



Calling All Cajuns!

St. Martinville, Louisiana



August 2005

Celebrate

The National Day of the Acadians Mass
St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church
St. Martinville, Louisiana

August 15, 2005

6:00 p.m.



Celebrant Rev. Austin Leger
Featuring the Congr s Mondial Choir

La Fete Nationale de L'Acadie/National Day of the Acadians
Commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the Acadian Deportation
Monday, August 15 - Lundi, le 15 d'aout 2005
10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

- 10:00 a.m. Opening/Special tribute to 2005 Honorary Acadians
10:15 a.m. Lecture/discussion on Archeological Dig of Acadian Settlement by Dr. Mark Rees, ULL Archeological Department
- 11:00 a.m. Interview/discussion with primitive artist, Mary Ann de Boisblance by Bethany Baltman, free-lance writer for Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, author, researcher who has brought Mary Rosalie Prejean's journey from oral history to canvas to print.
- 12:00 Noon **Box Lunches for sale by "Two Sweet Sisters"**
- 1:00 p.m. Showing of 1929 film "Evangeline" / Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. Panel Discussion, "A Salute to Cajun Veterans" with Jason Theriot, Author, Pat Mire, Plus Film Director, and Veterans of World War II /Opera House
- 2:00 p.m. "Genealogy From Scratch" by Lynne Louviere
- 3:00 p.m. Showing of 1929 film, "Evangeline" / conference room
- 4:00 p.m.
to
5:45 p. m "Supper/Entertainment on the Bayou Teche"
(Dinners for sale by "Two Sweet Sisters")
- 5:45 p.m. Acadian Family Name Banner Carriers meet at City Hall process to St. Martin du Tours Catholic Church's French Acadian mass.
- 6:00 p.m. French Mass / Acadian Memorial Choir
St. Martin du Tours Catholic Church
- 7:15 p.m. Selections from the new "Grand-Pré Musical" by Cody Daigle & Roy Bertucci, Authors. Presented at the Duchamp Opera House / Free

Throughout the Day in Town:

Theâtre Cadien - "Vignettes of the Deportation story"
Opera House -Indoor Art Walk & Craft Show – Free Wine & Cheese
St. Martinville Tourist Information Center - Lagniappe Token
Petite Paris Museum - Cookies & Punch

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



Word from the Curator

Brenda Comeaux Trahan

Bonjour,

As you know, the deportation of the Acadian people, who were the first settlers of North America, occurred 250 years ago this year! The story of this devastating international odyssey has been commemorated at the Acadian Memorial each month since January and will continue until December 2005. We do this in memory of Acadian deportees and refugees and in tribute to the Acadians who have survived and ended their exile in Louisiana.

Thus far this commemoration has brought many adults and students to the community of St. Martinville. Our local visitors have been a part of honoring and recognizing a courageous, determined and intense group of individuals who endured what is considered the first attempt of ethnic cleansing in early America. The Acadian Memorial hopes that during this year we can bring more awareness to this major part of history, which has not been told in Louisiana history books.

I participate on a passionate committee called Acadian Heritage Week, which is invested in requesting that the State Legislators forge forward to add Acadian history in all Louisiana history textbooks. The members of the committee and Zachary Richard, chairman of AHW, has organized a series of events during the week of September 13th, which has been declared by Legislators as Acadian Heritage Week in Louisiana.

The committee's primary focus is to relate this historical story of resistance to the school children of Louisiana. You can find a curriculum guide on line, (www.doe.state.la.us/lde/uploads/6955.pdf), which was designed for the 8th grade Louisiana history students by the Louisiana Department of Education. Teachers, please make an effort to visit this state approved guide for your fall, 2005 social studies program.

We hope to have this curriculum taught throughout the Acadiana parish schools during Acadian Heritage Week,

Sept. 13-18, 2005. We encourage the 8th grade social studies program in the public schools to utilize the weeklong curriculum. In addition, we plan to sell displays to all school libraries at discounted prices and to assist in organizing commemorative events.

Come and visit the Memorial.

Brenda

"A Salute to Cajun Veterans"

As the people of south Louisiana and abroad celebrate August 15, 2005 as the day for the Acadians, we must all not forget the brave sacrifices of our local veterans who served far and wide defending our freedom. Join us at the Duchamp Opera House in St. Martinville, 2 - 4 p.m., for a "Salute to Cajun Veterans" program. Audience members will have the opportunity to meet some of our local heroes and hear their amazing stories from the frontline. Those in attendance will be encouraged to participate in a two-hour question & answer panel discussion with veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, film director Pat Mire and author Jason P. Theriot.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet true Acadian heroes. Following the program, we invite all those present to join the celebration at the Acadian Memorial Hall, for music, supper on the bayou, and the French mass at St. Martin du Tours Catholic Church.

Acadian Memorial Foundation Annual meeting was held in June and officers were elected. Pres. Christy Dugas Maraist, Pres.-Elect Shirley Thibodeaux LeBlanc, Secty. Kim Barry Graham, Treas. Larry Comeaux, Parl. James Bourque, Advisor Patricia Resweber.

The Acadian Museum of Erath has selected Patricia Resweber, Co-founder of the Acadian Memorial as a "Living Legend". On August 20th, Ms. Resweber will be inducted into the Living Legend of Acadians. Pat, whose work in helping to create the idea and reality of the Acadian Memorial in St. Martinville, LA, will be honored with a tribute for her contribution to the preservation of the Acadian history. For additional information call: Acadian Memorial 337) 394-2258 / Acadian Museum of Erath (318) 233-5832 or (318) 937-5468

Discovery of an Acadian woman's deportation story: LEH Awards Full Grant to the Acadian Memorial for Catalog

Mary Rosalie Prejean who was deported from Port Royal, Acadie to Philadelphia then migrated to Saint-Domingue (Haiti) to Louisiana ending her journey with a miraculous reunion with her Acadian sisters in Attakapas Post / St. Martinville on the Bayou Teche (circa 1804) after the Louisiana purchase.

The family preserved this incredible story orally and in writing. An ancestor, Mary Anne Pecot de Boisblanc, great, great granddaughter, helped preserve the story she heard as a child from her mother and grandmother through her own primitive paintings. Without any art lessons, de Boisblanc paints what she knows and feels. Her work encompasses many of her mother's memories of the Acadian homeland. She has captured the lifestyles of her Acadian / Cajun ancestors.



Recently, Ms. de Boisblanc approached the Acadian Memorial to exhibit her paintings as a means of telling her ancestor's deportation story. At 79 years, she felt her

mission was to bring this Acadian woman's tumultuous life story to the world. Her works are a loving contribution to the historic roots, culture and traditions of Cajuns of south Louisiana. This request came at the right time since the Acadian Memorial's programming schedule for the year was geared toward the commemoration of the anniversary of the 250th year deportation.

Mary Anne de Boisblanc mentioned that a noted author, Bethany Ewald Bultman, had researched and provided a masterful narrative to the paintings, set in the context of late 18th century colonial history. That article is published in the Louisiana Endowments for the Humanities, Summer 2005, Cultural Vista Magazine. After meeting with the author, the Acadian Memorial Foundation and grant writer, Sylvia Bienvenue set out to apply with LEH for a catalog based on the article to coincide with the exhibition of Ms de Boisblanc's primitive depictions

to chronicle the story of her heroic Acadian ancestor!

The grant was accepted and LEH funded the full cost for the printing of a 40 page catalog containing an introductory essay on Acadian women, reproductions of the paintings and drawings and Bultman's text telling the vibrant, true tale of one strong Acadian woman's 50 year ordeal through unbelievable odds.

A final essay will include an overview of the Pecot family who preserved the legend. As written in the grant by Sylvia Bienvenue, this project touches on the humanities disciplines of Political History, Socioeconomic, Women's Studies, Cultural Anthropology, Folklore and Religion and local and international history and culture.

In order to share this sage with Grand-Pré, Nova Scotia, we have reserved 100 complimentary copies of the catalogue to be shipped to the Grand-Pré Gift Shoppe as a gift to our twin sister park.

Since Rosalie Prejean's story began in Nova Scotia and ended in St. Martinville, this documented historical catalogue will provide an authentic, accurate account of one Acadian's long, perilous deportation journey from Acadie to St. Martinville, accompanied with the delightful primitive art of that Acadian's ancestor. This connection will bring more impact to our twinning mission goals.

The catalog will be given out free through the exhibition from August 15th to October 1st as a historical Commemorative document.



Madawaska, Maine Festival Acadien and twinning

Brenda and Ray Trahan, Christy and David Maraist, on behalf of the

Acadian Memorial and the Town of St. Martinville, traveled to Madawaska, Maine for their Festival Acadien and the twinning ceremony between these two towns. Congratulations to the Acadian Memorial / St. Martinville in winning 1st prize for their Mardi Gras float. Could



ACADIAN HERITAGE FAMILY DAY

Saturday August 27, 2005

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Rayne Civic Center • Rayne, Louisiana



Sponsored By

CAFA "Confederation of Associations of Families Acadian, Inc"

Join us in this Family Event by Commemorating the
"250th Anniversary of the Acadian Deportation"
\$5.00 per person over age of 12

Morning program will honor and observe
the deportation and hardships endured
by the Acadians 250 years ago.

8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Registration

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Booths open

9:00 a.m.-9:40 a.m. Choral Group

10:00 a.m.-11:00a.m. Opening Ceremonies

Afternoon program will be a celebration with music
and an accordion contest by young musicians.
Followed by Terry Huval and Jambalaya.

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Lunch

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Accordion Contest

1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Entertainment Terry Huval and Jambalaya

In expressing our thanks and appreciation for
all the blessings and positive things
the Acadians have experienced and endured,
"Acadian Heritage Family Day" will end with a Mass. .
Mass 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

For camping reservations contact
Fenrick Fontenot - 337-942-8624 - fenbab@charter.net

For additional information contact:
www.cafa.org j_bourque@msn.com



Acadian Memorial Foundation

P.O. Box 844, St. Martinville, Louisiana 70582
(337) 394-2258 * 394-2260 (FAX)

Please Join the Acadian Memorial Foundation

Membership dues in the Acadian Memorial Foundation go directly to supporting the Memorial and sharing the memory of the 3,000 exiles who settled in Louisiana. Membership dues have helped fund...

- Replica of the Grand-Pre Deportation Cross
- Family Coats of Arms Mosaics in the garden
- Mural interactive—now adding French & also children
- Deportation Re-enactment & future historical re-enactments

With your support, we can accomplish so much more!

<u> </u> <i>Individual Membership</i>		<i>\$15 / year</i>
<u> </u> <i>Family Membership</i>		<i>\$25 / year</i>
<u> </u> <i>Of Acadian Descent</i>		<i>\$100 / year</i>
<u> </u> <i>Acadian Heritage</i>		<i>\$200 / yr. Family Association</i>
<hr/>		
<u> </u> <i>Corporate Sponsor</i>	<i>\$ 1,000</i>	<i>Business</i>
<u> </u> <i>Mosaic Family Crest</i>	<i>\$ 1,500</i>	<i>Sponsor family Coat of Arms</i>
<u> </u> <i>Mural Sponsor</i>	<i>\$ 2,000</i>	<i>Sponsor a mural figure</i>
<u> </u> <i>Endowment Fund</i>	<i>\$ _____</i>	<i>Fund designated for future support</i>

All members receive the *Calling All Cajuns* newsletter, special invitations to events, voting privileges at the annual meeting.

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ *State:* _____ *Zip* _____

E-Mail _____ *Phone:* _____ *Mobile:* _____

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Georgie Blanchard * Topper Breaux * James Bourque * Eloise Bryant * Frank Castille
Larry Comeaux * Janet Douet * Bobbie Eastin * Ernest Freyou * Inez Gauthier * Katheryne Gerami
Kim Graham * Preston Guillotte * Raymond Hebert * John Albert Landry

it be that Maine will arrive in Louisiana for Festivals Acadiens?

Charles Larroque landed in Bangor the week after for several meetings. He's working, along with Louisiane à la carte, with Ben Levine on a collaborative documentary between Louisiana and Maine. Ben will be here in September to present his film *Reveal Waking Up French* at the 3 Jean Lafitte Centers. Maine's coming!

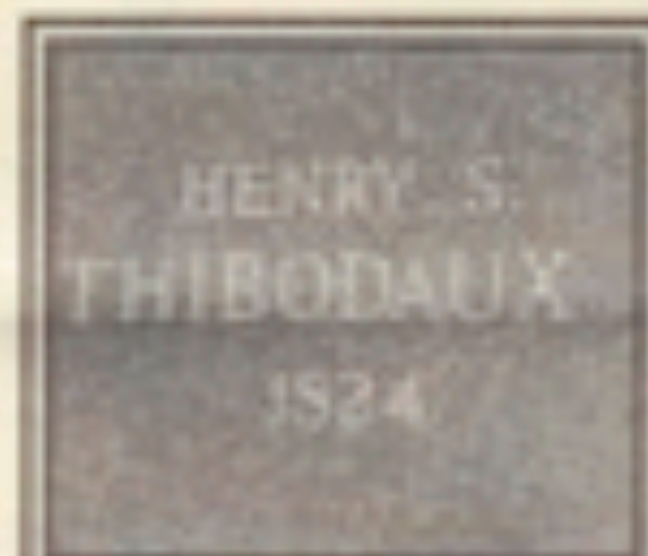
Louisiana Governors Honored at Dedication of Acadian Mosaic Family Crests

In conjunction with the 250th Year Anniversary of the Acadian Deportation, the Acadian Memorial held a special ceremony in honor of the four Acadian Governors of Louisiana and to unveil a new group of Acadian Family Mosaic Crests.

Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco and the past Acadian governors were honored with commemorative granite tiles embedded in the walkway



near the Memorial's Eternal Flame and Deportation Cross. The three past governors are: Henry S. Thibodaux 1824), Alexandre Mouton (1853-1856), Paul O. Hebert (1853-1856). The new Acadian Family Crests unveiled in the Acadian Memorial Meditation



Garden were: Arceneaux, Babineaux, Benoit, Cormier, Duhon, Guilbeaux, LeJeune, Martin, Mouton and Savoie.



The Governor praised and honored the mission of the Acadian Memorial stating, *'this is a beautiful testimony to a very sad part of our history. Yet*

we thank the Lord for what has come of that time. He knew better than we knew what was good for us.'

This project, titled *"The Tiles That Bind"*, was funded in part by 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. The grant provided \$9,358 and Acadian Families donated \$4000

towards the project. Master Artist John Albert Landry developed the master plan, researched the Mosaic designs, and created templates for the Crests. Artist Kathleen Dugas worked with the tiler, Theresa Duhon, to install the tiling. Sylvia Bienvenu served as the Project Director

The Crests and Governors' Plaques installed this year represent the last phase of the three-year Mosaic Crest project which totaled \$37,801. During that period, 26 Crests were installed with \$33,301 in grant funds and donations from Acadian Families, and five families provided an additional \$4,500 for complete funding of five additional crests.



Anyone wishing to carry his or her family banners for the August 15th Mass phone the Memorial (337) 394-2258



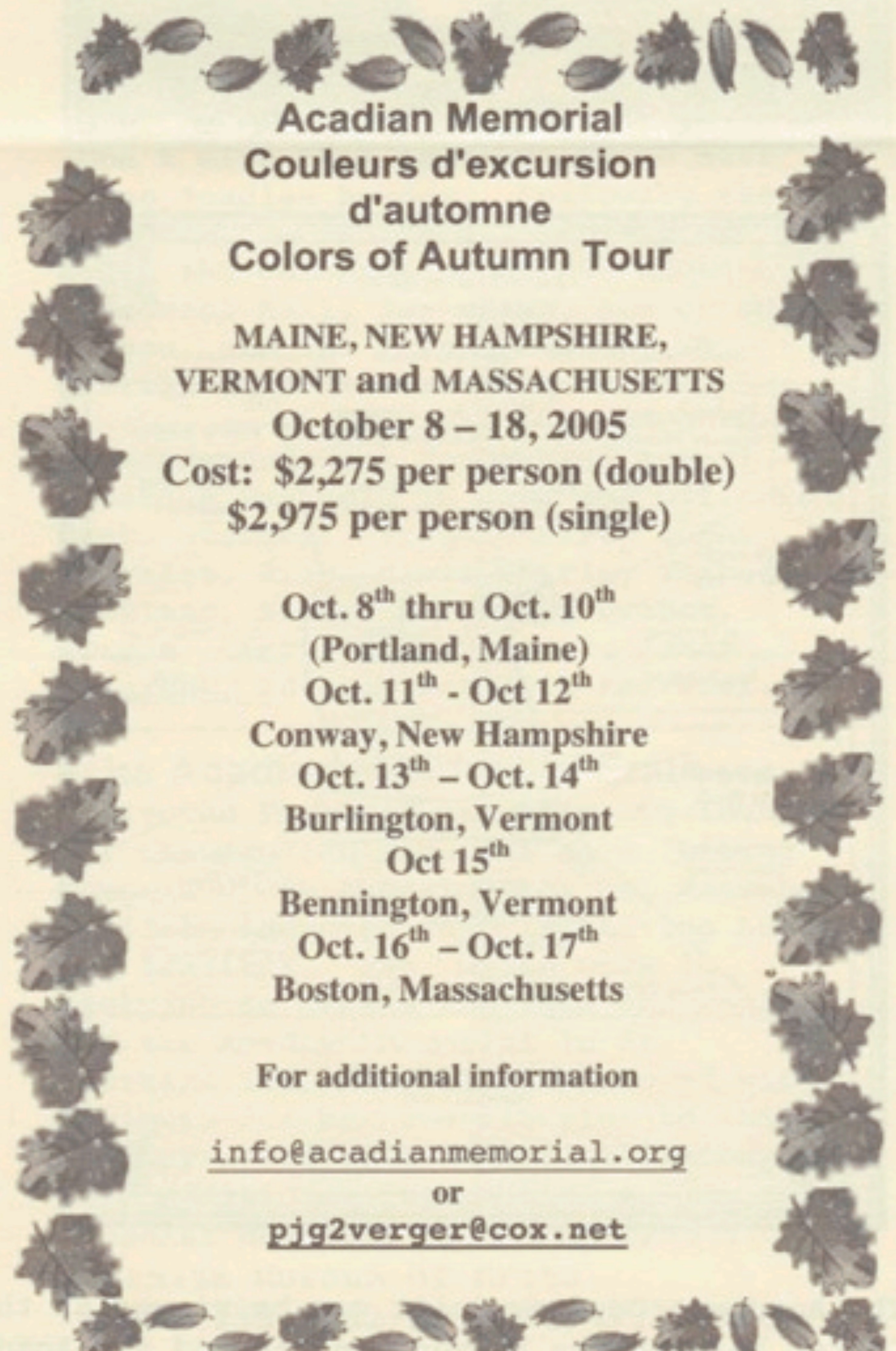
Acadian Memorial Couleurs d'excursion d'automne Colors of Autumn Tour

MAINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE,
VERMONT and MASSACHUSETTS
October 8 - 18, 2005
Cost: \$2,275 per person (double)
\$2,975 per person (single)

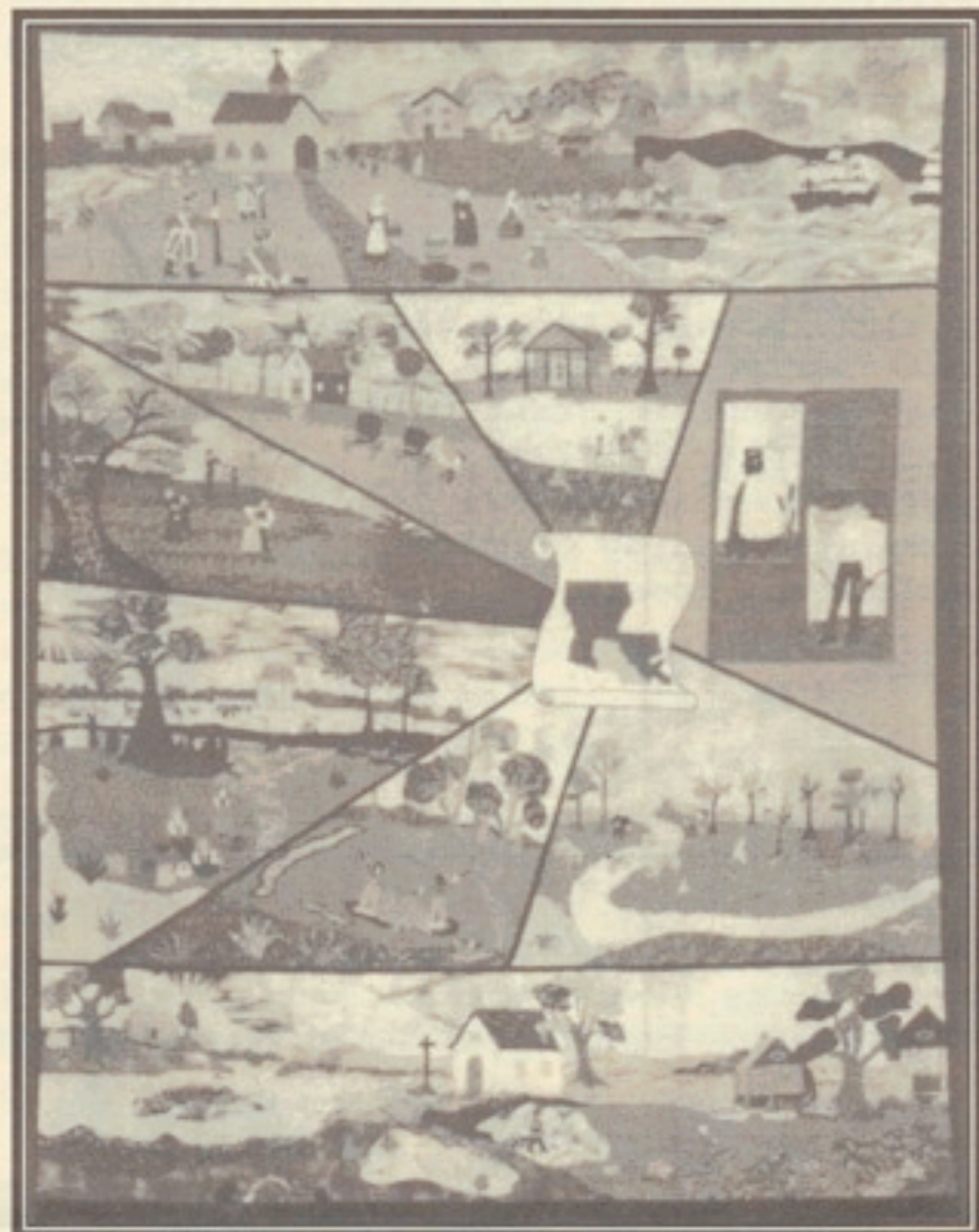
Oct. 8th thru Oct. 10th
(Portland, Maine)
Oct. 11th - Oct 12th
Conway, New Hampshire
Oct. 13th - Oct. 14th
Burlington, Vermont
Oct 15th
Bennington, Vermont
Oct. 16th - Oct. 17th
Boston, Massachusetts

For additional information

info@acadianmemorial.org
or
pjg2verger@cox.net



This is OUR Story as told in the Acadian Odyssey Quilt: The Story



The Acadian Odyssey Quilt: The Story

Panel A portrays the exile of the Acadians from Nova Scotia by the British in 1755.

Panel B shows the deep religious faith of the Acadians. Churches were among the first public buildings and Acadian parents were extremely proud to have a son or daughter enter religious life.

Panel C shows the ingenuity of the children in finding amusement, a reflection of the industry of their parents.

Panel D stereotypes the Acadians and their manner of dress often used commercially to promote various products as well as the people of Acadiana.

Panel E shows the *joie de vivre* of the Acadians at a family gathering where accordion, fiddle and *ti-fer* were played at dances held in homes or sometimes in a yard. Children slept while their parents danced and from this custom came the term *fais-dodo*.

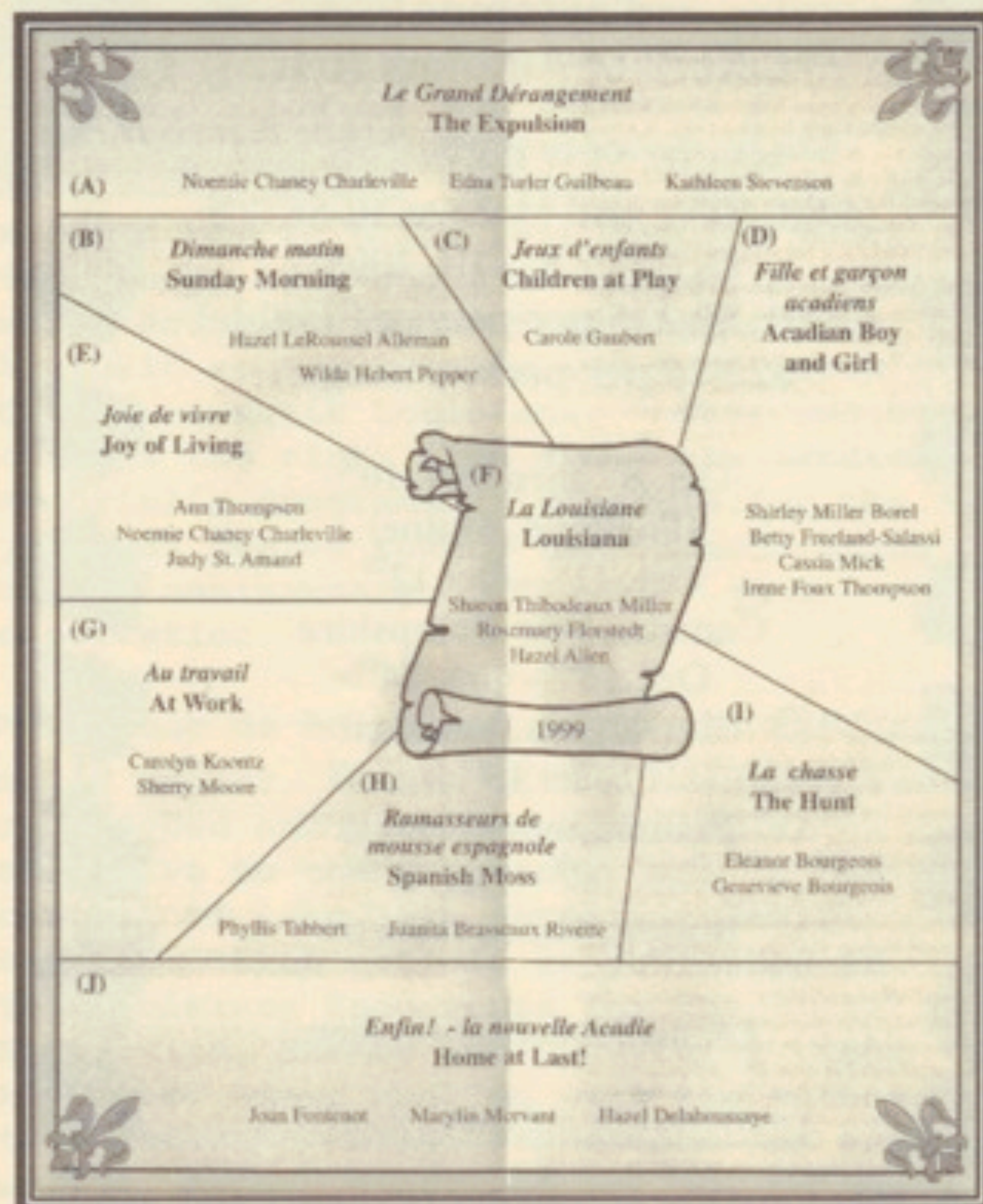
Panel F shows the original area settled by the Acadians. They have migrated to other parts of the state, taking with them the Acadian influence that is an important element of Louisiana's unique culture.

Panel G depicts Acadian skill at growing cotton to weave and sew into clothing and linens. Dried palmetto was woven into hats and baskets and clay was used for pottery, bricks, and bousillage for construction. These skills were passed down through generations. The products and skills of Acadian craftsmen are highly prized today.

Panel H shows the intriguing Spanish moss as a valuable resource for the Acadians. After drying, it was used to stuff mattresses and was an important ingredient in the bousillage used in construction. Later, it was used to upholster buggies and autos.

Panel I emphasizes hunting as an essential part of the Acadians' way of life, as it often provided food for the table. Over the years, hunting has become a major source of recreation.

Panel J represents life carved out of the land by the hard work and industry of the Acadian People.



The Acadiana Odyssey Quilt can be viewed at the Acadian Memorial Museum in the Heritage Center between the Evangeline Oak and the Acadian Memorial.

Mural Figure Pierre Guidry Sponsored



John L. Guidry and 51/2-year-old son, Lance Aurel Guidry present a \$2,000 check, Saturday, July 9, 2005, to Brenda Trahan and Christy Maraist, to sponsor mural figure of ancestor Pierre Guidry.

(Pierre Guidry, 1768, Fort San Luis de Natchez. Moved to Attakapas where he was known as the "patriarch of Grande Pointe", an area later named Cecilia, Louisiana. Sponsored by John L. Guidry, Church Point, LA, Great-Grandson of Edmon Terville Guidry (CSA) who was the Great-Grandson of Pierre Guidry.)

An Acadian/American Story

By: John L. Guidry, Sixth Generation Grandson of Pierre Guidry, Church Point, LA - July 9, 2005

Thirty years ago, I first heard the name Pierre Guidry from Mrs. D.V. Richard of Church Point. She had finished a 12_-year family genealogy search, which included the Guidry's. She had acquired data from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Church Point, Acadia Parish Court House, Church Records in Grand Coteau and Notre Dame in New Orleans.

As a boy of 5 years, every Sunday after mass, my father Vincent Guidry and I walked through the fields to my grandfather's. Guidry descendants owned hundreds of acres acquired by Pierre Guidry. I was the last Guidry born on land owned by Edmon Terville Guidry (CSA). We were all farmers and cattlemen-almost 400 years of farming and cattle raising and it's in our blood. My mom, Dora Marie Jeanise, besides caring for seven children, the garden, and household, raised 400 head of poultry. She sold eggs to the local hatchery and bartered at Fontenot's General Store in Lewisburg, LA - chickens, ducks and turkeys for household goods.

Papa Edmon served in the 23rd Louisiana Infantry during the Civil War. Wounded in the Battle of Shiloh, TN., he came home, healed, and returned to the Confederate Army, was captured, served over a year as a prisoner of war and released at war's end. His picture hung in my Grandfather Pierre Ises Guidry's house. I asked my grandmother, Josephine Colligan, in French, "Who's that soldier with the big knife (sword)?" She answered, "Your great-grandfather that fought in the "Old War Civil." We have pictures of Edmon Terville Guidry, his wife Marie Ovina Latiolais and her mother, who was an Attakapas descendant, in her Native American attire.

As a child, I heard the names of Joseph Terville Guidry, Louis Guidry, Hypolite Guidry, Edmon Terville Guidry, Pierre Guidry and others. I knew the names of five generations of Guidry's. I traced back our family heritage to Papa Claude Guidry, who was born in Beaumont, France in 1648. Around 1671,

Claude Guidry came to Port Royal, Acadia, from the Port of La Rochelle, France. Around 1680, Claude Guidry married Marguerite Petitpas. They had 13 children and their 5th son Augustin Guidry, born 1690, is the father of Pierre Guidry. Most of the Guidry's in southwest Louisiana (Acadiana) are descendants of Pierre Guidry, who is documented to be the second Guidry in Louisiana arriving on the ship "Jane" which departed the North Potomac, Maryland on December 17, 1767 and arrived in New Orleans, La., on February 11, 1768. Pierre Guidry was married three (3) times, had twenty (20) living children and died on November 13, 1825.

I am no Historian; I only have an appreciation and love of my family. They suffered hardships, persevered and survived to help settle the North American continent and build a nation, the United States of America. The Pierre Guidry family descendents have defended this country in time of war, and have nourished it by providing services in the fields of doctors, bankers, Priests, policemen, oil industry workers, engineers, nurses, farmers, cattlemen and many others.

Acadians must not forget their forefathers. I was born French-Acadian, and lived a traditional French-Acadian life, within my heart and Catholic religion. Our forefathers were men of vision and endurance. The women at their sides were from the same furnace. Together, they settled a land, populated and built a nation. Let us not forget our Acadian Heritage.

In remembrance of our Guidry ancestors and my immediate family: my daughters Natalie and Diana, my sons Lance Aurel and John Edmund, my granddaughter Bailey Carol Ann and her brother John Vincent Guidry (to be born in November 2005) and their mother Kelly Mancuso, I am proud and honored to sponsor Pierre Guidry in the Acadian Memorial Mural.

Calendar of Events

Aug 15th - 10:00 am - National Day of the Acadians: 2005 Theme Commemoration of the 250 Anniversary of the Acadian

Deportation. Highlight of the Day: Opening of Primitive Paintings Exhibition by Mary Anne de Boisblanc, descendent of "Mary Rosalie Prejean: Acadian Mother/18th Century Acadian Survivor"

September 11th - 3:00 p.m. - Opening Mass for Acadian Heritage Week, St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church, Acadian Memorial Choir Sings In French

August / September / October - Ongoing Exhibit of "Saga of Mary Rosalie Prejean: Acadian Mother/18th Century Acadian Survivor" primitive paintings by Mary Anne de Boisblanc

Daily readings of the deportation story, " FIDDLES AND SPOONS: Journey of an Acadian Mouse" by mouse character, Madame Souris.

"The Cajuns A People's Story of Exile and Triumph" By: Dean Jobbs is a wonderful book that is easy reading. The following is quoted in the book from Acadian Memorial President Pro-temp, Shirley T. LeBlanc and Editor of "Calling All Cajuns", while attending CMA 2004 in Grand-Pré "She has been in Nova Scotia for two weeks and, in the eyes and features of relatives she has encountered, she has seen her father, her grandfather, and herself." She noticed how the wind picked up as the fiddlers played. For her, it was "a sigh of relief from our ancestors, our forefathers. We are home. We are here. We are one. A circle has been completed today."

September, TBA - Dr. Carl Brasseaux / Lecture on the Deportation of the Acadians

October, Date TBA - Lecture by Dr. Mark Rees of Archeological Dig of St. Martin Parish, Acadian, and Bayou Teche Region and TBA - Folkways and Tales of Acadian traditions and livelihood

November 2 - 10:00 a.m. All Souls Day traditional ceremony. 6:30 p.m. - Tribute concert to the Acadians/Cajuns by Belgium Jazz Musicians, "Odyssey for Friends Big Band Jazz " Duchamp Opera House, Main Street / Refreshments, Cash Bar

December, Date TBA - Evening Christmas Celebration, "Cajun Style" featuring Acadian Memorial Choir and Theatre presentation.

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