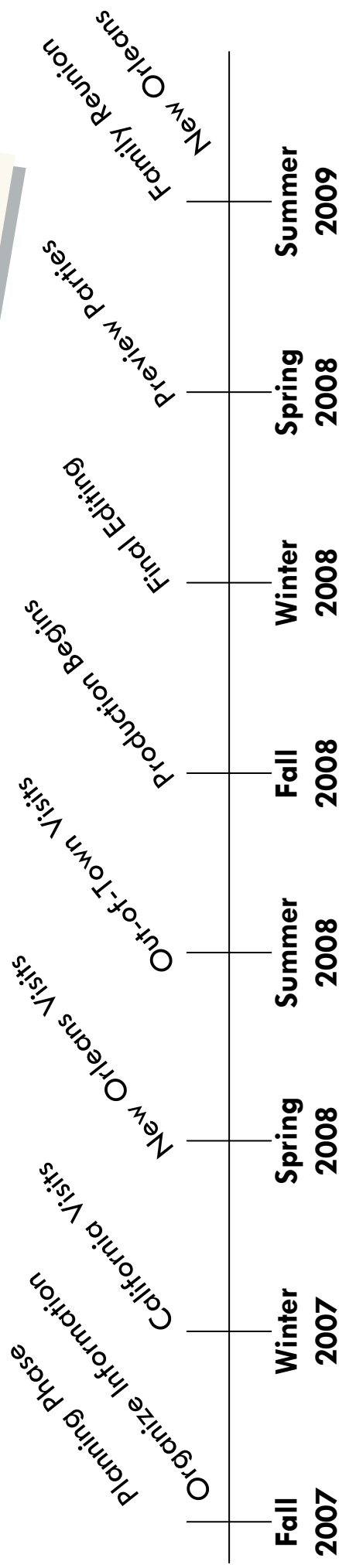


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## PROJECT TIMELINE

### Things to Do:

- ✓ Get out old pictures
- ✓ Find keepsakes/ mementos
- ✓ Get family together
- ✓ Think about interview topics
- ✓ Schedule visit with St. Ann St. Productions
- ✓ Plan trip to New Orleans in 2009



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