



Calling All Cajuns!

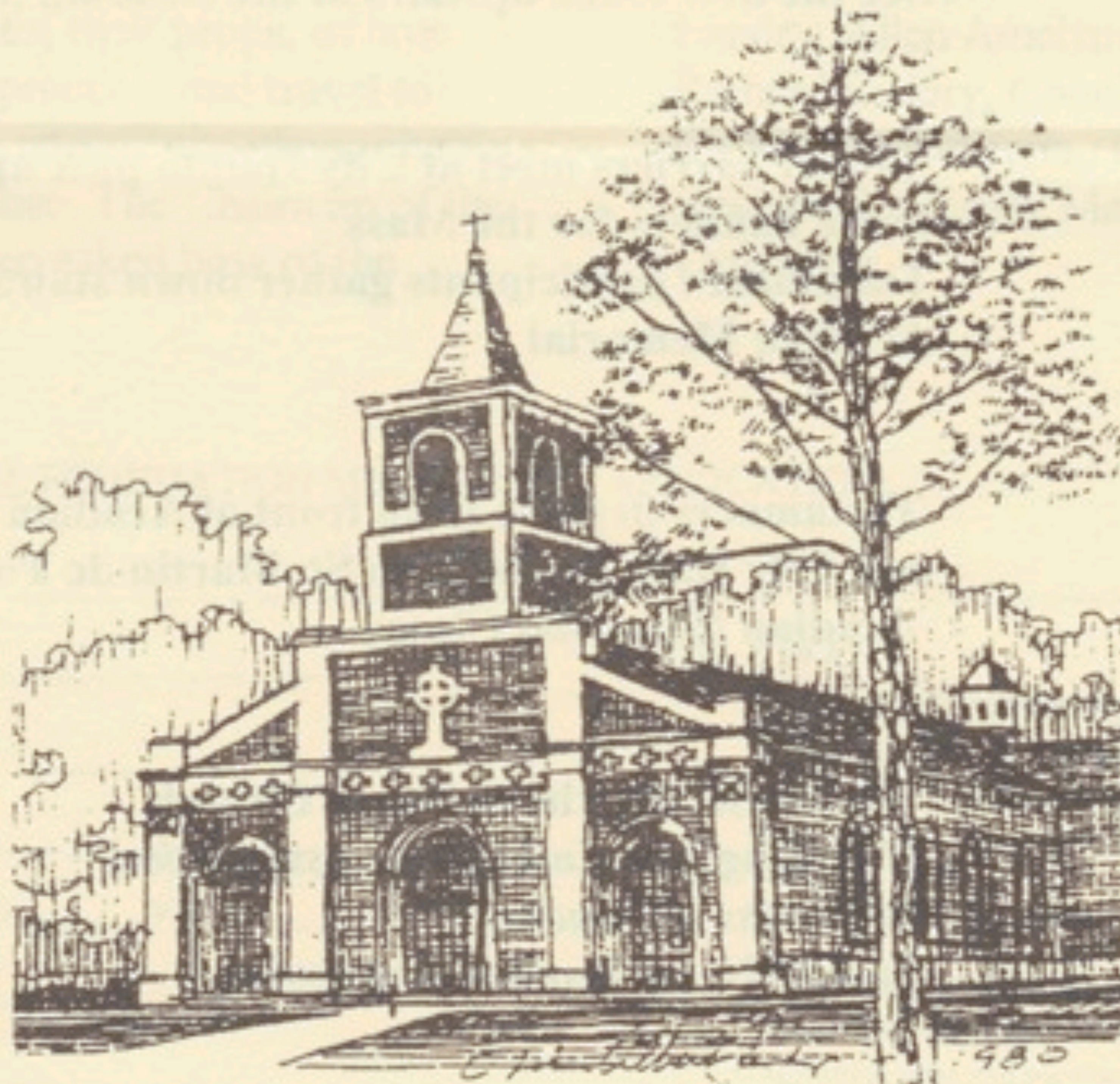
St. Martinville, Louisiana

Vol. 10, No. 4

July 2002

Celebrate

The National Day of the Acadians Mass
St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church
St. Martinville, Louisiana
August 15, 2002
7:00 p.m.



Église Catholique St-Martin de Tours
Ville de St-Martin, Louisiana

Celebrant Rev. Austin Leger

Featuring the Congres Mondial Choir

La Fete Nationale de L'Acadie National Day of the Acadians

Thursday, August 15 - Jeudi, le 15 d'aout 2002



- 10:00 a.m. Acadian Memorial opens
- 12-noon -1:00p.m. Cajun Art Fest – Duchamp Opera House
The Duchamp Opera House celebrates its 1st anniversary with artists on hand showing their work, bag lunches available for purchase.
- 5:15 p.m. *The Acadian Memorial: A Documentary*
See the new video upstairs at the Acadian Memorial
- 6:00 p.m. Banner carriers meet at City Hall to pick up family name banners for the Mass
Tintamarre participants gather down stairs at the Acadian Memorial
- 6:30 p.m. Tintamarre departs from front of Acadian Memorial and City Hall: proceeds to St. Martin de Tours Church
Acadian Memorial Closes
- 7:00 p.m. Mass - St. Martin de Tours Church
*Honoring Our Lady of the Assumption,
Patroness of Acadians*
Family Name Banner Procession
- 8:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Celebrations continue at Duchamp Opera House

Schedule subject to change – call the Acadian Memorial – 337-394-2258

Grand-Pré Deportation Cross Project

The Acadian Memorial has been chosen as one of the sites for a replica of the Grand-Pré Deportation Cross. Donna Doucet and Claude DeGrace, representing the Grand-Pré Historic Site of Canada, recently visited the Acadian Memorial in St. Martinville. They announced that Grand-Pré Historic Site of Canada has received a five million dollar grant from the Canadian government to build a new Visitor Center at Grand-Pré. Among some of the plans for the National Park is the Acadian Odyssey International Commemorative Project.

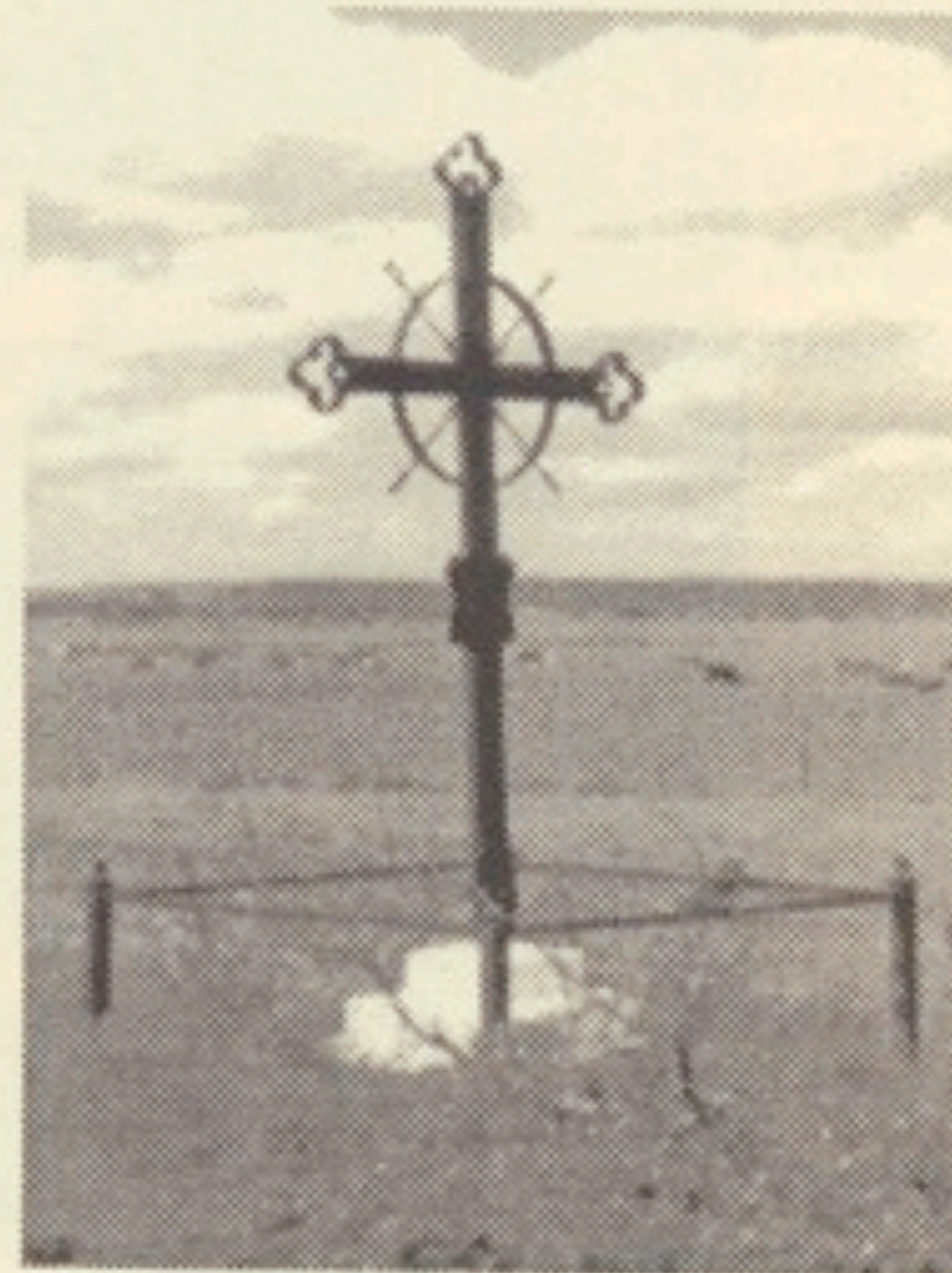
The Acadian Odyssey International Commemorative Project is designed to:

- Commemorate the exile of the Acadians
- Raise the awareness of Acadian history and culture
- Promote Atlantic Canada, Louisiana and other regions of Acadian resettlement

Their purpose for the visit to St. Martinville was to “approach various Acadian organizations ... and encourage them to form Local Chapters to deliver the commemorative project.” Judge Allen Babineaux, Board Member of the Acadian Memorial Foundation, will serve as chairman of this project.

A series of commemorative monuments will be designed and unveiled in Atlantic Canada, The United States, France, England, The Caribbean and Quebec. Some unveilings would be in 2004 to mark the 400th anniversary of the founding of Acadie, and others in

2005, the 250th anniversary of the Grand Dérangement or exile.



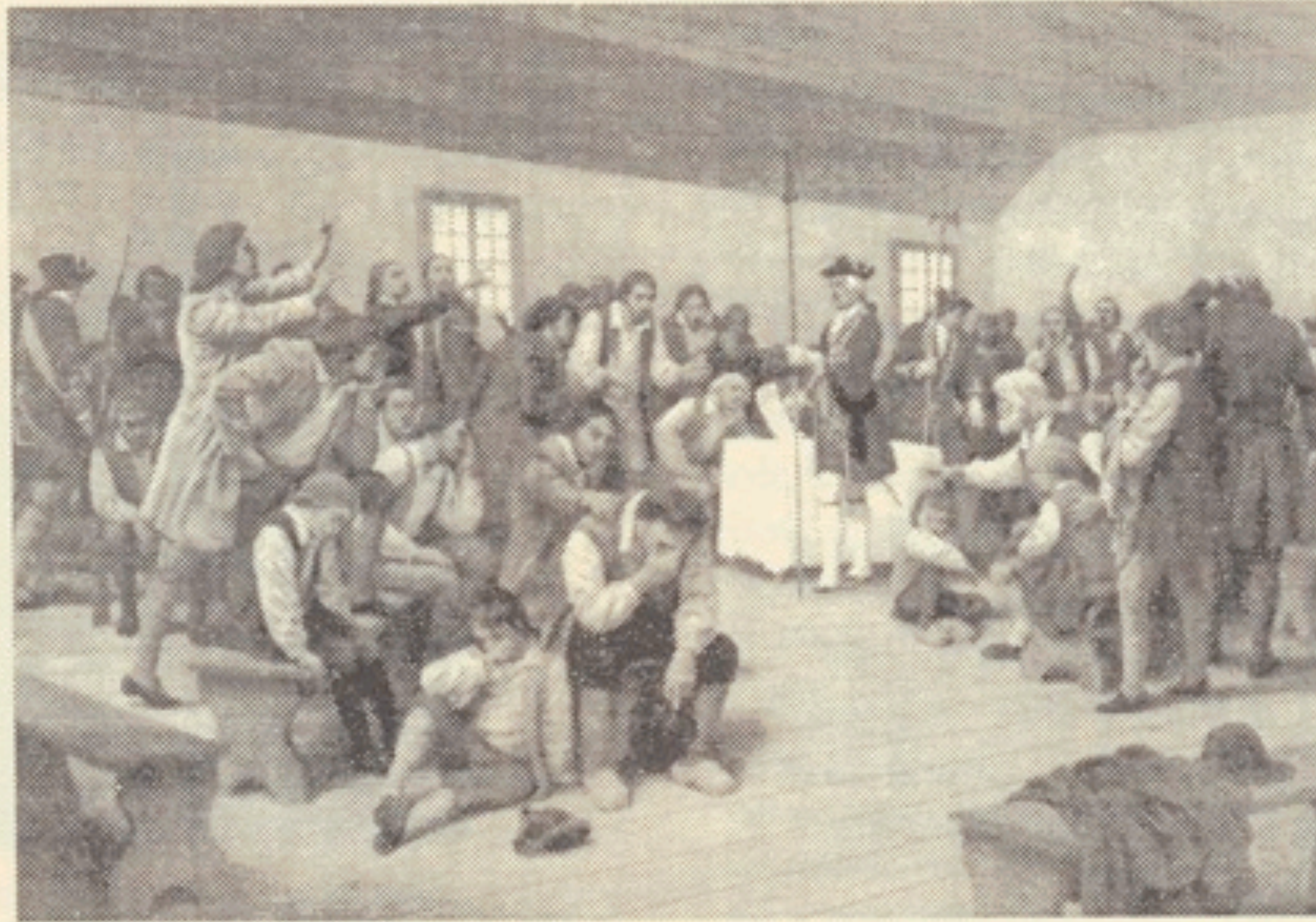
The Grand-Pré Deportation Cross will be reproduced and installed at several participating sites. Grand-Pré National Park would link with these sites and encourage tourists to make a pilgrimage, retracing the footsteps of the exiled Acadians. This would undoubtedly increase tourism in St. Martinville and increase attendance at the Acadian Memorial.

The project will be developed and financed in partnership with Parks Canada, Province of Quebec, US National Park Service, American Colonies, France and various private organizations and corporations.

St. Martinville was chosen as the site in Louisiana to install a replica of the Deportation Cross because the city already features:

- The Acadian Memorial, which honors the Acadian pioneers of Louisiana
- A statue of Evangeline
- The famous Evangeline Oak Tree

Deportation Re-enactment Planned



On September 5, 1755, the Acadian men and boys, of the District of Grand-Pré, Minas, River Canard and places adjacent, were summoned to St. Charles de Mines Church at Grand-Pré. Colonel Winslow read the Deportation Order at 3:00 p.m. to the 418 men and boys assembled in the church.

Joseph Semer was present in the church at Grand-Pré when the proclamation was read which exiled he and his wife, Anne Landry. After thirty years Joseph Semer was reunited with his son, Jean Baptiste Semer. Both father and son are figures in the mural, "The Arrival of the Acadians in Louisiana". That moment in the life of every Acadian, still today, impacts everyone of Acadian descent. The Acadian Memorial Foundation is planning a re-enactment of this life-changing event in Acadian History. The performance will be in the St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church. Just as occurred at St. Charles de Mines Church, Grand-Pré, the men and boys would assemble in the church to hear Colonel John Winslow read the Deportation orders. You will be notified of the, date and time of this presentation. *Photo is from postcard purchased from Acadian Memorial (Claude Picard, Painting)*

La Fete Nationale de L'Acadie National Day of the Acadians

We are inviting individuals, leaders of family associations or their representatives to designate carriers for the Mass of the Feast of the Assumption, August 15, 2002. It would be an honor for St. Martinville and the Acadian Memorial if you could participate in the procession of banners. Please inform us if someone (one or two people) will be representing your Family Association in the procession. On August 15, at 6:00 p.m. meet at City Hall (across the street from the Memorial) to pick up your banner. The procession will depart from City Hall and proceed to St. Martin de Tours at 6:30 as part of the Tintamarre. Please call Gail at the Memorial 394-2260.

GRANTS

The Acadian Memorial Foundation has retained to serve as Grant Writer for planned improvements and projects of and for the Memorial. The firm of LaPaglia and Associates provided us a detailed Strategic Plan for enhancements that will help us attract one of the fastest growing segments of the travel and tourism industry, Heritage Tourism.

We have applied for two grants to implement some of the suggestions of the Strategic Plan. One grant concerns the beautification of the Eternal Flame Garden. Official Acadian Family Crests would be interpreted in mosaic tiles on the pathway surrounding the Eternal Flame. The Acadian Memorial Logo, in mosaic, would be at the entrance of the Acadian Memorial on Market Street.

The second grant is for funding the Deportation Re-enactment, which is being planned. Funds would be used for costumes, script development, humanities scholars for guidance and evaluation, and filming. This film would be made available to the general public, LPB, civic groups, libraries and schools.

Wal-Mart/Acadian Memorial Partnership

Wal-Mart has been very generous to the Acadian Memorial Foundation, the Garden Club and other non-profit organizations in St. Martinville. For the 2001-2002 fiscal year the Memorial has received \$3,000 from the local Wal-Mart.

Wal-Mart's policy is to contribute to the well being of its local community emphasizing that charitable giving is a powerful force in the economic and civic vitality of our nation.

Wal-Mart's generosity is a fine example of partnerships between corporations and non-profit foundations. The mission of the Acadian Memorial meshes well with the local community that Wal-Mart serves. The effects of these grants are felt on a local scale in the city in which its customers and employees live.

Pat Resweber, co-founder of the Acadian Memorial and liaison between the Acadian Memorial Foundation and Wal-Mart, wishes to thank the manager David Savoy and Jodi Landry who are in charge of grants.

POLICE JURY GRANT

St. Martin Parish Police Jury awarded a grant totaling \$509.00 to the Acadian Memorial Foundation. The funds are to

be used for advertising events sponsored by the Acadian Memorial, specifically to announce the National Day of Acadia celebration in St. Martinville on August 15.

Acadian Memorial Mural Sponsors

- Jack and Esther Howard, San Antonio
Sponsored: Charles Comeau and Pierre Vincent.
- Margie Luke of Franklin
Sponsored: Pierre Pitre
In Memory of Rev. Donald Hebert
- Thibodeaux Family Association
President: Shirley T. LeBlanc
Sponsored: Olivier Thibodeau
- Association of the Heberts of the World
President: Woodrow Hebert
Sponsored Joseph Hebert dit Pépin
- Preston Guillotte of New Iberia
Sponsored: Charles Olivier Guillot

“Of Acadian Descent”

- | <u>Member</u> | <u>(Descendant of)</u> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Les (Pe-te) Johnson | - (Jeansonne) |
| 2. Inez Gauthier | - (Melancon/Cormier/Broussard) |
| 3. Clifford Durand, Jr. | - (Broussard dit Beausoliel) |
| 4. Willa Dean Comeaux Chesson | - (Chesson/Charles) |
| 5. Russell Knott | -(Gauterot) |
| 6. Manning & Mildred Billeaud | - (Martin, Mouton, Castille) |
| 7. Sheila Broussard—Service Tool Co. | - (LeBlanc) |
| 8. Pitre & Landry Association | - (Pitre/Landry) |
| 9. Terrie Hebert Alvare | - (Hebert) |

Cajun Pride, keeping it alive

There are among us a few that can remember the “Fear of speaking French”, the punishment that was meted out to those who forgot and were caught speaking French. Seems the Acadians were always being punished for “being their self.”

To become a State, Louisiana was required to guarantee that English would be their sole language; Louisiana was the only State of the Union with such a requirement!

In 1989 David Marcantel wrote a story concerning a rural boy faced with the crisis of his life, to remain in his rural village and maintain his heritage, or to leave that all behind and go to a big city for a new life. The draft of this story, when read by a couple of prominent individuals in Lafayette, Jean Benat of CODOFIL, and Jimmy Domengeaux an Attorney, overwhelmed, both, and with the realization that this could be a great work, if it could be adapted for a play, utilizing the native French Language.

Adapting the story to a play in French would not be an obstacle, but finding actors capable of doing roles in French might be. Individuals that they and David Marcantel were familiar with that acted and spoke French, and who they felt could handle this assignment included Jim Viator and Robert Landreneau. In discussion, Jimmy mentioned that a person he thought that could do well would be Shirley Savoy; although Shirley was not an actor, nor could he read or write French. Jimmy felt that Shirley, in his occupation as a barber, was on stage every day of his life.

David and Jean were not as sure, but acknowledged that Shirley was certainly a person proud of his heritage, and Acadian Ancestry.

That discussion set the stage for what was the beginning of the "Theatre Cadien", a group of individuals who performed plays in French that were of local interest to Cajuns throughout Acadiana. The group performed for free, and made their own costumes and scenery, and again for free! Who of those among us can ever forget Richard Landry's "Joseph "dit Beausoleil" Broussard, Earline Broussard Echeverria's "Elizabeth Brasseur", or Jim Viator's "Moliere"?

A few years ago the State Finance Committee for the Arts and Endowments held a meeting, and invited various individuals to testify before them. Richard Landry was one of the individuals called before them, and in his briefing to the committee he explained how these plays were written, researched for accuracy and authenticity, how the group would create their own costumes, their props, of how the group would practice, and travel to various locales to present the plays, always at their own expense. The Chairman of the Finance Committee asked how of the

funding the State contributed, and was told "Not one red cent"!

The Chairman asked why then, would these people do this, and Richard replied "We are Acadians, and we are proud of our ancestors, our culture, and our heritage". I listened intently as this information was given to me, and a thought came to my mind about what might have been said by those Acadian Ancestors, as they were being forcibly evicted from their Acadia "You can steal our land, you can steal our homes, and you can separate our families and spread them to the winds, But you cannot break our spirit, and you will never steal our heritage"! They, like Richard, Shirley, and Jim, were Acadian, and they were proud of it!

The names of some who became part of "Theatre Cadien" at one time or another: Marjorie Toups, Jane LeBlanc, Steven Landry, Allen Amelynx, Jolene Adams, Richard Guidry, Connie Duhon, Juan Carlos Ecscheverria, Carl Brasseur (research), Christy Maraist (research), and Laviolette.

ACADIAN MEMORIAL FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Bill my: MASTERCARD _____ VISA _____

EXPIRATION DATE: _____

CARD NUMBER: _____

NAME ON CARD: _____

PHONE # _____

YES, I WANT:

_____ **Charter Membership \$2,000**

- *Sponsorship of a mural figure
- *Four-color mural print signed by artist
- *Lifetime pass and membership
- *Souvenir pack
- *Name displayed on plaque

_____ **Lifetime Membership \$500**

- *Four-color mural print
- *Lifetime pass and membership

_____ **1 Year Family Membership \$25.00**

- *1 year pass for 2 people

_____ **1 Year Single Membership \$15.00**

- *1 year pass for 1 person

Please mail this application with selected membership fee to:
 The Acadian Memorial Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 844, St. Martinville, LA 70582

Acadian Memorial Souvenirs



Cajun T front / devant



Cajun T back / dos

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

T-Shirts



mural T front / devant



mural T back / dos

Cajun T-shirt - "Cajuns of Acadian Descent". Lists some Cajun surnames on the back and Memorial logo on front. \$15

TO ORDER: Visit our on-line boutique at www.acadianmemorial.org OR call (337) 394-2258

Pins / Épinglettes



Acadian descent pin

Acadian Descent Pin - lapel pin dark blue with gold Eternal Flame logo "Of Acadian Descent/ *De descendance acadienne*". Wear it in memory of your Acadian ancestors. \$ 5

Flags / Drapeaux



Acadian national flag



Acadiana flag of LA

Acadiana Flag of Louisiana

- a. 3ft x 5ft nylon with grommets \$30
- b. 3in x 5in nylon on mini-pole \$ 3

Acadian National Flag from Canada

- a. 3ft x 6ft with hanging sleeves and loops \$30
- b. 4in x 6in on wooden pole \$ 5

If you have an * or your label is high lighted it's time to renew your membership.

The Acadian Memorial Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 844
St. Martinville, LA 70582