



Calling All Cajuns!

St. Martinville, Louisiana

June 2007

"Emmeline, Evangeline and the Bayou Teche" by Christy Dugas Maraist

Conducted a Lecture on Longfellow's literary work and his influence on St. Martinville's legend recently.

Longfellow influenced the history of the Acadians and others to record local history. Christy Maraist, Acadian Memorial Board Member and native of St. Martinville, discussed "Emmeline, Evangeline and the Bayou Teche" and touched on important figures such as Marguerite Martin, Edward Simon and Felix Voorhies who are at the center of St. Martinville's interesting, much debated, historical legend.

Marguerite Martin, Acadian exile portrayed on the mural at the Acadian Memorial is the second best known figure on the mural at the Acadian Memorial. Her stories of "Acadie" and Poste des Attakapas are recounted in Felix Voorhies, "Acadian Reminiscences." Marguerite Martin is the matriarch of the Guidry, Hebert, Castille, Mouton and Dugas families. She had five daughters so none of her descendants carry the names of her husbands, Rene Robicheaux or Dr. Antoine Bordat.

Collaboration Acadian Memorial and Acadian Museum of Erath On Saturday afternoon, May 19th, La Boca Theater Company visiting from New York introduced "EVANGELINE & RITA: AN INTERACTIVE DRAMA WORKSHOP" in Acadiana. The company, held a workshop in Erath at the Acadian Museum of Erath. They used theater to explore the relationship between Evangeline and Rita. They are creating a new play about the continuing legacy of displacement, using Longfellow's poem and real stories from Hurricane survivors.

The troupe wanted to meet people who experienced Rita and might identify with Evangeline's story. It is important to The La Boca Theater Company to build a relationship with the community whose story they want to tell, to better understand what needs to be said to their audience when they perform in New York.

ACADIAN FAMILY MOSAIC CREST

The Acadian Memorial would like to let all Acadian families know that there is still space in the Meditation Garden to hold a few more Mosaic Coats of Arms. At this time there are 31 Acadian Family names represented of the Acadians who settled in Louisiana. The families who are represented are Arceneaux, Babineaux, Benoit, Blanchard Boudreaux, Bourque, Breaux, Broussard, Comeaux, Cormier, Doiron, Dugas, Duhon, Hebert, Granger, Guidry, Guillot, Guilbeau, Lejeune, Louviere, Martin, Mouton, Poirier, Landry, Leger, Richard, Savoie, Sonnier, and Thibodeaux, Trahan and Vincent.

The mosaic art is one of the oldest forms of art and the master presentation has given our garden a European flare. They are beautifully done and make a spectacular addition to the Acadian Memorial. They are placed along the sidewalk before the cross around the Eternal Flame in the Meditation Garden.

We hope to receive more grants to continue the representation of all the Acadian names at our memorial. We invite you to visit the Memorial to see the work of art in our garden. You may want your name in a part of honoring your family Cajun name. For additional information contact Brenda Trahan 337-394-2258.

(Supported by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council as administered by Acadiana Arts Council)

Maine Film Maker and "Evangeline" Scholar in Louisiana to film "Evangeline and The Acadian Journey" - On a recent whirlwind trip, a film maker and an Evangeline scholar from Maine, visited Cajun Country both to capture the history of Louisiana Cajuns and to bring them part of their Acadian history from Nova Scotia and France.



Brenda Jepson and Velma Johnson

Brenda Jepson, who produced "The Story Of The Acadians," an hour-long documentary which spans from 1604 to 1785, became fascinated to know what happened to the Acadians after their deportation from Nova Scotia and decided to make a sequel.

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While working on "The Story Of The Acadians" in France, she learned of the 1,500 Acadians who were reported to France and then traveled to Louisiana to settle, and she knew she had to learn more about their fate by traveling to Louisiana to meet their descendents.

Jepson teamed up with Dr Francoise Paradis who already had traveled to Louisiana several times to meet Cajuns to share with them her work on Evangeline, the Acadian heroine immortalized in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's epic poem. Dr Paradis also volunteered doing work for the Red Cross in Plaquemine in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Now Jespon and Paradis would travel together to Cajun Country to work on a film called "Evangeline And The Acadian Journey", as well as doing showings of the film Jepson already had produced, "The Story Of The Acadians.

"We were completely overwhelmed by the stories we heard in Louisiana, and by the beautiful scenery we filmed. We also were completely engulfed by the friendliness and helpfulness of the folks we met. I have never seen anything quite like it," said Jepson, who has filmed extensively throughout Europe and the Eastern Seaboard states for PBS during her twenty-four year film career.

Very soon, Jepson realized that her original plan to film an hour-long documentary, including a fifteen-minute segment on the Cajuns of Louisiana just wouldn't do. "The story of the Louisiana Cajuns" is so big, we quickly realized that we would have to devote at least an hour for telling the tale - if it stops at that." And so the two plan to come back in October to continue their work. And some of the Cajuns they met plan to venture up to far Northern Maine next month for the Acadian Festival in the St John Valley.

"Seeing Acadians making these connections is so exciting," said Dr Paradis who is part Acadian herself. "These families have been separated for well over two hundred years - in fact the Acadians who settled in the St John Valley came in 1785. That is the same year a group of Acadians came to Louisiana. Yet when they meet, they look alike, they sound the same and laugh at the same jokes."

Jepson and Paradis also plan to return to Louisiana in April next year to show their film "Evangeline And The Acadian Journey." Jepson will spend the winter in the loft of her snow bound, old log house editing the footage together. "I can't wait to get started," said Jepson. "While the north winds blow outside, I will have the pleasure of editing together beautiful footage of balmy Louisiana in spring time. It will bring back many wonderful memories!"

L'Ordre Du Bon Temps

Order of Good Times

Acadie 1606 – Louisiane 2007

Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler!

Saturday, July 28th, 2007 - 4:00 to 8:00 P.M.

New Iberia City Park * Veteran's Memorial Building
Marie Street right onto Mia-Pow Memorial Dr.

Dinner and Social * \$15.00 per person

Chicken & Sausage Bar-B-Que

Cash Bar / Cajun Music / Guest Speakers

Guest are invited!

"A Day of Remembrance: A Reflection of our History"

252 years ago the British signed the Deportation Order L'Ordre Du Bon Temps members will reflect on how this event in history did not stop the progress of the Cajun evolution in Acadiana.

Guest Speakers

Marcelle Bienvenue will speak about men as Cajun cooks and have a Book Signing of her books also we will have John Albert Landry – speak and a Book Signing on his new book, "Hoorah Plantation - 1930-1945" Al captures the nostalgia of a time when family was all important in the Louisiana/French culture and plantation life was still viable.

For additional information contact:

Shirley T. LeBlanc @337-981-3289/email: shirleythibo@bellsouth.net

Brenda C. Trahan @337-394-2258/emai/bctrahan@cox-internet.com

Order Tickets: Number of tickets _____

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City _____ State: _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____ Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Bill My: MASTERCARD ___ VISA _____

EXPIRATION DATE: _____ CARD NUMBER _____

NAME ON CARD: _____

Please mail completed application and fees to:

Acadian Memorial Foundation – P.O. Box 60188 – Lafayette, LA 70596-0188

News Media

RE: July 28th

Acadian "Day of Remembrance"

Letter to the Editor

In 2003, Queen Elizabeth II signed the Royal Proclamation decreeing that every July 28 the world should pause to remember the suffering of the Acadians during the Acadian exile. The deportation order was signed by the British Governor Lawrence in Halifax, Nova Scotia on July 28, 1755.

As an example of the atrocities committed, Lawrence ordered over 700 Acadians to Massachusetts where many died. The local authorities authorized public beatings of exiles who left designated areas and forced Acadian children into indentured servitude.

By symbolically declaring an end to the Acadian exile, the Royal Proclamation stated: "...we acknowledge these historical facts and the trials and sufferings experienced by the Acadian people during the Great Upheaval." (Source: acadianmuseum.com).

On July 28, as we commemorate in this "Day of Remembrance," I submit that it is important to recall other ethnic cleansings—the removal of one people by another from a geographic region through violence and terror—by despots (Source: Human Rights Watch:www.hrw.org):

- During World War II, Hitler's Third Reich killed 6 million of the 18 million Jews;**
- In the post-Vietnam War, Cambodia's Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge regime killed 2 million of Cambodia's 8 million citizens;**
- In four ethnic cleaning wars he waged through the 1990s, the former Yugoslavian leader Slobodan Milosevic killed 200,000 of the 10 million citizens.**

From 1755 to 1763, it is estimated by historians that 7,000—half of the entire ethnic population of the Acadians—perished during their diaspora from disease, starvation and neglect, as well as from violence by the British. National contrition teaches an important lesson to all and thus helps prevent future ethnic cleansings. By repudiating the wrongs committed in the name of the British Crown, the Queen sent a clear message that such actions were wrong.

With best wishes, I remain,

Sincèrement,

WARREN A. PERRIN

Président

WAP/dsb

cc: Queen Elizabeth II

Prime Minister Tony Blair

**30th Annual Acadian Festival Reunion
Location: Madawaska, Maine**

Date: June 24-July 1, 2007

This year's family reunion honors the Lagacé Family.

Chicken stew and ployes on June 24

Quilt show June 28-30

Re-enactment of the Acadian arrival in St. David - Saturday, June 30, 2007

Acadian Festival Parade at 1 p.m. July 1

The Madawaska Public Library on Main Street has its own room for genealogy and is certainly worth a visit. So is the Acadian Archives at the University of Maine at Fort Kent. Its resources are both Acadian and French-Canadian.

Historical societies in the area include the St. Agathe Historical Society, which has its own museum.

Web sites at www.lagacereunion.org, www.acadianfestival.org and www.madawaskahistorical.org.

Permission obtained for the above information from:

<http://bangordailynews.com/news/t/lifestyle.aspx?articleid=149782&zoneid=30>

Family Ties

Acadian Festival, reunion coming to Madawaska

By [Roxanne Moore Saucier](#)

Monday, May 14, 2007 - Bangor Daily News

Annual General Membership Meeting

June 19, 2007

Acadian Memorial 4:00 – 6:00 P.M.

Election of Officers/Board Members

Nominated

Shirley T. LeBlanc – President

Preston Guillot – President-elect

Terrel Dressel – Treasurer

Sarah Migues – Secretary

Christy D. Maraist – Parliamentarian

Board Member

Sarah Migues

Frank Castille

John Albert Landry

Light refreshments served

Calendar of Events

All events are subject to change. Check the Acadian Memorial's website www.acadianmemorial.org for updates.

June 19 – 4:00 – 6:00 P.M. Acadian Memorial – Annual General Membership Meeting - election of Officers/Board members. Refreshments served.

August 15th - National Day of the Acadians at the Acadian Memorial. Marcelle Bienvenue, special guest, will discuss the history of Cajun foods, as well as a book signing of her books.

July 28th - L'Ordre Du Bon Temps meeting/social. New Iberia, LA, City Park, Veteran's Memorial Building. Bar-B-Q/Day of Remembrance. Call Shirley 337-981-3289 or email: shirleythibo@bellsouth.net for tickets (\$15.00 per person).

October 7th – 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. - Marquis de Lafayette International "Quilts on the Bayou Teche" Festival

October 8th - 14th - Acadian Heritage Week to encourage the study of Acadian/Cajun History

October or November - TBA - L'Ordre Du Bon Temps Celebration – 1606 -2007

November 2nd - All Souls Day

December - Cajun Christmas Celebration