



**Children waiting to greet Acadians. Date is incorrect, sorry**

**Susan Pitre Rabalais  
3313 W. Gloria Switch Rd.  
Church Point, LA 70525  
337-896-8147 (H) 337-278-0534 (Cell)**

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To Whom It May Concern:

The weekend of March 14 and 15 was the Acadian Memorial Festival in St. Martinville. On Friday afternoon, my husband, Greg, and I along with our 8 year-old granddaughter, Alyse walked the downtown area of St. Martinville. I had been there many times, but this year I thought Alyse would enjoy learning about her ancestors AND SHE DID! The first thing we did was to go to the Acadian Memorial building. Even though we were earlier than 5:30 we were allowed inside and greeted by a wonderful woman. She was so accommodating to us and especially to Alyse. Alyse was in awe of the beautiful mural of the Acadians. I also showed her our Pitre relatives' names on the wall. My Dad was  $\frac{1}{2}$  Acadian, that makes me about  $\frac{1}{4}$  and I am deeply proud of my ancestry. When I was

growing up I was embarrassed to hear my Dad speak French. How I wish I had learned from him! Later that evening, we ate boiled crawfish and had a wonderful time.

Saturday Alyse and I went back to St. Martinville and visited the many booths eating and otherwise. There were ladies quilting, gentlemen cooking wild game and of course a band always playing that great Cajun music. All of this was in the street in front of the famous Evangeline Oak along Bayou Teche. I took Alyse to the reading of a children's book written and read by Cheri Armentor. Cheri had some of the children present play a character in the book. It was just wonderful. After the book reading, Cheri invited all the children to greet the "Acadians" arriving by boat with a hug/handshake and some Mardi Gras beads. The children were ecstatic about doing this. They understood the reenactment and cherished every moment.

I just wanted to extend my thanks to Brenda Comeaux-Trahan and her helpful staff. They are constantly striving to keep the memory of the Acadians alive. We all need to continue to teach our youngsters about the Acadians and their influence in our lives today. Yes, I will attend the arrival of the Acadians on August 15<sup>th</sup> in the blistering heat and hopefully will have 2 or 3 grandchildren with me. I will also look forward to the Acadian Festival next March.

PS Alyse is going to attend a summer camp for a week at the Acadian Cultural Center here in Lafayette.