

## Joe Peery

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**From:** saint9roi@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2013 2:05 AM  
**To:** joepeery@peerygenealogy.com  
**Subject:** Nezat quiry

Hi,  
My name is Kent,  
-I saw your website.  
-It's brought a lot of happiness to a lot of people.

I have some friends who are relatives of yours:  
Willie Nezat LaVergne Fruge', her son Kenny de LaVergne, Kristi Soileau de Genova, daughter of Verna Nezat Soileau, etc.

They are the daughters and grandchildren of a married couple I found on your website, named Marx Nezat and Reitha Close / Rita Clare Close.  
(Marx's nickname was "Manny"- not "Anary")  
They are trying to put Reitha's life story back together.  
I was able to match their family stories to the information on your website.

Question:  
We want to know who Reitha Close's parents are. (my suspicion is that her father is Adam Close.)

-Are John-Angelas, Etienne and Adam the only three sons of Jean Pierre Close and Maria Olivia Nezat?  
-Is there the possibility of them having another brother?

Below is some information that you may recognize,  
or someone from the side of the family that you know, may recognize:

Outline of Reitha's life:  
Reitha and her siblings Pearl and "...?" became orphans, who then lived with a succession of aunts and uncles.  
Reitha's mother's family may be the Quebedeaux, but there are two known cousins who were named Victor and Simon Stelly from that side of the family.

Reitha Close married Marx Nezat while living at her Aunt Lulu's in Maragouin, (just west of Baton Rouge),  
Reitha and Marx/Marks were cousins in the usual Louisiana degrees.  
Reitha died in childbirth (for Merrick "Mack" Nezat), when Miss Willie and her sisters were young,  
and Marx later married Marjorie DeJean.

We know from old pictures that Reitha's grandparents were Jean Pierre "John P." Close/Clause and Marie Olivia Nezat (Olivia's brother is in the picture.)

We don't know who Reitha's parents are.  
I think it may be Adam Close, the brother of John Angelas Close.

Because:  
Reitha had a sister named Pearl Close Guillory who died when Kenny was little.  
, and there's also a different "Aunt Pearl" from Reitha's side of the family who died about a month before Kenny was born.  
Reitha and her sister Pearl lived for a while with an uncle,

There's a scribbled note on the back of an old picture of a family uncle with the name "John A. Close" and the word "died" and then also a date "1894" -  
which, on your website is actually the date of John Angelas Close's marriage.

John Angelas Close is the son of Reitha's grandparents,  
John Angelas Close also had a daughter named Pearl

The death dates of the two Pearls on your website match the ones known to the Nezat-LaVergne-Soileau family,

Adam Close is the only brother of John Angelas Close listed on your website who has no death date or information..

Reitha's dad died when she was very young in an accident,  
Her father was also "young" when he died.  
Either he died in a railroad accident, or he worked for the railroad and died in a crash.  
There's some confusion about that among the family.

Reitha at first lived with an aunt who had a daughter who was crippled.  
Miss Willie remembers visiting "cousins" in Port Arthur.

From your website:

Marx Nezat and Reitha Close lived in Port Arthur in 1920.  
Marx's cousin Bernice Duplechain was in an accident when she was three years old  
(when Reitha would have been 15.)  
Bernice Duplechain died in Port Arthur.

Questions:

Is Bernice Duplechain the crippled cousin that Reitha said she took care of?

Is that possibly the same accident as the one that Adam died in?

Who is Adam's wife?

Is Adam Close the father of Reitha?

Thank you in advance for any help you may be able to offer,  
KDN