



# Calling All Cajuns!

St. Martinville, Louisiana

Spring 1994



## "BEAUSOLEIL" BROUSSARD LEADS THE WAY - AGAIN!

Deft brush strokes by master muralist Robert Dafford bring to life historic Acadian figures on the mural he has been commissioned to paint for the Acadian Memorial in St. Martinville, Louisiana. The 30' x 12' canvas is being filled with figures of exiled Acadians painted as though they are arriving in Louisiana in the mid-18th century.

Mural committee chairman Carole Lancon announced that work started on the massive painting in December 1993 and will be approximately 60% complete by April 1994 when the canvas will be transferred from Dafford's studio to the Heymann Building on Jefferson Street in Lafayette, Louisiana, as part of an exhibit of his earlier paintings on The Acadian Exile. "Dafford will continue working on the painting while it is intro-

duced to the public during the 1994 Festival International exhibit", said Lancon.

"At the forefront of the painting," said Project co-chair Janie Bulliard, "is the figure of Joseph Beausoleil Broussard, so honored as a tribute to his leadership ability which was recognized in Nova Scotia and acknowledged in Louisiana when he was named commandant of the Attakapas District in April 1765." He died there on September 4, 1765, prematurely, perhaps, but not before he knew he had led his people to *nouvelle Acadie*."

On his far right, is the figure of Pierre Richard, an early settler in the Opelousas Country who probably arrived in Louisiana in 1765 with Broussard. The Richard figure was funded with a donation of \$2,000 by "Des Richard de Partout, Inc.", an

organization of Richard descendants.

"On Broussard's left", Bulliard pointed out, "is the figure of a woman representing Elizabeth Thibodeau, widow of Cosme Brasseaux, who arrived in Louisiana in 1767 and who was settled, with her children, on the Mississippi River in the area of St. Gabriel."

Figures from all of the Acadian settlements in Louisiana continue to be developed on the mural and the public is invited to view its progress at Festival International in Lafayette, Louisiana, April 21 thru April 24, 1994. At that time, costumed docents will be present to tell stories of the mural figures.

The drawing for a trip to Canada to attend CONGRÈS MONDIAL ACADI-

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*Donnie Thibodeaux, winner of the 1993 free trip for two to Paris, France, is pictured with friends in Nantes, France, on a side trip to view a mural there painted by Robert Dafford on rue des Acadiens, which depicts the departure of the Acadians from the port of Nantes in 1785 for Louisiana. The mural in Nantes has been twinned with the one painted for the Acadian Memorial in St. Martinville, Louisiana.*



*Board members of "Des Richard de Partout, Inc." are, from left, Eddie Richard of Scott, Paul Olivier of Lafayette, and board president Charles Richard of Morgan City, Louisiana. They are pictured with the \$2,000 check donated to the Memorial to sponsor the figure of Pierre Richard. A great grandson of Michel Richard and Magdelaine Blanchard, he was an exiled Acadian who, in 1766, was settled in the Opelousas Country. His descendants have committed to memorializing him in the mural to be housed in the Acadian Memorial in St. Martinville entitled "The Arrival of the Acadians in Louisiana".*

## **Iberville names included on Wall**

**"arrête toi ami, lis mon nom et souviens toi"**

*(Pause friend, read my name and remember...)*

This sentiment will caption the Wall of Names. More names to be remembered will be those of a group settled in present-day Iberville Parish in 1770. The story of their passage aboard the "Britain" follows this list.

Oliver Benoit. Marie Bruset, wife; Charles Benoit, son; Marie Rose Benoit, daughter; Magdalene Benoit, daughter.

Louis Lasté. Anne, wife; Marie Lasté, daughter; Marie Rose Benoit, orphan; Marguerite Lasté, daughter; Antoine Lasté, son; Paul Lasté, son; Ysabelle Lasté, daughter.

Etienne Ruvel, widower. Etienne Ruvel, son; Francois Ruvel, son; Pierre Ruvel, son; Ochodol Ruvel, son.

Honnore Trahan. Marie Corprun, wife; Pierre Trahan, son; Joseph LeJeune, orphan.

Antoine Belar. Marie, wife; Etienne Simon Belar, son.

Jean Vincent LeJeune. Blaise LeJeune, brother; Margarite LeJeune, sister.

Pierre Prinne. Susanne Plant, wife.

In "The Founding of New Acadia", author and historian Carl Brasseaux tells us that "...thirty Acadians from Maryland--boarded the "Britain", a New Orleans bound schooner, at 'the port of [Port Tobacco,] Maryland' on January 5, 1769. The English vessel reached the mouth of the Mississippi River on February 21, but fog delayed ascent of the river, and strong easterly winds drove the vessel to Matagorda Bay, Texas. Upon reaching the Texas coast, the "Britain" was seized by Spanish authorities and the passengers and crew were arrested as smugglers. For a time the prisoners were confined at hard labor in Presidio de La Bahia (present day Goliad, Texas), but they were soon released. Arriving at Natchitoches in late October, the Acadians paused before pressing on to New Acadia. Commandant Athanaze Demezieres attempted to force them to remain at his Red River post, but he ultimately succumbed to Acadian recalcitrance. In mid-April, 1770, the exiles were given westbank land grants in present-day Iberville Parish."

# LA CAROLINE -- LAST OF ACADIAN EXPEDITIONS

Acadian exiles who were among the last shipload of immigrants to arrive in Louisiana over 200 years ago were honored during a special commemorative mass held Sunday, Dec. 12, 1993 in St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church in St. Martinville, Louisiana.

Modern day Acadians bearing family names derived from these immigrants were special guests at the mass and carried banners denoting the families they represented.

At the same time the mass was being held in St. Martinville, another memorial mass was being offered in St. Martin de Chantenay Church in Nantes, France, which was the port of embarkation for the brig "Caroline" which carried the Acadian exiles to Louisiana. The ship entered the Mississippi River below New Orleans on Dec. 12, 1785.

La Caroline was the last of seven ships of what is called the "Acadian expeditions" which brought families to colonize Louisiana that year. They were part of approximately 3,000 persons who, after being expelled from Nova Scotia in 1755, eventually sought refuge in France, only to be disillusioned by a government apathetic to their needs. When, in 1785,

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Left to right, front row, Janie Bulliard (Etienne Francois Angilbert), Pat Martin (Claude LeGaignau), Patsy Delaune Akers (Jean deLaune), Elsie Delaune Barras (Christopher deLaune), Mandy Doucet (Joseph Doucet), Antonia Gautreaux Theriot (Marie Boudreau, Widow of Charles Terriot), Charlotte Marie Doucet (Michael Doucet), Earl R. Gautreaux, New Iberia (Charles Gotreau), Jules Duhon, Maurice (Joseph Duhon), Lloyd Leblanc (Claude Marie LeBlanc), second row, Patricia Resweber (Pierre Montain), Jean-Luc Chiasson, New Brunswick & Lafayette (Basile Chaison), Phillippe Doiron (Jean Bte. Doiron), Willis Boudreaux (Joseph Boudreau), Craig Baudoin (Jean Charles Baudin), Lynn Blanchard (Charles Blanchard), Russel Albert (Nicholas Albert), third row, Eddie Richard, Scott (Basile Marie Richard), Ronald Gaudet (Louis Godet), Eric Martin (Louis l'Armoureaux), Roy Boudreaux (Ignace Boudreau), Teddy Hebert (Ambroise Hebert) and Deno Boudreaux (Olivier Boudreau).

## Last chance to win trip to Canada

To donate to the Mural and enter the drawing for the free trip to Canada, fill in this form, or a photocopy of it, clip it out and mail it along with your check to ACADIAN MEMORIAL PROJECT, City of St. Martinville, P.O. Box 379, Dept. AM, St. Martinville, LA 70582. Make check payable to Acadian Memorial Project. Your name will be entered into a drawing for the trip to Canada each time you contribute \$50 to the Acadian Memorial Project's Mural Fund. This special offer is made to mural square donors until April 24, 1994. NOTE: These tickets are non-transferable and valid only for the trip to Canada to attend the Acadian World Congress on August 14 - 21, 1994, with the St. Martinville group.

Yes! I want:

\_\_\_ Mural Squares \$50 each

Enclosed in my check for \_\_\_\_\_

Bill my \_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_ Visa Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Name On Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if mural square is a gift or memorial. List name & address of recipient at right and the name & address of the sender below. A photo acknowledgement will be sent to recipient.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

## BEAUSOLEIL

(Continued from Page 1)

EN, the Acadian World Congress to be held in New Brunswick, Canada, in August 1994, will take place at the mural site on Sunday, April 24th. "You need not be present to win", said Project co-chair Patricia Resweber, "but, you must have made at least one \$50 donation for a 6" x 6" square of the mural space between April 26, 1993 and April 24, 1994". CONGRÈS MONDIAL ACADIEN has donated two passports for free entry to all events sponsored by them. An entry form is available elsewhere in this newsletter.

## CAROLINE

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after nearly 30 years of wretched living conditions, they were told of a generous offer of arable land by Louisiana's Spanish government, some 1,596 Acadian refugees in France accepted the challenge to begin a new life in Louisiana.

The 25 families aboard the Caroline settled in the present day parishes of Ascension, Assumption, St. Landry, Pointe Coupee, St. James and St. Martin.

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*The Iberville list of names which appears on Page 2 is as found in "Spain in the Mississippi Valley, 1765-94..."*

*Ed. Lawrence Kinnaird*

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## Calling All Cajuns Calendar

**Sunday, April 10, 1994**

### *Gaudet Family Reunion*

St. Mary Parish, Louisiana  
318-836-5544 or 318-984-6999.

**10 am to 4 pm Saturday, April 16, 1994**

### *Cajun Creole Market Days*

The Boulevard, St. Martinville, Louisiana. 318-394-2250

A gathering of talented -----parish artisans, craftspersons, cooks and growers.

Shannon Reynolds, Manager, Main Street, St. Martinville.

**April 19 to 24, 1994**

### *Festival International De Louisiane*

Lafayette, Louisiana. 318-232-8086 for information.

Exhibit site for "Acadian Odyssey: The Paintings of Robert Dafford," which includes the Acadian Memorial Mural is Lafayette Natural History Museum, 116 Polk Street, Lafayette, Louisiana.

**Sunday, May 15, 1994**

### *Sonnier Family Reunion*

Scott, Louisiana.

Contact Eddie Richard, P.O. Box 456, Scott, LA. 70583-0456.

**6 pm Wednesday, July 13, 1994**

### *Quarterly dinner meeting, Acadian Memorial Project*

La Place d'Evangeline, St. Martinville, LA

318-394-4010, Peggy Hulin for information.

**August 12 to 22, 1994**

### *Congrès Mondial Acadien*

P.O. Box 4530, Dieppe, New Brunswick, Canada E1A 6G1.

506-859-1994, or, Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL), 217 W. Main, Lafayette, LA 70501, 318-262-5810 for information. Ask for Jean Luc Chaisson.

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## The Acadian Memorial Project

P. O. Box 379, Dept. AM  
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