

Christy Dugas Maraist, Past President, Acadian Memorial Foundation, Inc. Discussion on “Emmeline” counterpart of Longfellow's “Evangeline” during the Acadian Memorial Festival on March 15, 2008

Christy Dugas Maraist, native of St. Martinville, LA, grew up surrounded by the legends of Emmeline and Evangeline.

Both Acadian maidens stood on the banks of the Bayou Têche, Evangeline searching for Gabriel and Emmeline hoping to find Louis Arceneaux. Both had been separated from their fiancés at the time of the Acadian exile.

Due to the nature of oral tradition, the similar stories became so intertwined that Maraist was inspired to unravel the threads and finally separate fact from fiction.

The year 2008 is the 101st anniversary of Felix Voorhies' book *Acadian Reminiscences* and this summer, Maraist will publish *Emmeline: Acadian Reminiscences Revisited*