

Festival Day

Saturday
March 20, 2010
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Festival Kickoff

Friday
March 19, 2010
5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Festival Schedule updates

www.acadianmemorial.org www.stmartinville.org

For More Info: Email us at info@acadianmemorial.org or call: 337-394-2258/337-288-2681

Volunteers, Booth Rentals, Family Meetings, Crawfish Boil tickets, etc.



Georgette Bourgeois captures the landmarks and landscapes of her Acadian Heritage in her paintings. She will give a slide presentation of her work during the festival.

Festival Kids

- * Egg Breaking Contest
- * Storytelling by Cheri Armentor www.mardigrasbookinabag.com

CALLING ALL CAJUNS!

A Publication of The Acadian Memorial Foundation

March 2010

IT'S FESTIVAL TIME!

With the first breath of spring in St. Martinville arrives the Acadian Memorial Festival. On March 19 and 20, 2010 the 6th annual festival once again promises a good time in the historic district. As sponsors of the festival, it's a great time for Foundation members and our families to get together.

Bring some guests, and let's take part in the fun with a Friday night downtown stroll for the Art Walk, Tour of St. Martin de Tours Church and Crawfish Boil (call Ray Trahan, Festival Chairman, to reserve tickets) and Saturday's festivities in Evangeline Oak Park including live music, great food and drinks, exhibits, merchandise, costumes, art, reenactments, reunions, genealogy presentations, etc. Volunteers are needed, welcomed and greatly appreciated!



2009 Reenactment: The Acadians' arrival on the Teche in St. Martinville. Photo provided by Janelle Hebert.

By festival time, installation should be complete for the new lamp for the Eternal Flame. Stop by the Acadian Memorial Courtyard and have a look!

It will be our pleasure to host some special guests: author Gérard-Marc Braud and Maryannick Braud of Nantes, and artist Georgette Bourgeois of Nova Scotia. The traveling exhibit *Voices of the Atchafalaya* is also scheduled for display. Created by Earl Robicheaux and John Amrhein, it features photography, recorded oral history and ambient sound.

At 1 p.m. on festival day, take a spot on the Boardwalk and welcome the 2010 Honored Acadian Families, Breaux and Guidry, some of whom will be representing their ancestors in the much anticipated reenactment of the Arrival of the Acadians on the Teche in St. Martinville.

Admission is FREE to all events! Please enjoy Cajun cooking and beverages from our booths in support of the festival. See you there...

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

10:00 am Opening Ceremonies, Past & Present Honorees

10:30 am Renaissance Cadienne Cajun Dance Troupe

10:45 am Lecture on Guidry Family Ancestry

11:00 am Storytelling for kids by Cheri Armentor

11:30 am Costumed Performance by Théâtre Acadien

11:30 am Putt-Putt Boat Parade

12:00 am Presentation by artist Georgette Bourgeois

12:30 am Costumed Performance by Théâtre Acadien

1:00 pm Boat Reenactment of the Arrival of the Acadians, welcome to Breaux & Guidry families & Evangeline Queen

2:00 pm Presentation on Atchafalaya Heritage Area

2:30 pm Storytelling for kids: Fiddles & Spoons story

2:30 pm Egg Pâques (Egg breaking contest)

3:00 pm Lecture on Breaux Family Ancestry

3:00 pm Film: Evangeline (1929, bw, 90 min)

(subject to change)

Throughout the Day:

Food & Drink

Arts & Crafts booths

Children's Art on Display

Antique Cars & Wooden Boats

Romero Brothers Exhibit

Atchafalaya Vocies Exhibit

Quilting Demonstrations

Cooking Demonstrations & Samples by L'Ordre du Bon Temps 10:00 am- 2 pm

Cajun Band: Moi-J'aime-Ça-Comme-Ça (I Like it Like That)

11:00 am- 1:00 pm & 2:00 pm

Marty Guidry by the Guédry family crest in the Acadian Memorial courtyard

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Bonjour,

"Calling All Cajuns" is back! After a brief period with no newsletter, the Acadian Memorial Foundation Board is publishing the newsletter again. We hope you will enjoy the informative and diverse articles about the Acadian Memorial presented in each of these quarterly issues. We are truly fortunate to have Ms. Suzy Bridwell as editor of the newsletter.

To conserve Acadian Memorial funds and to allow readers to enjoy color photographs and an enhanced newsletter, we are sending it via email to our Acadian Memorial Foundation members and guests. But don't despair if you are an Acadian Memorial Foundation member and do not have email. You will receive each issue of the newsletter through the normal mail.

Because we can now send the newsletter by email, we are no longer constrained by the high printing and postal costs. If you have friends or relatives that would like to receive the newsletter, please send me their email addresses and we will include them on the newsletter distribution list. Send their names and email addresses to guidryrm@cox.net.

Both 2010 and 2011 promise to be exciting years for the Acadian Memorial. Our 2010 Acadian Memorial Festival will be Saturday, March 20, 2010. As always it will a festive occasion with lots of activities and food for all. Come taste some authentic freshly-prepared Cajun food as boudin, cracklins, fried catfish as well as some great sweets. Or you may like to ride in one of the authentic Cajun putt-putt boats cruising Bayou Teche – it's free and a truly unique experience. This year the Guédry (Guidry) and Breaux (Breau) families will be honored. They will arrive at the Evangeline Oak by pirogue during the early afternoon for the ceremonies. Of course, you can visit the Memorial, attend several lectures on our Acadian heritage, purchase souvenirs and view the many exhibits on display.

Also, during March 2010 the Acadian Memorial will be hosting the Atchafalaya Trace Commission Exhibit – a wonderful photo and oral history-based panel exhibit on the culture and history of the people of the Atchafalaya Swamp.

October 2010 welcomes the Acadian Memorial Foundation's biennial L'Ordre du Bon Temps supper. This culinary tour is not to be missed. Chefs from Canada, France and Louisiana will prepare a savory meal for all. The real treat, however, is the presentation of each course in the style of Champlain's original L'Ordre du Bon Temps feasts of 1604 Acadia. The recreation of this old Acadia culinary festival will enhance your Acadian experience. Get your tickets early as seating will be limited.

From May 28 through July 9, 2011 the Acadian Memorial will be hosting a truly unique exhibit – the Smithsonian Museum's "Journey Stories". A remarkable concept, "Journey Stories" tells how we and our ancestors came to America. Besides the exhibit itself, at various times during the six-week period Louisianians of various ethnic backgrounds will discuss their ancestors and how they reached American shores and migrated to south Louisiana.

Our Acadian Memorial Festival in 2011 will move temporarily from March to October. Why? So it can join our newest Acadian celebration – the Grand Réveil Acadien (the Great Acadian Awakening) that will occur in early October 2011. Acadians from throughout the United States, Canada and Europe will descend on south Louisiana for this inaugural Grand Réveil Acadien. Watch for details as plans are announced during the next year and prepare to celebrate our Acadian heritage with our cousins from throughout the world.

Your Acadian Memorial Foundation Board with the Acadian Memorial Curator/Director Brenda Trahan has been busy planning each of these events that, not only showcase our Acadian Memorial, but educate our visitors about the Acadians and their many stories.

We appreciate each of you becoming members of the Acadian Memorial Foundation in the past and welcome you to renew your membership in 2010. A membership application is attached to this newsletter. And why not ask a friend or relative to join with you. Your support allows us to bring these activities to the Memorial and to let others know about our unique and exciting Acadian heritage.

Thanks and stay tuned as each of these events nears.

Marty

Marty Guidry

President, Acadian Memorial Foundation

ENSEMBLE ENCORE IN REVISION

Jane G. Bulliard

Françoise? Marie Françoise? – Semé, Semer, Semaire, Semere – all the same or two different people? Who's who and where's the difference?? That's what a team of volunteers is researching for revisions to the database of genealogy information known as "Ensemble Encore -Together Again". Noted to be "the most important public history project in the '90s on the Gulf Coast" at the time of its installation in 1998, the database was sponsored by The Acadian Memorial Foundation and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

Created by Dr. Carl Brasseaux of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, the database reflects the many accomplishments of this leading Acadian/Cajun scholar who employed computer technology to construct a three generation family of parents and children for each person who could be identified as an Acadian refugee in church and civil records of eighteenth century Louisiana. The power of the internet makes that information available to all who visit the Acadian Memorial website, www.acadianmemorial.org.

A committee operating through Emails is in place to approve information submitted for revisions to entries on the database and a form is provided on site to make changes or add information together with source citations. Everyone is encouraged to review persons of interest to them in the database and submit appropriate information.

Was the mystery solved? Yes, Françoise Semé and Marie Françoise Semer is indeed the same person according to the approved submittals of Karen Theriot Reader. Check the entry to see the revisions that added information and members to this family.

Karen Reader serves the *Ensemble Encore* E-Committee from California; other members are Stanley LeBlanc of Texas, Michael B. Melanson of Massachusetts, Winston DeVille of *Poste des Opelousas*, Marty Guidry of Baton Rouge, Shirley Thibodeaux LeBlanc and Brenda Comeaux Trahan of Lafayette and Jeanne Essmeier and Jane G. Bulliard, Chair of St. Martinville.



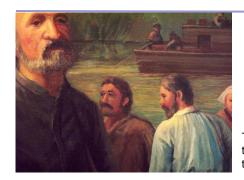
Books, t-shirts, posters, pins & more

Get yours now! *Our Boutique* secured the last issues of Acadiana Profile magazine featuring the story of the Acadians in Louisiana. We offer a 'collector's bundle' of three magazines featuring parts 1, 2 & 3 of "The Acadian Exile" by Carl A. Brasseaux for \$9.00; no. 3 also has an article about the early days of the building of the Acadian Memorial by magazine publisher Trent Angers and we offer it as a single copy for \$3.00.

Visit our online boutique at www.acadianmemorial.org

AU COURANT

- The Acadian Memorial will be participating in **EXPO ACADIE**, to be held **April 22-24**, **2010 at Holiday Inn**, **2032 NE Evangeline Thruway**, **Lafayette**, **LA**. The theme of this international trade fair is *Towards an Acadian and Cajun French Language Cultural Economy*. Sponsored by Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle Écosse, the expo will provide us with the opportunity to promote our mission and establish contacts with potential partners doing business in the fields of cultural tourism, language education, publishing, genealogy, interactive media and more. More information about the EXPO can be found at the bilingual website **www.expoacadie.com**.
- In order to encourage new membership in the Acadian Memorial Foundation, the St. Martinville Rotary Club will donate up to \$1000 in matching funds in support of the Foundation for membership purchases through May 31, 2010. A membership form is included in the newsletter. Join us!



PIERRE GUÉDRY A STORY OF SURVIVAL

The center figure is a depiction of Pierre Guédry in this detail from Robert Dafford's mural "The Arrival of the Acadians in Louisiana." © City of St. Martinville

Marty Guidry

Born in Acadia about 1741, Pierre Guédry was the son of Augustin Guédry and Jeanne Hébert and the grandson of Claude Guédry dit LaVerdure and Marguerite Petitpas. Claude Guédry dit LaVerdure was the first Guédry known in North America – having arrived in Acadia before 1681.

Spending his childhood in the lush Merliguèche, Acadia area (near today's Lunenburg), Pierre Guédry grew up among his Guédry, Petitpas and Mius relatives and about 300 Mi'kmaq Indians. About 1750 Pierre Guédry along with most of his brothers and sisters left Merliguèche and resettled on Île Royale near Baie des Espagnols to escape the intimidation and threats of the English and of Father Le Loutre. Pierre was living at Baie des Espagnols with his sister Ursule and her husband Paul Boutin in 1752. The land at Baie des Espagnols was rocky and very poor in quality – totally unsuitable for farming. By 1754 the new arrivals were starving and decided to return to their old homes despite the earlier English threats. Twenty-five members of the Guédry family including Pierre arrived by boat at Halifax in August 1754 and requested permission to return to their old homes. William Cotterell, the Provincial Secretary, granted their request; however, during their absence German Protestants had settled near their old homes and the area was renamed Lunenburg. They took the Oath of Allegiance to the British King and resettled near the Lunenburg community. Along with their German Protestant neighbors the newly-arrived Acadians received victuals from the English in June 1755.

Suddenly their fate changed dramatically. In mid-September 1755 the English arrested the Acadians at Lunenburg, loaded them onto the tender "Jolly Bacchus" and transported them to Halifax where they arrived on 22 September 1755. Here they were imprisoned on George's Island within the harbor of Halifax. Conditions on George's Island were almost unbearable with meager rations, little clothing, shabby huts and a very cold winter.

After surviving three months on George's Island, Pierre and 49 other Acadians were shuffled onto the transport sloop "Providence" under Captain Samuel Brown. Sailing on 30 December 1755 Captain Brown had one pound beef, 2 pounds bread and 5 pounds flour for each Acadian per week. Fortunately, the weather cooperated during their voyage and their trip was short. In early January 1756 they landed at Edenton, North Carolina on the shores of Albemarle Sound. Here they disembarked and settled along the Sound in Chowan County. Pierre was a young man of fourteen and probably lived with one of his sisters.

Pierre Guédry and his family remained only briefly in North Carolina – leaving in late 1760 after the surrender of Montréal on 8 September 1760 that ended the French and Indian War. Some of the family departed for Maryland while Pierre and several relatives went to Pennsylvania. In January 1761 Pierre's brother Joseph married Magdalen Melançon at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Philadelphia. Shortly afterwards on 24 June 1762 at St. Joseph's Church Pierre Guédry was the sponsor at the baptism of Susan Boutin, daughter of Paul Boutin and Ursule Guédry, sister of Pierre. Most of the Acadians in Philadelphia at this time lived on the north side of Pine Street between 5th Street and 6th Street only a few blocks from St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

By July 1763 Pierre's brother Jean-Baptist Guédry had settled near Port Tobacco, Maryland. Shortly afterwards he died leaving his widow Anne Dupuy and their five children. Between late 1763 and December 1767 Pierre Guédry left Pennsylvania for Port Tobacco. About 1764 he married Marguerite Dupuy and had a daughter Marie. On 17 December 1767 Pierre and his family along with his widowed sister-in-law Anne Dupuy and her children embarked on the ship "Jane" at Port Tobacco and sailed for Louisiana. They arrived in New Orleans on 7 February 1768 and were lodged temporarily in the habitation constructed by the King.

To their dismay and protests, in May 1768 the Spanish transported them far up the Mississippi River to Poste San Luis de Natchez (near present-day Vidalia, Louisiana). This area was inhospitable with infectious insects, poisonous snakes, hostile Indians and swampy land. Additionally, it was far from New Orleans where they would need to sell their crops to make their work profitable. The Acadians continually petitioned the Spanish to let them move downriver among their Acadian relatives near present-day St. James, Louisiana.

Shortly after arriving at Poste San Luis de Natchez Pierre and Marguerite had a young son. That was to be the last happy day in their lives at this place. Not long afterwards Marguerite became ill and died as did both their young children. Within 18 months of arrival almost half of the Acadians at Poste San Luis de Natchez died. After Marguerite's

Pierre Guédry - A Story of Survival, continued

death Pierre Guédry married Marie Claire Babin, daughter of Antoine Babin and Catherine Landry, at Pointe Coupée – just downriver from Poste San Luis de Natchez.

Finally, in December 1769 the Spanish permitted the Acadians to move from Poste San Luis de Natchez downriver to St. Gabriel in present-day Ascension Parish. Pierre and Claire settled in the St. Gabriel area for about a year and then resettled south of Opelousas, Louisiana where they had six sons. Again tragedy struck Pierre when his wife Claire died during childbirth in June 1780.

With a family to raise and work to be done, Pierre Guédry married Marguerite Miller, daughter of William Miller and Anne Keven, about 1781. While living near Opelousas, Pierre and Marguerite had four sons and two daughters. They then moved to St. Martin Parish about 1794 – settling at La Grande Pointe (present-day Cecilia). Here Pierre began raising cattle and became quite prosperous. He and Marguerite had another three sons and five daughters. Pierre and Marguerite acquired considerable property and land in St. Martin Parish before she died in 1823. Shortly afterward on 13 November 1825 Pierre Guédry died at his home – an old patriarch of 74 years. He was buried at the cemetery of St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church in St. Martinville, Louisiana. At his death Pierre left an estate valued at over \$200,000 that included several thousand acres of land, several hundred head of cattle and numerous other assets

Pierre Guédry's life is a story of survival – of repeated tragedies, struggles to recover and success. During his life he had three wives that predeceased him and twenty children. He traveled from Merliguèche, Acadia to Louisiana with stops at Ile Royale, Halifax, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Maryland. In Louisiana he lived at New Orleans, Poste San Luis de Natchez, St. Gabriel, Opelousas and La Grande Pointe. It must have been a difficult, sad life – yet he persevered, raised his children, worked hard and became quite wealthy.

THE CMA 2009 EXPERIENCE

Suzy Bridwell

An international festival with a focus on food, music and culture, but also on family and business connections: This is *Congrés Mondial Acadien*. Every five years, this *Worldwide Acadian Gathering* warmly embraces thousands. Rogers and Charlotte Romero of New Iberia, Louisiana relished the experience of CMA 2004 at Grande Pre, Nova Scotia,

Canada and CMA 2009 at Caraquet, New Brunswick, Canada, and so again became a part of it all for the 2009 event in the Acadian Peninsula of New Brunswick.

Symbolically, the Congrés builds a bridge across nations and time, and calls out to Acadians to cross. On opening day, the Romeros literally stood at the top of the bridge over Miscou Harbor leading down from Lameque into the opening ceremony at Miscou Warf. Fascinated, they watched the tremendous crowd gather, and a number of decorated ships circling below. "At the top of bridge, we met a lot of people coming and going. We talked to them like we knew them and spoke a lot of French to them. They would speak English back to us. We took photos together. That was nice." Whether attending a family reunion, a concert or a Tintamarre, the Romeros were touched by the natural kinship and camaraderie between themselves and those with whom they became acquainted. They received several invitations to visit the homes of fellow Acadians, often occurring shortly after beginning a conversation. As Rogers says "One of the biggest things about New Brunswick is the people. They are awesome." Charlotte



At the top of Miscou Island Bridge, with new friends.

loved the openness of the people, she says "they didn't treat us as strangers, but accepted us as family. Often times, when they found out that we were from Louisiana and that we spoke French, it was difficult to depart from them so that we could attend our next function."

The CMA 2009 Experience, continued

Not only were Rogers and Charlotte the recipients of New Brunswick hospitality, but as thoughtful guests often do, they brought some things to share with their hosts and other guests. Each carried a backpack and eco-friendly grocery bag filled with beads to bestow to fellow attendees during a "Louisiana Day" Mardi Gras celebration. Not surprisingly, Mardi Gras beads attracted many happy takers. They brought a specially autographed Zachary Richard CD to a long-distance cousin/friend. When the scent of jambalaya wafted by as crowds waited for the Tintamarre to begin, Rogers encouraged the people seated next to him to try it. "Come with me, try some of mine. If you like it, you can buy some." Rogers got two spoons for his bowl. The man liked it, bought himself a bowl and encouraged his wife to try it. She kept the bowl.

When all was said and done, the pair had attended family reunions for the families of Martin, LeBlanc/Melancon/Bourque, Leger/Trahan, Hebert, Boudreau, and Broussard/Thibodeau. Acadiana pins and flags were exchanged for local Acadian pins and flags. There were festivals, masses and visits to museums and aquariums. Then onward to Nova Scotia for the Beausoleil trail, Hopewell Rocks, Alma for the largest lobsters in the world, Shediac; the lobster Capital of the World, Grand Pre, Port Royal/Annapolis Royal, Lunenburg, Peggy's Cove and Halifax before heading home.

A few of Charlotte's favorite highlights: Espace 2009, Tintamarre, outdoor Mass with the Bishop at St. Ann du Bocage church, and visiting the Acadian Deportation Cross at Grand Pre. Favorite reunion: the Martin reunion (Charlotte's mother was a Martin).

Rogers' favorite highlights: visiting forts and the monuments dedicated to so many ancestors, such as Beausoleil Broussard; imagining having stepped in some of the same places where he may have left footprints so many years ago. Favorite reunion: the Broussard/Thibodeau reunion, with food, dancing, Mardi Gras, and a small Tintamarre; meeting lots of ancestral cousins.







At the Boudreau family reunion: Charlotte & Rogers Romero, center



Charlotte and the Martin family flag

Merci Bien

Many thanks to the following donors who have contributed to the Acadian Memorial Foundation fund since the annual membership meeting in June 2009:

Jolene Adam, St. Martinville, LA

Roberta & C. Thomas Bienvenu Jr., St. Martinville, LA

John Errol & Karen Gautreau, Baton Rouge, LA

J.B. Levert Foundation, Inc., Metairie, LA

Association de la Famille Daigle, for sponsoring a family crest in the Acadian Memorial Meditation Garden

Many thanks to all returning members of the Foundation.

Bienvenue

A warm welcome to all new members of the Acadian Memorial Foundation:

Carol Bernard Billugier & Family, Slidell, LA Gayle Landry, St. Martinville, LA Charles Bourgeois, Ruston, LA Lana Downing, Franklin, LA



Expiration

Signature

Acadian Memorial Foundation, Inc. PO. Box 379, Dept. A.M., St. Martinville, LA, 70582

WE NEED YOU!

Phone: 337.394.2258 Fax 337.394.2260

Email: <u>info@acadianmemorial.org</u>

Please JOIN /REJOIN

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

- * Mural interactive-Adult and Children both in French and English
- * Wall of Names / Eternal Flame
- * Replica of the Grand-Pré Deportation Cross
- * Family Mosaic Coat of Arms in the Meditation Garden
- * Deportation Re-enactment & future historical re-enactments
- * Acadian Memorial Cultural Festival

With your support, we can accomplish so much more! All donations are appreciated. Memorials and gifts are encouraged.

Don	ations qualify as	tax deductible charitable contributi	ons under number 721308747
	Individu	al Membership \$25/year	
	Family I	Membership \$35/year	
	Of Acad	ian Descent \$125/year	
	Acadian	Heritage \$225/yr. Family Associat	ion
	L'Ordre	Du Bon Temps Membership \$25s	ingle/\$35family
as your Aca Memorial M	dian Memorial Iembership invo	membership is valid and in good	hip fee and will be valid for as long I standing. Any break in Acadian nps membership. Membership into events.
(Corporate Spons	or/Business \$1,000	
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I	Endowment Fund	l designated for future support <i>(or</i>	ly interest will be used) \$
All members receive men Annual meeting.	nbership card, C	alling All Cajuns newsletter, specia	l invitation to events and voting privileges at the
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State:	Zip		
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Visit the Acadian Memorial

www.acadianmemorial.org

121 South New Market St. St. Martinville, LA 70582

Open10:00 am to 4:30 pm daily,

except for major holidays

Telephone: 337-394-2258

Current admission: \$3 for age 12 and up

Price includes:

Acadian Memorial & Cultural Heritage Center Guided tour packages are also available.

Tour groups and field trips are welcome! Please call for rate and reservations.

ACADIAN MEMORIAL 2010 EVENTS CALENDAR

February 11, 2010 - Romance Under the Oak

1:00 & 4:00 pm showings of "Evangeline" silent film upstairs at the Acadian Memorial. 6:00 pm reception at Old Castillo Bed & Breakfast.

March 19, 2010 - Acadian Memorial Festival Kickoff

5:30 to 8:00 pm Art Walk & Crawfish Boil in Historic District

March 20, 2010 - 6th Annual Acadian Memorial Festival 10:00 am to 4:00 pm in Evangeline Oak Park.

April 22-24, 2010 - Expo Acadie 2010

Acadian Memorial will participate in the international trade fair to be held in Lafayette, LA. Visit www.expoacadie.com

June 15, 2010 - Annual Foundation Membership Meeting

Acadian Memorial Hall

July 28, 2010 - Day of Commemoration

Memorial Service for Acadian Deportation at St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church and Acadian Memorial Meditation Garden

August 15, 2010 - National Day of the Acadians

Speakers and Reception at the Acadian Memorial & French Mass at St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church

October 6, 2010- L'Ordre du Bon Temps supper Details TBA

Acadian Memorial Foundation

PO Box 379

St. Martinville, LA 70582