



# Calling All Cajuns!

St. Martinville, Louisiana

Vol. 10, No. 1

Spring 2001

## Memorial mural appears in France

A replica of Robert Dafford's Acadian Memorial mural has been placed on the wall in Nantes, France alongside the painting Dafford finished in 1993 for the City of Nantes. Gérard Braud, from the association Bretagne-Acadie in Nantes, France, notified Jolene Adam, curator/ director of the Acadian Memorial of this action having been taken. AMF Board Member Preston Guillotte recently returned from Nantes and told the board about the "finished product" and the effect it is having on the people of Nantes.

Guillotte reported a conversation he overheard in front of the mural. A French mother was relating the story and history of the Acadians to her young daughter. Guillotte seized the opportunity to become involved in the conversation. He asked the young girl if she had ever met an Acadian, and she replied, "Non, Monsieur". He then told the young girl that she had now, that his ancestors were in the group depicted as leaving Nantes and, in the new mural, arriving in Louisiana. Guillotte said the young lady was very excited!

It is very important that all Acadian descendants share their pride with others. Too often we have allowed ourselves to be portrayed as buffoons in Cajun jokes or B movies. The world will not be the one to change this image, that is our job!



Ernest P. "Topper" Breaux, Jr. and AMF board member Preston Guillotte view the twin murals on *rue des Acadiens* in Nantes.

## Plans to expand newsletter

We would like to make *Calling All Cajuns* bigger, better and more frequent. Have an article, recipe or book review to submit? Send it to *Calling All Cajuns* at the Foundation's address on the back page.

## Acadian remembrance to Spain

On March 31, 2001 an Acadian delegation traveled to Jackson, Mississippi for a scheduled audience with His Majesty, King Juan Carlos of Spain. The King and Queen were in Jackson attending the "Majesty of Spain" exhibit on display in that city.

The Acadian delegation included numerous members of Sons of the American Revolution, including Edward Overton Cailleateau of Baton Rouge, the former vice president general, southern district of SAR; Robert Shelton of Lafayette; Warren Perrin of Lafayette, president of the Council for Development of French in Louisiana; Mr. and Mrs. Charles LeBlanc of Jackson, Mississippi; Dorothy Broussard of Lafayette; Kermit Bouillion of Duson, director of the Acadian Museum in Erath; A. J. LeBlanc of Lafayette, president of Monde des Cadiens and president of CAFA (Confederation of Associations of Families Acadian); Lynn Breaux of Lafayette, National Society SAR Ambassador to France, and son of Bryce Breaux, representing the Louisiana Children to the American Revolution.

King Juan Carlos spoke with the delegation in French when they presented him with a proclamation in honor of assistance given by Spain for the relocation of displaced Acadians from France to Louisiana in the year 1785 (historically referred to as the voyage of the seven ships). His Majesty was also presented with an Acadian flag, and was invited to participate with President George W. Bush and President Chirac of France in the re-enactment of the signing of the Louisiana Purchase at the Cabildo in 2003.

Author's note: A. J. LeBlanc was the individual who prompted Senator Edgar "Sonny" Mouton to have the state legislature officially recognize August 15 (*la Fête Nationale de l'Acadie*) as "Acadian Day" in Louisiana.



## AMF Endowment Fund

Acadian exiles traveled by boats that ushered them into a new life with fearful uncertainties and fascinating opportunities. These Acadian exiles are forever memorialized at the Acadian Memorial in St. Martinville, Louisiana. In order to perpetuate its existence and operation, the Acadian Memorial Foundation has established the Endowment Fund. Because of our long-range plans, countless individuals will continue to pause, read, and remember. Like the vessels that ushered the Acadian exiles into a new and promising existence, so will the Acadian Memorial Foundation Endowment Fund be a vessel through which their memories will be ushered into a promising and certain future.

Please consider contributing to the Acadian Memorial Foundation Endowment Fund. If you enjoy your French heritage and history, why not pass it on to your children and grandchildren? Invest in their heritage by participating in the Acadian Memorial Foundation's endowment campaign. Call the Memorial at 337-394-2258 for more information.

## Saviez-vous... (Did you know...)

...that during the French Revolution, three Acadian descendants were beheaded? Or that one Acadian descendant served as Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court? Or that Acadian descendants have served in the United States House, before, as the saying goes, it was popular to be Cajun? Or lastly, that a Marine Corp Base was named after an Acadian descendant?

If you knew only part of the above, or none of it, remember that it is never too late to learn about your culture, your roots, and most importantly, your heritage. We are available to assist you, where possible, in your search for your history.

## Memorial-sponsored trip to France

The AMF-sponsored tour to France departed on April 20. Part of the 10-day tour was guided by two of our French cousins, Gérard and Maryannick Braud of Nantes, France. While we could not all take part in the journey, we send our very best to the Brauds and our French Cousins at *La Ligne Acadienne*, and we look forward to a debriefing from the travelers on their return. God speed, and enjoy!

## Annual meeting scheduled

The annual meeting of the Acadian Memorial Foundation has been set for 10:15 a.m. on Saturday, June 16, 2001. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. At the meeting, the AMF board will receive nominations for officers from the nominating committee. Nominations may also be made from the floor by anyone wishing to serve or to nominate someone. After nominations, the election will be held. Prior to the meeting, all are invited to 7 a.m. mass at St. Martin de Tours, followed by \$5 *café au lait, couche couche* and *beignets* at La Place d'Évangéline at 8 a.m. and a viewing of the future Museum of the Acadian Memorial at 9:30.

## Change to AMF by-laws proposed

At the upcoming annual meeting, a proposal to change the Foundation by-laws will be voted on.

### From current by-laws:

Section 5: A third of the Board of Governors shall be elected at the Annual Meeting to serve for a term of three (3) years. No board member shall serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms.

### Proposed change:

To delete the second sentence. The rationale for this change will be discussed in detail at the meeting.

## Bienvenu, LeBlanc join AMF board

The AMF board received nominations to fill two (2) vacancies that existed on the Board of Governors due to resignations for hardship. The nominees were Marcelle Bienvenu and Shirley Thibodeaux LeBlanc. At the April 17, 2001 board meeting, a motion to elect Bienvenu and Leblanc was made and carried. The two new members' terms will be effective from July 2001 till July 2004.

## RV park planned for St. Martinville

Mayor Eric Martin and the City Council of St. Martinville have announced plans for the construction of a new RV park in St. Martinville. The park is expected to bring added visitors to the Memorial. The mayor and the council have taken steps to acquire land for this purpose. They have announced that the new RV park will be dedicated to the memory of RV-enthusiast Leonard "Brother" Resweber, who devoted so much of his time and effort into making the Acadian Memorial Project into the success it is today. Congratulations are in order to the mayor and the council!



## Angélique Pinet (Pinel) joins mural

Another figure on the Memorial mural has been named and sponsored. An Acadian woman depicted in the mural has been named for Angélique Pinet (Pinel), the widow of Michel Léger dit Richelieu. She arrived from France in 1785 aboard the ship *Le Bon Papa*, accompanied by two of her three sons, Louis and Jean Baptiste Léger. Upon arriving they were greeted by Pinet's eldest son, Michel Prospère Léger, who had preceded them to Louisiana.

Angélique and her husband Michel had the dubious honor of being deported from Acadia by the British not once, but twice! While Angélique was Acadian, her husband Michel was Canadian. Following her second deportation by the British, Angélique spent another 18 years in exile and lost her husband and three children. In all, this family spent 25 years in exile. Upon arriving in Louisiana in 1785, the family made their way to Opelousas.

We welcome this addition, and hope that other families that meet the criteria for inclusion in the mural will also petition to be added.

## Donations to the Memorial

April 2000 to April 2001:

### Mural Sponsor:

Richelieu Léger Family Association

### Acadian Heritage Membership:

Dugas/Guillot Families

Association of the Heberts of the World

### Acadian Descent Membership:

Willa Comeaux Chesson

Clifford S. Durand Jr.

Inez Gauthier

Les (Pete) Johnson

### Book Donations:

Cecilia High School Class of 1963

La Maison des Duhon, Inc.

Association of the Heberts of the World

La Famille Naquin

Family of Eugene Leonard Resweber, Jr.

### In-kind:

Larry Comeaux and St. Martin Bank, bookshelves

Junior League, fundraiser cookbooks

*Merci beaucoup* to these donors and to those who renewed their individual and family memberships!

## Cajun Recipe Corner

### Stuffed Mirliton

submitted by Al and Elaine Landry

5 large mirlitons

2 lb ground beef

2 lb shrimp

2 medium onions, finely chopped

1 small stalk of celery

1 tbl salt

1 tbl black pepper

1 cup bread crumbs (seasoned)

cayenne pepper to taste

garlic powder to taste

Worcestershire sauce to taste

Peel shrimp and make a stock from the heads and tails. Boil mirlitons until tender. When cool, cut mirlitons in half, remove the seeds, and scrape out pulp, leaving about ¼ inch shell. Grind 1 lb of shrimp. In a large pot, cook ground beef until it is just pink, then pour off excess fat. Add onions, celery, salt, pepper, garlic, and Worcestershire sauce. Add ground shrimp, mirliton pulp, whole raw shrimp, and stock as necessary to make a very moist mix. Stir and mix together while adding the bread crumbs. Toward the end of cooking when most moisture has evaporated, add onion and garlic powder. Test for seasoning, remove from heat. Stuff mixture into the mirliton shells. Sprinkle bread crumbs on top, place in oven, and bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 15 minutes. Serve immediately, or freeze for later use on special occasions.

Editor's note: Your grocery store may label mirliton as "chayote squash" or "vegetable pear".



AMF Vice-President John Albert "Al" Landry and wife Elaine submitted the mirliton recipe from their café, Lagniappe, Too, in New Iberia.



## *Du bureau de la directrice*

by Jolene Adam, curator/director

### *Ma Vision*

The mission of the Acadian Memorial is to honor the 3,000 Acadians who came to Louisiana. It's up to us to use our thinking to decide what we want our future to look like as Acadians. Can the story of our ancestors support our efforts for the future? How do we want our non-Acadian allies to support us?

My dream is for every person of Acadian descent to feel completely proud of their heritage. My vision is that our endeavors at the Memorial help Acadians feel proud and help our allies understand how they can support us. At the Memorial, one of our main goals toward this end is providing information about our history that is as accurate as possible, so we understand as much as we can about our ancestors.

My wish for the world is quite similar. Understanding one's heritage goes a long way toward respecting the views and rights of others and combating injustice. When we do our part as Acadians, everyone benefits.

Personally, I know my ancestors were not perfect people. Does feeling proud mean I condone instances when my ancestors mistreated others? No. It just means I know my ancestors were good people at heart. In my experience, this is a pretty good attitude to carry, not just toward my ancestors but toward people living today.

Acadians have repeatedly resisted suppression of their culture. For example, Acadian exiles in the British American colonies insisted on their right to petition the British government in French and protested attempts to indenture their children.

It continues to be important today that we be *visibly* proud of our language and culture. Being Acadian teaches us that families and neighbors are important, that our natural environment is to be treasured, and that life's simple pleasures matter most. Much of the rest of the world desperately needs this knowledge. As Acadians, we stand ready to offer it.

### **Museum of the Acadian Memorial**

The Museum of the Acadian Memorial will be located next to the Memorial in the St. Martinville Cultural Heritage Center. It is expected to open in the next few months. This past year, the big project has been creating the MAM interpretive panels. After many months glued to the computer, it's been worth the hours I worked and volunteered, knowing that

the panels will help visitors understand the meaning of the Memorial.

I was not alone in thinking about, writing, laying out, fact checking, and designing the panels. The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and your contributions to the AMF financed Dr. Carl Brasseaux's research, while the City of St. Martinville contributed my work time. Ryan Brasseaux at Exhibits, Etc. did a lot of preliminary work on the panels. Ryan, Jules Babineaux and Scott Long at Longevity Design all lent technical support with the design software. Exhibits, Etc., Longevity Design, and Dr. Carl Brasseaux all get *lagniappe* awards for going above and beyond the call of duty. AMF board members Elaine Clément and Patricia Resweber shared their thinking and gave much appreciated moral support. Patricia also went the extra mile to track down images and objects and help in the office. Wayne Kerr at Canadian Heritage, Marc David, Kendall Delcambre, Jane Bulliard, Brandon Landry, Mayor Eric Martin, Todd Kreamer, Carl Huval, Kirby Jambon, Gregory Wood and Shane Bernard get kudos for their comments. Frances Hébert gets a *gros, gros merci* for her input on Louisiana French. Special thanks go to the AM Staff: Gail Marretta, Rosalie Doré, Brandon Landry, Rose Blanchard and Irmalene Gaudet. Much of the design work had to be done outside the office, and my absence meant extra stress for them.

Work continues on the interactive exhibits. One will show routes Acadians followed to Louisiana (a great idea from Patricia Resweber). Another will be computer screen matching game for young people, using the Acadian Odyssey quilt made by the Quilter's Guild Acadienne. We hope that LEH will help us match your contributions to the AMF for a third interactive exhibit: a computer "scrapbook" about individual Acadian exiles.



Memorial staff are, left to right, seated: Docents Irmalene Gaudet and Rose Blanchard, Office Manager Gail Marretta; standing: Curator/director Jolene Adam, Intern Brandon Landry, and Office Assistant/Docent Rosalie Doré.



Time to renew? Check your mailing label for your membership expiration date.

## Won't you join us?

Your membership dues in the Acadian Memorial Foundation go directly to supporting the Memorial and sharing the memory of the 3,000 exiled Acadians who settled Louisiana. For example, member dues have helped the Foundation fund...

- the award-winning Acadian Memorial **web site** at [www.acadianmemorial.org](http://www.acadianmemorial.org): Our link to schools, genealogists and others who want to learn about Acadians in Louisiana.
- **exhibits**, like those soon to be unveiled at the new Museum of the Acadian Memorial: These help visitors understand why we honor the Acadians who came to Louisiana.
- **equipment**, like the window coverings the AMF purchased to protect the Acadian Memorial mural and to darken the conference room—now visitors to the AM multimedia center can really benefit from videos and presentations.
- **souvenir products** that bring more visitors to the Memorial or help people learn about Acadians. Sale of these items gives even more financial aid to the Memorial. (See the order form in our newsletter, call us, or visit the on-line boutique at [www.acadianmemorial.org](http://www.acadianmemorial.org)).

### Choose your membership.

Your dues are tax deductible under IRS Code 501(c)(3). Name of member(s):

* _____ Corporate Sponsor	\$1000 / year	_____
*~ _____ Lifetime Membership	\$ 500	_____
		(for one person or a couple)
* _____ Acadian Heritage	\$ 200 / year	_____
		(for family associations)
*+ _____ Of Acadian Descent	\$ 100 / year	_____
		(for one person or a couple)
_____ Family Membership	\$ 25 / year	_____
		(for a couple and any children (list names))
_____ Individual Membership	\$ 15 / year	_____
		(for one person)

\*These members receive a certificate recognizing their support of the Memorial.

~Lifetime members also receive a limited edition, signed and numbered print of the Memorial mural!

+To qualify for an "Of Acadian Descent" membership, submit one to four Acadian family names from your ancestry. Your certificate will recognize you (or you and your spouse) as descendents of these families.

All members receive the *Calling All Cajuns* newsletter, special announcements about upcoming events, entry passes, and voting privileges at the annual meeting.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose your check payable to the Acadian Memorial Foundation or use your visa card:

card number \_\_\_\_\_ expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Acadian Memorial Foundation, P.O. Box 844, St. Martinville, LA 70582





# The Acadian Memorial Foundation, Inc.

P. O. Box 844 • St. Martinville, Louisiana 70582 • (337) 394-2258

## Be an Acadian Memorial Foundation Volunteer!

2001-2002

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City

\_\_\_\_\_

State

\_\_\_\_\_

Zip

phone: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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Area of interest: (check one or more)

- 1. Secreterial
- 2. Sewing
- 3. Acting
- 5. Gardening
- 6. Guide--English or French
- 7. Writing
- 8. Hostess
- 9. Genealogy
- 10. Public Relations
- 11. Teacher
- 12. Newsletter
- 13. Computer
- 14. Library
- 15. Product Sales
- 16. Telephone
- 17. Filming
- 18. Cooking
- 19. Other \_\_\_\_\_



# Acadian Memorial Souvenirs

## Prints and Posters

1. Commemorative art print of the stunning Memorial mural, "The Arrival of the Acadians in Louisiana," by Robert Dafford, 26" x 12" full color lithograph, limited edition, signed and numbered, includes key to mural figures. \$65
2. Poster print of the Memorial mural, 20" x 10", full color lithograph, includes key to mural figures. \$12
3. "Odyssey of a People," interprets exile and shows routes Acadians followed. Bilingual fr./Eng. \$15
4. Acadian Odyssey Quilt color poster, 12" x 18", shows Deportation and Cajun traditions \$10
5. Lifestyle of the Acadians six-poster series of paintings by Azor Vienneau shows pre-dispersal life, with background information and questions for classroom discussion. Entire set only \$8

## T-Shirts



mural T front / devant



mural T back / dos

6. Mural T-shirt shows full color mural on white 100% cotton. Acadian Memorial name in English on front, *en français* on back. Youth M or L, Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL, or XXXL. \$18



Cajun T front / devant



Cajun T back / dos

7. Cajun T-shirt says "Cajuns of Acadian Descent", lists some common Cajun surnames on the back, and has Memorial logo on front \$15

## Mug

8. Mural mug, white with full color image of the Memorial mural \$10

## Pins / Épinglettes



Acadian descent pin

9. Acadian descent pin, dark blue lapel pin with gold Eternal Flame logo says "Of Acadian Descent/ *De descendance acadienne*". Wear it in memory of your Acadian ancestors. \$5
10. Lapel pin of Acadiana flag of Louisiana \$3

## Books, Magazines, CD-ROMs / Librairie

11. Acadian Memorial Wall of Names lists all Acadian refugees who came to Louisiana. Bilingual fr./Eng. \$10
12. Talk about Good II cookbook from the Junior League. Local Cajun and other recipes with the traditional, pre-Blue Dog paintings of Cajun artist George Rodrigue. \$12
13. Ragin' Cajuns cookbook from UL of Lafayette has recipes from staff, alumni and students \$10
14. Acadia: Sketches of a Journey by Cécile Chevrier. Breathtaking images and texts on early Acadia, the exile, and new beginnings. Bilingual fr./Eng. \$20
15. Acadian Family Names by revered genealogist Stephen White. Bilingual fr./ Eng. \$4
16. Scattered to the Wind. The Acadian experience in exile by renowned historian Carl Brasseaux. \$5
17. Acadiana Profile Magazine. Acadian history issue with cover and centerfold of AM mural. \$2.50
18. 3-issue Acadiana Profile series on Acadian history (includes issue with centerfold of Memorial mural listed above) \$7.50







## **Congratulations!**

Dr. Carl Brasseaux, director of the Center for Cultural and Eco-tourism at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, has been awarded the 2001 Garnie W. McGinty Lifetime Meritorious Service Award for his contributions to the humanities in Louisiana. The story we tell at the Acadian Memorial is largely based on the many works that Dr. Brasseaux has published on Louisiana Acadian history. He provided all the information found in the Memorial's *Ensemble Encore* online archive and wrote the exhibit script for the Museum of the Acadian Memorial.

Professor Glen Conrad, director of the Center for Louisiana Studies at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, has been named Humanist of the Year by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. Conrad's study of early Louisiana tells us much about Louisiana's first Acadians and their place in the larger South Louisiana community. His consultation first helped co-founder Jane G. Bulliard believe that there were enough historical resources to make the Acadian Memorial possible.

## **Do you love people?**

Are you a good listener? Do you like to read and learn? Are you interested in Acadian history? Then you would be great as a docent (museum guide) or research assistant! We are ready to welcome volunteers who would enjoy working with visitors of all ages in the Memorial hall, with young people on school field trips, or with patrons doing research in the multimedia center. Knowing French is helpful but not required.

Start your training with a workshop for staff and volunteers, to be held on Thursday, June 14 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The focus of this workshop will be visitor services. Call us at the Memorial if you would like to attend.

## **Adieu, Monsieur Brud**



Eugene Leonard "Brother" Resweber, a Lifetime Member of the Acadian Memorial, died on February 11 at the age of 78. Husband of Memorial co-founder Patricia D. Resweber, "Brother" volunteered as construction supervisor for renovation of the Acadian

Memorial building. He is fondly remembered for seeing that the work was done beautifully and properly. He even saw to the Herculean task of jacking up the rear half of the building, which was sinking into the bank of the Bayou Teche. He is missed by the Acadian Memorial staff, who knew him to remain a dedicated volunteer even after the Memorial opened. He was always ready to address any problems with the building or help design and make things we needed.

Born and raised in St. Martinville, Resweber served as a naval aviator in World War II. He was chief deputy sheriff of the St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Department for 25 years. After retirement, he continued working with the 16th Judicial District district attorney's office as a special investigator, with Mallard Drilling Services, with Wayne Wicks, and with the City of St. Martinville.

Resweber also served as volunteer construction supervisor for the Petit Paris Museum. He was named Most Valuable Volunteer by the City of St. Martinville in 1999 and recognized as an honorary Lifetime Member of the Acadian Memorial Foundation in 2000 for his years of dedicated service to the Memorial.

Resweber was a member of St. Martin de Tours Church and a 4th degree Knight of Columbus. He was active with the Boy Scouts and with the Cruisin' Cajuns, C'est la Vie Campers and Les Amis Cajuns R.V. clubs. He was an LSU football fan and 4-H supporter. He loved to travel with his family and cook for his many friends from throughout the U.S. and Canada.

## **Adieu, Madame Elaine**



Elaine Judice Delahoussaye, a docent (museum guide) at the Acadian Memorial, died on March 30. She worked as a docent at the Acadian Memorial from July 1997 to November 1999, then at the city's Tourist Information Center until December 1999.

Delahoussaye is remembered by the Memorial staff for her dedication and style. Her stories of growing up, her smile and her determination to stay active into her 80's still inspire the Memorial staff.

Before coming to the Memorial, Delahoussaye managed Vee's Five and Dime for 20 years.



## ***Tout un mois au Canada (Part I):***

by Jolene Adam, curator/director

I spent July 2000 with our partners at the Grand-Pré National Historic Site in Nova Scotia. The Acadian Memorial has worked with Grand-Pré since Evangeline Oak Park in St. Martinville twinned with Grand-Pré in 1996. A grant from IPAM (International Partnership among Museums) made it possible for GP director Donna Doucet to spend the month of March 2000 with us at the Memorial and for me to spend July 2000 with her in Nova Scotia.

Doucet and I used our exchange to learn about research and resources at our partner's site and improve the ways we help visitors understand Acadian history through interpretation and activities.

Special thanks go to everyone who helped make my visit to the Maritimes a success. Donna Doucet's family and Lucille and Félix Amirault put me up *and* put up with me during my stay in Nova Scotia. Dr. Barbara LeBlanc not only brainstormed with us on our educational activities, but she liquidated her library on Acadian history and culture to the AM multimedia center at *very* low prices. Several experts, in addition to those mentioned below, gave of their time and knowledge to answer my questions for the MAM text panels, including Wayne Kerr, Chief of Interpretation at Parks Canada; Ruth Holmes Whitehead, an ethnologist on the Mi'kmaw; and Carol Peters, an educator on the Mi'kmaw.

If you are planning to visit the Maritimes or attend *Congrès Mondial Acadien 2004*, or if you just like learning about *Acadie*, here are excerpts from my travel diary. Look for Part II in our next newsletter!

**Grand-Pré National Historic Site** commemorates the Deportation of Acadians from an area in the densely populated, agriculturally rich Minas Basin (now called Annapolis Valley). Colonel John Winslow, the British officer in charge of deporting Acadians from Grand-Pré, kept a diary which is now archived and offers us detailed information about the exile. The original paintings from the Claude Picard Deportation Series can be seen in the commemorative church. Major additions are planned for the site in preparation for CMA 2004.

Acadians and non-Acadians around Grand-Pré are considering recruiting local families to help host crowds expected during CMA 2004. Acadians getting to know non-Acadian descendants who call the region home today would have an opportunity for healing and for having some fun.

Before you leave Grand-Pré, be sure to ask about the Sainte Famille Cemetery Project near Windsor. And don't miss breakfast or lunch at the Evangeline Motel.

**Halifax** - It was the British establishment of a fort at Halifax (now the Citadel) that caused many Acadians to

flee Nova Scotia for their safety. The fort also served as a prison for captured members of the Acadian resistance. A friend tells me that the British colonial council voted to deport the Acadians in the old Anglican church.

**Annapolis Royal** became the site of the first European settlement in Nova Scotia when the French founded Port Royal in 1605. The original fort has been reconstructed. It is here that the French built friendship and trade relations with the Mi'kmaq people, paving the way for co-operation and intermarriage between the Mi'kmaw and the French. This alliance would extend to include Acadians.

After Port Royal was destroyed, Fort Anne was the next French fortification built in the area. This fort had ties to communities along the Annapolis River where Acadian settlers first dyked marshlands for farming. On display are a tapestry of Acadian history, exhibits related to the French and Acadians, as well as to the Planters and Loyalists who came after the Deportation.

**Clare** is a municipality of several mostly Acadian communities strung along St. Mary's Bay. At their annual festival, I saw volunteer fire departments compete in water games with their firehoses while I ate fried clams, scallops and strawberry shortcake! The Festival parade reminded me of the good old days in Louisiana, when floats were made locally by each krewe and people also walked the route in costume. The winning float was "pulled" by a team of oxen with a tag-along calf, all made entirely of scrap metal—a perfect example of Acadian pragmatism!

Sainte-Anne's Church in Clare is the largest wooden church in North America. An exhibit documents Clare's religious past. Since the 1800's, many Maritime Acadians have benefited from college education in French because of the efforts of the clergy.

Université Sainte-Anne is the only French-language university in Nova Scotia, founded in 1892. Today, hundreds of Louisianians attend its French immersion program each summer. Even if you don't know French, be sure to see Sainte Anne's musical *Evangeline* play performed in old Acadian French (an English interpretation is offered via headsets). The outdoor performance includes audience interaction, first-person interpretation and improvisation.

*Le Premier Cimetière Acadien* in Clare began in the late 1700s, when Clare's Acadian founders buried their dead during their first winter of their settlement. They were an impoverished group who had previously sought refuge in New Brunswick during the exile. Acadians from around the world now visit the site.

**Grand Dérangement** - I saw this world-famous musical group perform in their hometown of Clare. They offer music and dance based on Maritime Acadian tradition



but not limited to it. As with Cajun music in Louisiana, their audience ranges in age from babies to great-grandparents. These performers push the envelope with visionary songs that reflect a new Acadian worldview. They imagine a future where we are completely healed from the Deportation; where we honor the blood and social ties between Acadians and Native Americans; where we remember that human spirit has triumphed over exile many times; where we celebrate the bonds between all human beings that transcend ethnic boundaries.

**New discoveries on old settlements** – I was fortunate to meet Jonathan Fowler and Dr. Sherman Bleakney, two researchers making new discoveries. Fowler is a landscape archaeologist while Bleakney is a marine biologist. Each has a passion for learning more about old Acadian settlements at Grand-Pré.

Fowler identifies old roads and building sites for possible further study. He shared some of the theories he applies to looking for the sites. For example, a section of taller grass in a field may indicate the site of a former Acadian basement. This is because soil fell into the old basement and filled it loosely. The less compacted soil allows more grass roots to grow, making the grass itself grow taller. On the other hand, a dip, or section of shorter grass in a field may indicate an old building foundation. The buried wood and stone block root development, leading to shorter grass height.

Both Fowler and Bleakney compare old aerial photos with new ones and examine old newspapers and documents to find where Acadian sites once stood. Fowler has found that the Planters, who resettled former Acadian lands, appear to have built their homes higher along the ridges bordering the reclaimed marshlands than the Acadians did. It seems they used the grounds where Acadian homes stood as additional farmland. Later, when the railroad came to Grand-Pré, construction workers found old Acadian basements when the new rails they laid collapsed under the loose infill.

Bleakney studies dykes and marshes Grand-Pré area. He became curious when he noticed that erosion was not occurring in the area's waterways at the rate one would expect. He then discovered that the root systems of certain marsh grasses—the same ones used to cover dykes—have extremely tough root systems that hold their shape even if the soil surrounding the roots washed away. Grass roots inside sod blocks buried for generations remain surprisingly intact. Bleakney has also interviewed elderly descendants of area Planters who witnessed work crews maintaining the dykes in the era before machines were used. Bleakney initially thought of dyke building as back-breaking work, but his research using these oral histories and historic documents shows it to have been an organized task performed efficiently. He contends that by 1700, a crew of 150 Acadians could



Landscape archaeologist Jonathan Fowler (center) shows Dr. Barbara LeBlanc (left), Donna Doucet and Kirby Jambon (right) how he studies maps for clues to locate remains of Acadian sites around Grand-Pré.

have built an 8000 foot long dyke in 20 days. Dyke construction nonetheless required skill honed by experience: sod blocks were cut at a precise bevel with a spade and fit snugly along the sloped sides of the dyke wall to create a pressured wet seal.

Bleakney and Fowler have also found evidence that the Horton Cross, an iron monument, does not mark the exact spot where Acadians left Grand-Pré on boats bound for exile. Research shows that the dry creek bed marked by the cross was already dry at the time of Deportation due to Acadian dyking. They believe that the actual spot of embarkation is Black Point, an outcropping of black shale along the muddy bank, where boats and ships would have docked. Fowler believes the fort at Grand-Pré once stood nearby, on a site currently used as a corn field.

More discoveries by Fowler and Bleakney about pre-dispersal Acadia are sure to come. As of press time, Donna Doucet has informed me that Fowler has plans to excavate the site where he thinks the Grand-Pré church may have stood.

Part II of this article will appear in the next *CAC*!



Bleakney and Fowler believe the point on the near bank at the center of this photo to be the site where Acadians deported from Grand-Pré boarded boats into exile.



## Calling All Cajuns Calendar

samedi, le 16 juin / Saturday, June 16 at 10:15 a.m.

**Acadian Memorial Foundation annual meeting**  
Make your vote count and meet other members!

jeudi, le 14 juin / Thursday, June 14 from 9 to 12 noon

Interested in **volunteering** at the Acadian Memorial?  
Come to our training session on visitor services!

ouverture du musée / museum opening

A date will be announced for opening of the Museum of the Acadian Memorial in the St. Martinville Cultural Heritage Center—watch your mailbox this summer for an update!

le 5 au 12 août / August 5 through 12

AM Curator/director Jolene will co-teach a Cajun culture class during Cajun Week at Augusta Heritage Center, part of Davis and Elkins College in Elkins, West Virginia. Call 304-637-1209 for more information.

mercredi, le 15 août / Wednesday, August 15

**La Fête Nationale de l'Acadie:** raising of the Acadian flag at sunrise, open house at Memorial, *tintamarre*, mass for Feast of the Assumption.

dimanche le 9 décembre / Sunday, December 9

**ratatouille**—a traditional Cajun French singalong at the Memorial during St. Lucy Festival of Lights.

## Ce que disent nos visiteurs

### What our visitors say

Eric and Michele Broussard of Auburn, California:  
Great history (*Histoire magnifique*)

Kerry and Amy Dugas of Pierre Part, Louisiana  
Very beautiful (*Beaucoup belle*)

Gilles Brabant and Doris Carpentier of Rawdon, Québec  
*Dame gentille, recit historique*  
(Nice lady, historic tale)

Wendy Klaffer of Adelaide, Australia  
Great stuff! (*De quoi magnifique!*)

Al and Marilyn Kline  
O-WE-GO Tours of Owego, New York  
Very interesting, historical  
(*Très intéressant, historique*)

Doral Hopper of Moore, Oklahoma  
Enlightening (*Instructif*)

A.D., student at St. Edward in Rayne, Louisiana  
This place is kickin'! (*Super!*)

Ed and Sharon White of Claremont, New Hampshire  
Enjoyed the genealogy research and the nice help!  
(*On a aimé les recherches généalogiques et de l'aide vaillante*)

All articles (unless otherwise noted) by Michael E. "Mitch" Conover,  
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