



Calling All Cajuns!

St. Martinville, Louisiana

Spring 2003

*You are Cordially invited to the
Dedication of the Grand-Pré Deportation Cross*

*Sunday, June 15, 2003
St. Martinville, Louisiana*

*2:00 PM
St. Martin de Jours Catholic Church
Reading of Deportation Order*

*3:00 PM
Acadian Memorial Garden
Dedication of the
Replica of the Grand-Pré Deportation Cross
Bishop Michael Jarrell, Diocese of Lafayette
Rev. Austin Leger, Pastor St. Martin de Jours*

*September 5, 1755
Our Acadian ancestors heard the deportation orders which set
into motion the "Grand Dérangement". All Acadians should
forever remember and understand the impact of the exile, for it
is part of our history*

*Deportation Cross funded by a grant from
Jauck Foundation through Community Foundation of Acadiana*



Message from Curator/Director



Brenda Comeaux Trahan

Bonjour,

Spring always brings a fresh newness with a feeling of excitement in the air! That is exactly what is happening at the Acadian Memorial.

The Acadian Memorial Foundation Board is working on new projects and creating lots of excitement for the Memorial. This spring will be busy and filled with wonderful events. Read more in the newsletter about the status of the Family Crest Mosaics, Putting a Face on the Acadian History and our biggest and most honorable project, the Dedication of the replica of the Grand-Pré Deportation Cross.

I have noticed the increase of interest in the Acadian/Cajun heritage by visitors who visit both the Acadian Memorial and St. Martinville Heritage Center, which consists of the Museum of the Memorial and the African American Museum. Visitors have come from many far-away locations around the world such as all of the Canadian Provinces, Europe, Asia, Mexico,

Africa and the United States just to name a few because they have heard about a people who played an important part in the "personality" and the development of Louisiana as it is today.

The Cajun way of life is unique and admired for it is a blend of Native Americans, African American, French, Italian, German and Spanish cultures and with the unique flavor of South Louisiana it is seen as a place of friendliness, cordial hospitality and warmth that welcomes visitors with open arms. It is quite an honor to be noticed world wide for our wonderful way of life. We should ALL be very proud!

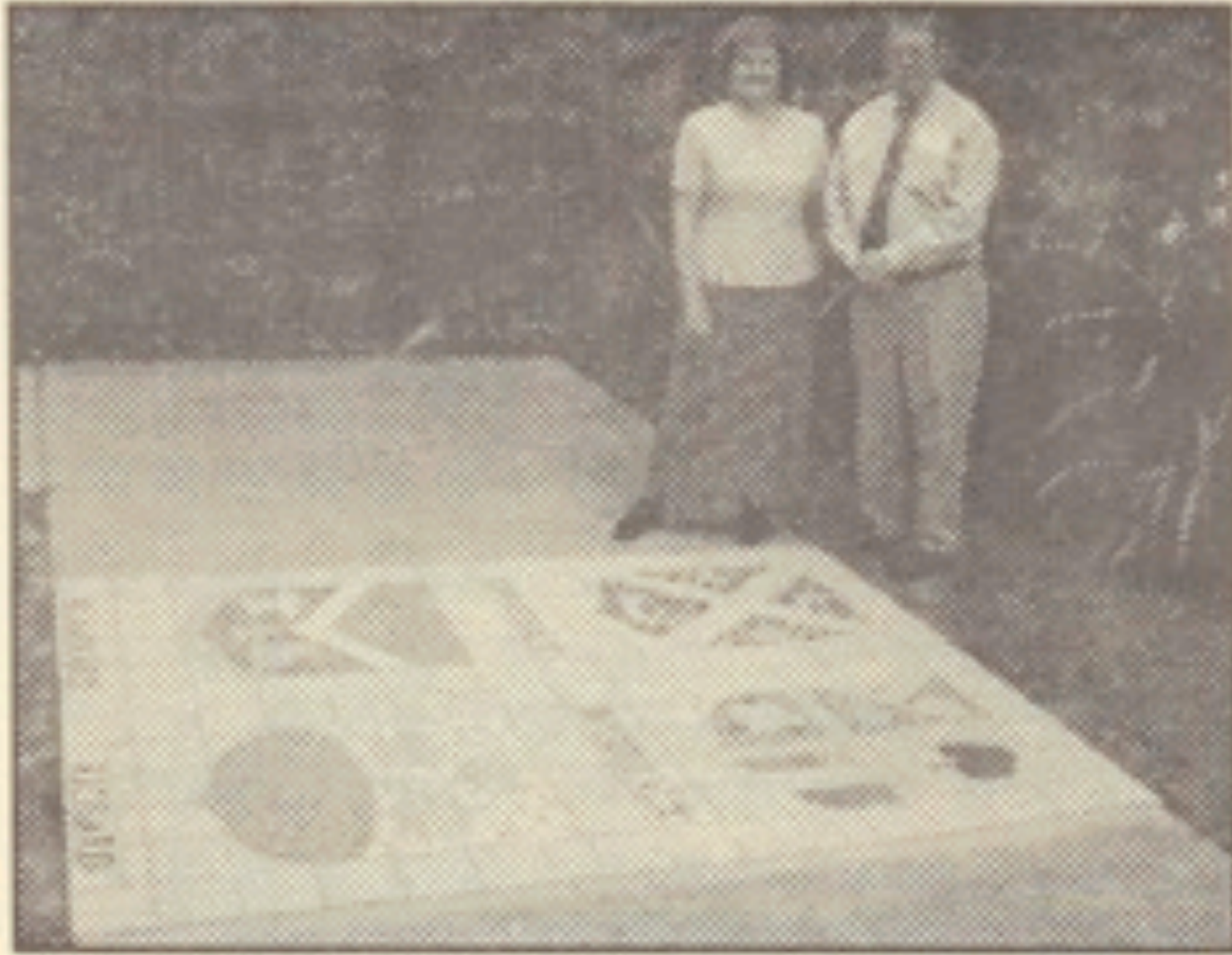
As I look at the number of visitors from the inception of the Acadian Memorial in 1996 to this past year I noticed that in 1996 there were 2,649 visitors and the numbers have been increasing yearly to 14,977 as of last count in 2002. The interest in the Memorial has continued to climb.

Additional promotions can attract the attention of more and more people wanting to know about the history of the Acadians. With all you do and your constant support, we can accomplish just that!

It has been a very rewarding and learning experience in the first six months as Curator/Director of the Acadian Memorial. I have had a great time fulfilling some of my goals and I'm now beginning to have FUN! Thanks to everyone who has helped me with this new beginning! Merci beaucoup.

See you later...Au revoir!
Brenda Comeaux Trahan

ACADIAN FAMILY CREST MOSAICS



Sylvia Bienvenu & John Albert Landry

Acadian Memorial's Meditation Garden has a new look with the addition of eight Acadian Family Crests in mosaics on the sidewalk.

John Albert Landry, President-Elect of the Acadian Memorial Foundation, architect, artist, and restaurateur is serving as artistic director for this project. His sentiment is: "What better way to remember these brave and courageous souls than to engrave their names in Mosaic!"

The Acadiana Arts Council approved a grant that was applied for by Sylvia Bienvenu, which funded 50% of the cost of the eight crests. Within the first five minutes on the assigned date the first eight calls received were the "Broussard, Boudreaux, Blanchard, Richard, Leger, Hebert, Thibodeaux and Trahan Family Associations.

Under the direction of John Albert Landry, Mr. Brett Babineaux of Loreauville was hired to install the tiles, assisted by Duane Viator, is a flooring contractor who has taught himself this art.

The Family Crests Mosaics will be dedicated on June 15th and you are invited to witness this event. Make plans to visit the Meditation Garden for there is no doubt that you will want your family represented once you see these beautiful mosaics.



These mosaics are supported by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Recreation and Tourism in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council as administered by the Acadiana Arts Council.

Grant Received



Raymond Hebert, Executive Director of Community Foundation of Acadiana, presents a \$7,500 check to Christy Maraist, President of the Acadian Memorial, Inc. and Sylvia Bienvenu, Grant Writer for the Acadian Memorial.

The Tauck Foundation of Westport, Connecticut granted these funds to Community Foundation of Acadiana in support of the Acadian Memorial Deportation Cross Replica Project to mark the historic and cultural significance of the site.

ACADIAN MEMORIAL FUNDRAISER

"Wonderful", "Marvelous", "Fabulous"! These words were heard over and over again at the Duchamp Opera House on March 12, 2003.

The Acadian Memorial hosted a fundraiser gumbo dinner that was donated by the Sheriff's Department. Dance students of La Swing du Suede from Cheticamp, Nova Scotia, and the Lafayette Cajun Dancers provided a stunning and outstanding performance that was enjoyed by all in the audience.



In 1977 Paul Gallant began organizing students for a dance troupe in Cheticamp, Nova Scotia. Their popularity has spread across the Canadian Maritime Provinces as well as in Quebec and Louisiana. La Swing du Suede continues to enchant their spectators with their music, dances and particularly their youthful charm.

REMEMBER ACADIAN TRADITIONS

Women from Catahoula have observed the tradition of making "tarte a la bouillie" (sweet dough pies made with custard) on Holy Thursday for many generations. These women remembered making dozens of pies and setting them out to cool and not to be touched until Good Friday at 10:00 A.M. Knowing that these fragrant pies could not be consumed until the next day was a sacrifice for all the family. On Good Friday morning no one ate or drank anything until mid-morning when all family members gathered together to enjoy the results of the women's labors.

In keeping with the tradition local women who still practice this wonderful family connection on Good Friday, donated pies to The Acadian Memorial for guests and visitors from Texas, Alabama and Switzerland to participate in an old Lenten tradition.

Everyone gathered at 10:00 AM for prayer and enjoyed the treat of more than a dozen delicious "tarte a la bouillie" pies.

The Acadians brought their strong faith and traditions to Louisiana by remembering the sacrifice that Jesus made for all. During the Lenten season the Acadians took time to prepare, sacrifice and pray for a new start on Easter Sunday. Today many customs are remembered and practiced by Acadians/Cajuns. These traditions were so important to the Acadians that they continue to remain a part of our culture today.



Left to Right: Al Landry, Inez Gauthier, Mr. & Mrs. Ed McIntyre (Alabama), Mr. & Mrs. Pierre Dorle Brudrag (Switzerland), Brenda Comeaux Trahan

The Acadian Memorial holds premiere reception for the movie "Scoundrel's Wife"

Screenwriters and director Glen Pitre and Michelle Benoit were honorees, in the home of Brenda and Ray Trahan on March 28, 2003 for a gala reception.



Front row kneeling and sitting: Melissa Newell, Randy Labry, Suzanne Broussard. Back row: Glen Pitre, Michelle Benoit, Pat Mire, Philip Gould, John Allen LeBlanc, Michael Campbell, Elemore Morgan, Jr. and Jules Babineaux

Friends honored and thanked Glen Pitre and Michelle Benoit for their continuance of the story of Acadian history as told through the movies.



From left: Michelle Benoit, Brenda Comeaux Trahan, Glen Pitre and Ray Trahan

Acadian Memorial Foundation Annual Meeting

On June 15, 2003, The Acadian Memorial Foundation's annual meeting will be observed. Ballots will be presented for the election of Board Members and Officers for the Board of Directors.

Nominating Committee has nominated the following for Board Members: Michael "Mitch" E. Conover, Preston J. Guillotte, Mrs. Marcelle Bienvenu, Mrs. Shirley Leblanc and for Board of Directors: President: Mrs. Christy Maraist, President-elect: Mrs. Shirley T. Leblanc, Treasurer: Mr. Larry Comeaux, Secretary: Ms. Katheryne Gerami, Parliamentarian: Mrs. Patricia D. Resweber.

Changes to By-laws will be also be voted upon: Article III - MEMBERSHIP, SECTION I-Omit 'LIFE' correction will read: Membership in the Acadian Memorial Foundation, Inc. shall include those persons who meet qualifications of Charter, Regular, Honorary, "Other".
Section 2 - Omit totally C. - 1 & 2.

Nova Scotia 2004 Congrès Trip



Excitement and plans of anticipation in attending family reunions during Congrès de Mondial Nova Scotia-2004 is fast becoming a reality to us all. With this in mind the Acadian Memorial Foundation is now in the process of developing a tour scheduled for August 7-16, 2004 with a 4 day extension (August 16-20th) if you are interested.

We will visit the following sites on our tour:

- HALIFAX – ½ day City tour, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Titanic Graveyard and Public Gardens.



Citadel Hill



- LUNENBURG – Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic.
- MAHONE BAY, PEGGY'S COVE
- WINDSOR - Block House, prison where Beausoleil Broussard and his prisoners were held.
- GRAND-PRÉ – St-Charles des Mines Church – Statue of Evangeline - Acadian dykes - apple orchards
- WOLFVILLE and DIGBY
- ANNAPOLIS ROYAL – Fort Ann, Habitation of Champlain, Acadian Farms along Riviere Dauphine and Riviere Allain



- CLAIRE REGION – Pointe d'Eglise, Universite St. Anne, "Evangeline the Musical", Acadian Center Archives, Comeauville, Yarmouth and West Pubnico region.
- GRAND-PRÉ – closing Mass
- HALIFAX – Closing CONCERT Farewell Lobster Dinner

The extension days for those who wish to remain a little longer:

- ❖ CABOT TRAIL - Baddeck to Cheticamp, Alexander Graham Bell Museum (Complete itinerary not yet completed)

Cost: 10 days: \$1950 per person
14 days: \$2450 per person

Package price includes:

- All accommodations
- Luggage charges
- 9 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 4 Dinners including Farewell Lobster Dinner
- Admission to historic attractions
- Motor coach transportation with guide
- Round trip transportation by bus Lafayette/New Orleans
- Roundtrip airfare from New Orleans/Halifax
(Not included: tips to drivers and guides, transportation to/from family reunions)

\$200 deposit per person required by June 30, 2003 (\$100 non refundable)

Mail to: Acadian Memorial Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 844
St. Martinville, LA 70582
For additional information, please call
(337) 394-2258.

“They are now being reborn in Louisiana, and if they are helped a little, they will accomplish wonders”

Aubry to Choiseul-Stainville, New Orleans, May 14, 1765

In 1765, Charles Philippe Aubry, acting governor of Louisiana, appears to have foreseen the tremendous influence the Acadians would have on the state. These poignant words describing the Acadians as they arrived in Louisiana, echo through the years and speak to us again today as a powerful reminder that we must continue to help, to give them a voice.

The Acadian Memorial has been doing precisely this—

As you can see from this issue of **Calling all Cajuns**, the Acadian Memorial is actively seeking and receiving grants to implement projects that reflect the Acadian spirit and encourage the traditions that continue to be a part of our culture today.

We are in the process of applying for more grants that usually involve matching funds. It is difficult for us to pursue grants, if we do not have the means to supplement them. We need your help to continue to accomplish wonders!

Yes! I will help the Acadian Memorial accomplish wonders!
BY becoming a member of the Acadian Memorial Foundation.

Individual Membership \$15 / year Family Membership \$25 / year

Or:

BY contributing to a fund for future projects and those already begun.
The levels of contribution are taken from the Acadian Memorial Logo.

TRI-COLOR: the French Flag, the Acadian Flags in Canada and Louisiana

ANCHOR: signifying the many voyages of the Acadians,

STAR: Mary, Patroness of the Acadians.

RED \$100-249 **WHITE \$250-499** **BLUE \$500-649**

Anchor \$750-999 **STAR \$1,000 +**

All levels of contribution entitle you to membership.

Anchor and Star levels will have names on plaque at the Memorial for the year 2003.

(Dues and contributions are tax deductible under IRS Code 501(c) (3). Members receive the Calling All Cajuns newsletter, announcements of upcoming events, and voting privileges at the annual meeting.

NAME/COMPANY _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL _____

Acadian Memorial Souvenirs

Pins / Épinglettes



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



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

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

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

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