



Family Logo

Etoile Acadienne / Acadian Star

Chene Evangeline / Evangeline Oak

L'Association de la Famille Boudreaux / Boudreau / Boudrot / Boudreault

L'Etoile Acadienne
A Boudrot Family Newsletter

Vol 11 Issue 3

Bilingual Newsletter / Bulletin Bilingue

Date : October 2009 / octobre 2009

L'Acadie des terres et forêts a hâte d'accueillir le monde en 2014

LAMÈQUE, Nouveau-Brunswick - L'heure est à la fête pour la population de l'Acadie des terres et forêts qui accueillera le cinquième Congrès mondial acadien en 2014.

Une soixante de personnes de cette région comprenant les territoires du nord-ouest du Nouveau-Brunswick, du Témiscouata et du nord du Maine se sont donné rendez-vous à Caraquet, le dimanche 9 août dernier, pour être témoins de l'annonce historique faite par la Société Nationale de l'Acadie (SNA). Un autocar a même été nolisé afin de permettre à des gens de la région de l'Acadie des terres et forêts de savourer le moment magique du dévoilement de la région hôte. « *Nous avons tous crié et sauté de joie au moment de l'annonce. Nous sommes tellement fiers d'avoir remporté la course, surtout après tous les efforts déployés pour présenter un dossier de mise en candidature de haut calibre* », a expliqué le coprésident, Hugues Chiasson, de la sous-région du nord-ouest du Nouveau-Brunswick.

Le comité de sélection a vanté le dossier de l'Acadie des terres et forêts pour « son cachet international et interprovincial ». « *Notre territoire s'étend sur deux provinces canadiennes, un État américain et deux pays. C'est certainement l'élément-clé sur lequel s'est attardé le comité de sélection. Chose certaine, il existe une belle amitié et une belle* (Voyez « l'Acadie » page 7)

The Acadian Forest Land Eager to Welcome World to CMA 2014

LAMÈQUE, New Brunswick - The time is the party for the people of Acadie and forest land which will host the fifth World Acadian Congress in 2014.

Sixty people of this region including the Northwest Territories New Brunswick, Temiscouata and northern Maine made the trip to Caraquet, Sunday, August 9, to witness the historic announcement by the Societe Nationale de l'Acadie (SNA). A coach had even been chartered to enable people in the region of Acadia land and forests to enjoy the magic moment of the unveiling of the host region. *"We all screamed and jumped for joy at the announcement. We are so proud to have won the race, especially after all efforts to present a case of nomination of high caliber"* Said co-chairman, Hugh Chiasson, the sub-region of north-western New Brunswick.

The selection committee praised the record of the Acadian forest land and for his "international and interprovincial stamp. *"Our territory stretches over two provinces, a U.S. state and two countries. This is certainly the key element which has lingered on the selection committee. Certainly there is a beautiful friendship and a great unity among the people of our three sub-regions"* for his part, commented co-chairman, Serge Fortin, Témiscouata. (See "Acadie-Land & Forersts", page3)

Boudreaux Family Association Gathering Set for November 7th

Saturday November 7, 2009
11:30 AM

Golden Corral Resturant
3110 Ambassador Caffery Pkwy
Lafayette, LA 70506-7210
(337) 993-7858

Yes, the location of our next meeting has been changed due to the unexpected closure of the Golden Corral Restaurant in Abbeville. We will now meet at the Golden Corral Restaurant located at 3119 Ambassador Caffery Pkwy in Lafayette.

Attendees will be able to participate in a fun Auction for a pictorial depiction, of the "Acadian expulsion", donated by Don & Joan Boudreaux, This wonderful prize will go to the highest bidder. It is wonderful item to hang proudly on you wall.

The proceeds will go to the association for future projects.

Attendees are asked, if they would like to participate in a fun drawing, to bring an inexpensive prize. Hand made arts & crafts are welcomed.

Lunch will be Dutch treat from a great selection of favorite Cajun dishes.

For those from out of town, the Golden Corral is a few blocks north of the intersection of Johnston Street and Ambassador (see "Meeting" on page 2)

L'Etoile Acadienne

Issued by:
Boudreaux / Boudreau
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U.S.A. / Etats Unis

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Membership Dues

It is that time of year, so this is a gentle reminder for all members whose renewal date fell in January 2008.

Receiving our newsletter L'Etoile Acadienne (Acadian Star) is a great way to keep abreast of what is happening in the Acadian community and with our own grand Boudrot family.

Our organization is non-profit; the dues are used for printing and mailing the newsletter and for support of the French Immersion Program in Louisiana's public schools. Annual membership dues remain at \$10.00 or

receive a 3 year membership for \$25.00.

As a reminder we still print your renewal date on your mailing label.

Please contact us for any change of address, mailing error or membership error.

Make check payable to Boudreaux Family Association.
Send to:
Don Boudreaux
(treasurer/family genealogist)
124 Claremont Circle
Lafayette, Louisiana 70508

We would like to hear from you . . . Won't you drop us a line!

Tell us what you like about the newsletter and what you would like to see more of: genealogy, history, news articles, stories about Boudreau (x) (It) families from Acadiana, across the U.S.A., Canada and France, etc. Take up your pen and write an article yourself. It is one easy way to participate in the organization without even leaving home.

For those who live too far away to attend our meetings and reunions, send us a photo to introduce yourselves. From time to time we include photos of members so you can get to know us also.

Hope to hear from you!

Write to:
Charles Boudreaux
4038 Cedar Forest
Kingwood, Texas 77339-1332
E-mail: acadien44@aol.com

Letters

Greetings --

Had a really nice time in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The Boudreau Reunion was good. I made quite a few contacts with some very nice Boudreau cousins. I may be passing some things along for you to

consider for the next newsletter. I'll have to tell you both about my "speech making" experience - HA! HA! - in front of all the Boudreaux at the reunion.

One lady, Cecile Boudreau Page, asked me if I could help her out. It seems someone from Louisiana bought 3 Boudreau family flags but in someway the delivery address/info was incorrect, lost, etc. Would any one know who might have ordered or complained about not receiving them? I have both her email address and telephone number. I believe she lives in Orleans, Ontario.

Joseph "Floyd" Boudreaux
Metairie, Louisiana

Bonjour, M. Charles Boudreaux.

Vous avez certainement le feu vert d'utiliser l'article s'il s'agit d'un communiqué de presse que j'ai envoyé.

Salutations aux gens de la Louisiane. Lors du CMA de 2009, j'ai fait connaissance avec M. Trahan et son épouse qui représentaient la candidature de la Louisiane. Je vous serais reconnaissant de bien vouloir leur transmettre mes meilleurs voeux de bonheur.

Nous aurons inévitablement l'occasion d'échanger afin de s'assurer que le plus de Louisianais et Louisianaises viennent fêter en Acadie des terres et forêts.

Je vous offre mes meilleurs voeux à vous aussi!

Hugues Chiasson
Coprésident
Comité provisoire, Congrès mondial acadien de 2014

Boudreaux Family Association Meeting

(cont. from page 1)

Caffery Parkway, and a block from Walmart. The Mall is South of Johnston and Ambassador Caffery. The phone number is (337) 993-7858 in case someone gets lost.

View our new web site at:
Boudreauxfamilies.org We are working diligently to rework this site for the members and visitors. It should be completed soon. The www.boudreauxfamily.org site is still running temporarily. Let us know about projects you would like to see.

The Acadian Forest Land Eager to Welcome World to CMA 2014

(« L'Acadie - Land & Forest" from page 1)

"We are very grateful to our Canadian friends who have approached us to embark on this magnificent project. Without their contribution, we would never have envisaged such a dream. This is a beautiful proof that we're a nice family and we've managed to ignore the physical and political borders that separate us "Said Co-Chair, Louise Martin, northern Maine. The co-chairs wish to thank all agencies, governments, the general population and close associates for their support in this adventure. Fifty municipalities of the territory contributed one dollar per capita, which represents the majority of funding for the development of file format which included the preparation of a document written promotional materials (brochures, posters, DVDs, website) and visits from members of the selection committee.

The next steps for the Provisional Committee of the Acadian forest land and will meet and finalize the remaining tasks to make room for the new organizing committee of the World Acadian Congress 2014 (COCMA) to be implemented in 150 days following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Societe Nationale de l'Acadie. The region of Acadia land and forests has symbolically received the Acadian flag of ANS to the conclusion of the World Acadian Congress 2009, August 23 in Tracadie-Sheila.

"We wish to thank the SNA and the members of the evaluation committee for picking us. We will make every effort to keep a colorful event in 2014. We invite all the Acadians in the diaspora to come and discover our life, our expertise, our spirits and our way of being Acadians. We especially invite the people of the two other candidate regions, or Louisiana and the province of Quebec to join us for the celebration. We open wide our arms ", Said Stephen Deschenes, coordinator of the Interim Committee of the Acadian lands and forests.

On an area of less than 100 miles away, near Acadia and forest land consists of approximately 100 000 inhabitants, is the largest community of Acadians on the continent. The slogan of the fifth congress will be "The Acadian world: a new Acadia! " Updated: 2009-09-10

Hughes Chiasson
Coprésident
Comité provisoire, Congrès mondial acadien de 2014
New Brunswick, Canada
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2009 Congrès Instilled Pride in our Heritage

By Linda Landry Domingue
Lafayette, Louisiana

My husband and I recently returned from a 17-day trip to New Brunswick, Canada, where we attended the festivities of the Congrès Mondial Acadian 2009.

It was a wonderful experience to meet the people of the area who are Acadian ancestors of the French-speaking people who were deported from Nova Scotia by the British in 1755. They are just like Cajuns -- friendly, fun-loving and full of life. We met up with old friends from a previous Congrès and made new ones along the way.

The Tintamarre is a big parade that is held Aug. 15 to commemorate the

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin (the patron saint of Acadians) as well as a remembrance of the Grand Derangement of 1755. Anyone can participate, and we did — wearing their colors of blue, white and red and banging on old pots and pans and waving Acadian flags. The people of the area are fiercely Acadian, and we were never more proud to be of Acadian descent than when we marched with them in the Tintamarre. We met the mayor of Bouctouche, Aldeo Saulnier, as well as the author of Le Pays de la Sagouine, Antoine Maillet. Le Sagouine is a character around whom a whole village is built, and merriment abounds. At the Landry reunion in Caraquet, we met the mayor, Antoine Landry, as well as many distant cousins. We went to the International Kite Festival in Dieppe and took a boat tour on the Miramichi River.

The people of New Brunswick went all out to make us feel welcome, especially when they learned we were from Louisiana. Not only were there beautiful flowers in their yards, but they were also hanging from baskets on every streetlight of every small town. The houses were decorated with Acadian colors and proudly displayed banners bearing the resident's name — Breau, Comeau, Robichaud, Legere, Cormier and many more.

The entire province of New Brunswick is to be commended for the wonderful job that was done to make the Congrès a tremendous success. Tres bien et merci beaucoup, New Brunswick. Vive l'Acadie!

Series of events Led to Acadian Exile

by Jim Bradshaw

In 2005 we will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the dispersion of the Acadians, an exile that eventually brought them to Louisiana.

That exile was not something that "just happened." There was a long history behind it. It was entangled with a struggle between the French and English for supremacy on the Atlantic Seaboard that began almost as soon as both nations established North American outposts.

But the proximate cause of the exile might be traced to April 1713, when a tide began in old Acadie that would eventually, and perhaps inevitably, assure the Acadians' banishment from the place that had been their home for 150 years.

That tide would take 40 years to come to full crest in 1755, when the Acadians were rounded up by their British overlords, put into ships and sent into exile. The event that began it all was a treaty signed in 1713 that, after years of rule by one then the other, definitively transferred the Acadian peninsula to English rule.

These new Protestant rulers had never particularly liked the Catholic, French-speaking Acadians, even though they had to put up with them at first. It was purely a question of economics.

The 1713 treaty said the Acadians were free to leave Acadie if they wanted to - and a good number of them did go to Cape Breton, which was still under French rule. This was bad for the British for two reasons: First, it built up a neighboring, and potentially hostile, French region. Second, the British needed the Acadians on the land if Acadie was to prosper.

In November 1714, Samuel Vetch, the British overseer in Acadie, wrote to his superiors in England: "It is to be considered that one hundred of the Acadians, who were born upon this continent, and are perfectly at home in the woods, can march upon snowshoes and understand the use of birch canoes, are of more value and service than five times their number of raw men newly arrived from Europe.

"So their skill in the fishery, as well as the cultivating of the soil must make at once of Cape Breton the most powerful colony the French have in America, and to the greatest danger ...

to all the British colonies as well as the universal trade of Great Britain."

In sum, the British needed the Acadians on the land and did not want them to build up a nearby French settlement. But they also feared them. They knew that England and France would likely go to war again, as had happened over and over for a century or more. They were afraid that when the next conflict came, these French Acadians would fight on the wrong side.

Dr. Malcolm Comeaux Speaks About Acadian Culture

On October 23, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., the Acadian Memorial Foundation hosted Dr. Malcolm Comeaux as a special guest speaker. A native of southwest Louisiana and recently retired from Arizona State University, he brought with him a lifetime of research and publications of which many are geared to the Acadian Culture.

His power point presentation was centered on the topic of Acadian culture diffusion and change. The titled "Material Culture of the Cajuns: From Acadian to Cajun" consisted of contrasting and comparing of the Acadian transformation to Cajun.

Dr. Comeaux has many works to his credit. One he authored of interest to this area, "Culture of the Acadians: Atchafalaya Basin Swamp" was accepted for publication in Encyclopedia of Southern Culture (2nd Ed., Environment Volume, July, 2002)

Firmin Breau family exiled to Boston

By Jim Bradshaw

Alexis Breau , the father of Firmin Breau (x), took most of his family to Montreal in the years after the exile, but that was only after hard times in Massachusetts.

Firmin was apparently the only one who opted for Louisiana, eventually setting on Bayou Teche to become the Breaux for whom the bridge and town are named.

Alexis's father was Francois Breau (b. 1674 in Port Royal) and his mother was Marie Comeau (b. 1687 in Grand Pré). They were married in 1702 and Alexis (b. 1721) was the tenth of their twelve children.

Alexis married Marguerite Barrileau about 1745 and Firmin was their third child, born in 1749, making him six years old at the time of the exile. Alexis and Marguerite had seven children besides Firmin and the whole family was sent to Boston.

The decade the family spent in Massachusetts was not made any better by the fact that this was the home of Gov. William Shirley, chief instigator of the expulsion.

Rev. Ebenezer Parkman of Westboro, Mass., kept a dairy, much of which has been preserved by the Massachusetts Historical Society. On Oct. 16, 1756, he made his first notation of contact with the Acadian exiles. Over the next 10 years he made some 150 diary references to the Acadians. The Genealogical Review in which they were published notes, "Documents inform us that the first few months of exile were particularly difficult for the Acadians. The traumatic experience especially undermined the health of the elderly." Parkman talks about visiting an old schoolhouse where several Acadian families were apparently being held and finding several of the people living there "much out of health." Many of the Massachusetts exiles contracted smallpox upon contact with the Americans. They had no natural immunity to it and died by the score.

According to the Review, "The Government of Massachusetts ... after sustaining them at first, soon left them to themselves to earn a living. But even then their remuneration was ... very little or nil. ... They were not treated any better than the slaves."

The Puritan-dominated Massachusetts government was far

more interested in controlling these French-speaking papists than in taking care of them. Local justices of the peace were given the power to “bind out” the Acadians. At one point the Acadians threatened what reprisal they could because so many of their children had been taken from them and placed as indentured servants in the homes of the Massachusetts well to do.

“Generally the sufferings and hardships of the Acadians in exile and the harsh manners in which they were sometimes treated and the injustices they had to bear cannot be minimized,” according to the Review. The Acadians, who had been farmers, had few job skills useful in the urban areas where they were sent, making it even more difficult for them to make money. The women were able to bring in a few pennies by washing clothes, sewing, and doing some other domestic work. Some of the men found work aboard fishing boats. But that was about it.

Finally, in 1766, the Acadians were given the freedom to go elsewhere. In March, the Massachusetts legislature sent Alexis Breaux to Quebec to ask for a permit from its English governor to allow Acadians to move there from the Boston area. There were already some Acadians in the region. Several hundred had already sneaked away to Quebec, crossing Lake Champlain in rickety boats, and others had fled there at the time of the exile.

The governor of Quebec agreed to allow the Massachusetts Acadians to resettle in his province, providing they took an oath of allegiance to Great Britain – the same oath they had refused to take at the time of the exile. This time there was no hesitation. On June 2, 1766, 720 Acadians in Boston, 140 in Salem, and a large number of exiles in other Massachusetts towns took an unconditional oath to King George.

Alexis was one of them. He immediately moved his family to La Petite Rivière de Montreal, near the present city, and his descendants still live on the land that he homesteaded.

In Memoriam

Billie Hardee Boudreaux, 76, a native of Campiti and resident of Franklin, passed away Tuesday, July 28, 2009 at the Franklin Foundation Hospital.



Mrs. Boudreaux is survived by her daughter, Cheryl B. LaVerne and her husband, Lonny both of Franklin; one grandson, Christian John LaVerne of Franklin and her companion, Darrell Uzé of Franklin; Louisiana.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, Johnny L. Boudreaux; her infant son, John Boudreaux; her daughter, Paula Gayle Boudreaux; her parents, Joe Hardee and Minnie Kelly Hardee; three sisters, Betty Abel, Annette Self and Joy Myers.

Visiting hours were observed Friday, July 31st at the Church of Assumption from 8:30am to 11am, with a rosary being prayed at 10am by Murray Duval.

A Mass of Christian burial was held Friday at 11:00 am at the Church of Assumption. Burial followed in Sacred Heart Cemetery in Baldwin. Father Michael Russo officiated at the Mass and was assisted by Deacon Harry Darce.

Billy and her husband Johnny were long time members of the Boudreaux Family Association.

Lloyd I. Smith

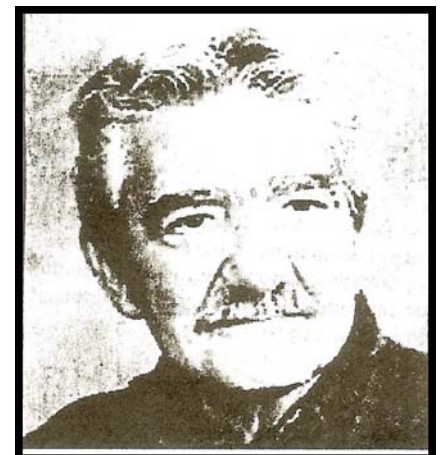
Cheney, Washington: Lloyd I. Smith answered Jesus' call on Wednesday, July 2, 2008. He was born August 11, 1930, in Lafayette, Louisiana. He was

preceded in death by his parents C.P. Smith and Arthemise Boudreaux, two sisters, one brother, one son and three grandsons. He is survived by seven children: Darla A. Bauknecht of Tacoma, Washington; Catherine and son-in-law Steven Nelson; Michael S. Smith and wife Sue of Medical Lake, Washington; Lynn M. and son-in-law Bill Crockett of Seattle, Washington; Robin E. Smith of Seattle; Barbara A. Hamill of Spokane, Washington; Susan M. Murphy of Tacoma, Washington; 18 grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, numerous cousins, nieces and nephews in southern Louisiana.

Lloyd was a Korean and Vietnam Veteran, retiring from the military in 1968. He retired as an electrician from Eastern Washington University in 1990. He was a longtime member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Cheney, a 4th degree Knight of Columbus, Bishop White Counsel in Spokane and Counsel 9145 in Cheney.

Visitation was at Cheney Funeral Chapel Wednesday July 9, 2008 from 12 noon to 5 PM. Virgil followed at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church at 7:00 PM. Mass of Christian Burial was on Thursday July 10, 2008 at 10:00 AM, St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Cheney. Internment was at Fairview Cemetery in Cheney .

Lloyd was a member of the Boudreaux Family Association since 1998. He was very proud of his French- Acadian heritage and ancestry.



Lloyd Smith

Charles P. Boudreaux Sr.

St. Martinville, Louisiana

Charles Paul Boudreaux, 45, passed away on Thursday, Sept. 3, 2009, at his residence in St. Martinville.

Survivors include his mother, Elise B. Boudreaux of St. Martinville; his sons, Rusty J. Boudreaux of Broussard and Charles P. Boudreaux Jr.; his step-daughter, Tasha Harton Boudreaux of Coteau Holmes; his brothers, Keith Boudreaux of St. Martinville and Terry Latiolais of Lafayette; his sisters, Priscilla Boudreaux of St. Martinville and Kathy Ann Lavergne of Parks; and one grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his father, Adler Boudreaux Sr.; and his brother, Adler Boudreaux III.

Sadia Boudreaux Landry

Catahoula, Louisiana – Funeral services were conducted for Sadia Boudreaux Landry, 90, at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2009, at St. Rita's Catholic Church with Fr. Richard Fabre officiating. Interment was at Our Lady of the Lake Cemetery.

A Rosary was recited at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.

A native of St. Martin Parish and resident of Catahoula, Mrs. Landry passed away at 4:39 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009, at St. Martin Hospital in Breaux Bridge. She is survived by her two sons; John "JC" Landry and wife Betty of Catahoula, and Ray "Nookie" Landry and wife Rosemary of Lafayette; three daughters, Shirley Clark of St. Martinville, Betty Judice of Loreauville and Merlene Darbonne and husband Don of Lafayette; 15 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; and one sister, Rita Guilbeau of St. Martinville.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James B. Landry; one son, Thomas "Tommy" Landry; two sons-in-law, Roland Clark and Wayne "Butch" Judice; one great-grandson, Jesse O. Judice; her parents, Homer

and Edmonia Albert Boudreaux; four brothers, Sidney Boudreaux, Leonce Boudreaux, Noah Boudreaux and Seymar Boudreaux; and six sisters, Alma Savoy, Aspazie Gongne, Maria Laviolette, Corrinne Blanchard, Margaret Hayes and Oline Boudreaux. Pallbearers will be Dustin Savoie, Derek Savoie, Ryan Landry, Reid Landry, Lonny Landry and Adam Touchet.

Crowds Cheered Jackie's Speech in French

(A footnote in history)

On May 31, 2008, a historical marker was unveiled at the site where then Presidential-candidate Sen. John F. Kennedy delivered a speech to a Rice Festival in Crowley, Louisiana, crowd that exceeded 135,000 people. That speech was delivered on October 16, 1959 from the main platform of the festival located on the southern lawn of the Acadia Parish Courthouse. It was the 23rd International Rice Festival. Efforts to secure the marker were initiated by Crowley native John Gott who was also be one of the dignitaries in attendance for the unveiling.

Crowley – On the platform built on the grounds of the Court House were politicians from all over Louisiana and local citizens who worked to make the International Rice Festival a success for the gigantic crowds who came to see Senator and Mrs. John F. Kennedy who were to crown Judith Ann Hydel of Houma queen. Edwin Edwards, the a Crowley lawyer who was the 1959 Master of Ceremonies presiding over activities on the platform, kept the program moving with the presentation of queens from other festivals and fairs throughout the state in addition to the contestants who were vying for the 1959 Rive Festival crown. Judge Edmund Reggie introduced Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy to the approximate 135,000 spectators who had crowded into every nook and cranny they could find along Parkerson Avenue.

At first, Mrs. Kennedy considered the crowd to be so huge that it was intimidating. But at the encouragement of her husband Jack, she began to address the crowd. Upon her introduction, Mrs. Kennedy reached for the microphone that was connected to loudspeakers that would carry her voice throughout the streets, and in clear and perfect French, she began, "Bonjour, Mesdames et Messieurs." Before she could speak another word, the crowd responded with yells and cheers at her choice of speaking to them in friendly French. A spectator who was there that day said, "It sounded like the top of the City of Crowley had exploded when the crowd started cheering their approval of even just the beginning of her remarks."

She continued and told her audience how she was so happy to be in South Louisiana which her father had described to her when she was child as being like a "small corner of France." The cheers went up again; possibly stronger if that was possible. She finished her remarks all delivered in French to the applause and cheers, the like of which had never been heard at the Rice Festival.

The Church Point News, Church Point, Louisiana – May 28, 2008

Benoit attends Congres de Mondial 2009 in New Brunswick

By: Judy T. Mire, Managing Editor
Kaplan Herald

Posted September 1st, 2009

Reprinted with permission

Rebecca Benoit, a Kaplan native now living in Arizona, always had a desire to unravel and establish factual connections with her paternal side of her family.

This desire culminated with her being in attendance of the Congres Mondial Acadien 2009 held in New Brunswick, Canada. Congres Mondial is a worldwide gathering of Acadians, Cajuns,

Francophones and Francophiles, and it takes place somewhere in the Francophone world every five years. While in New Brunswick, Benoit and her traveling companion, Judy LeJeune (from Erath) were interviewed numerous times in Caraquet, the focal city of the *Congrès Mondial Acadien* 2009.

“When I mentioned that my brother (Cedric Benoit) had just written a song about the deportation of the Acadians entitled *Acadie*,” said Becky, “Radio-Canada (the station that gave the calendar of events for each day of the *Congrès*) played his song during the morning interviews for that most important day, The Commemoration of the Deportation on Aug. 15th. The parade/*Tintamarre* was held later that afternoon.” Her longing to learn about her courageous ancestors began with her struggles of researching volumes of old records, and land documents for 15 years during her spare time. Upon retirement, she made the decision to plunge into the world of genealogy full time. She unpacked all her files and with renewed interest became totally engrossed in finding out everything she could about ancestry.

Armed with DNA, family trees, old stories about relatives, and new data available on the internet, she was soon making progress as she put pieces of the puzzle together. Enthralled with her journey and wanting to share it with others, she created a website. She writes: My path of that venture went from Louisiana, to Spain, to the Falkland Islands, to France, and then back to our Acadian beginnings in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland.

Why hadn't I taken more of an interest in our history when I was younger?

With such a rich history as that of the Acadians, I often found myself filled with pride at all we accomplished and at other times, crying as I read of the number of relatives taken off their beloved land dying from disease or drowning,

having been put on substandard ships chosen for us by the British.

I became curious as to what the political scene was during those years, so I developed an historical timeline, placing my relatives into those slots as I found French and British records of their whereabouts. It was all becoming much more “real” for me. I no longer wanted to spend long hours working with records. I wanted to be on the actual land my ancestors walked, or at least in the same Canadian province; to go back to our Acadian beginnings, take my genealogical lines to this land, and read their names out loud. Like everything else falling into place in respect to my genealogy research, I did just that when an old friend announced she was going back to Canada for vacation.

Armed with DNA test results for the males in our family, a timeline for all Benois in our direct lineage, I scheduled a three week trip to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. For a first trip to the home of our ancestors, I stumbled upon a really perfect schedule.

I made the trip with my friend Judy LeJeune, originally from Church Point, another Cajun-in-Exile living in the Southwest. This was her third trip and she had many friends awaiting our visit in New Brunswick. We flew into Halifax, Nova Scotia and from there made our way along the Southeast coast, rounded the cape, and stopped at the early French colonial sites previously occupied by our ancestors. Using the French and British census' of the early 1600's to 1755, we visited places like Pubnico, Yarmouth, Digby, then on to Port Royal (Annapolis), where my gr+grandfather, Martin Benoit arrived on L'Oranger from LaRochelle, France in 1671. Benoit goes on to give a fascinating, and sometimes heart wrenching, account of her time spent in the land of her ancestors. She talks of her emotional visit to the actual site of the deportations, Grand

Pre' (where hundreds of Acadian were forced onto boats headed for unknown destinations. Many times husbands, wives, and children were put on separate boats never to be reunited again.)

Her accounts of walking on the same lands where the Cajun people originated will leave you with a sense of “Cajun Pride”.

The website address is www.rebeccabenoit.com.

In August 1994, nearly 300,000 Acadians from around the world were reunited in southeastern New Brunswick for the first time since the Acadian deportation of 1755. The event that brought them together was the first *Congrès Mondial Acadien (CMA)* 1994.

Le *Congrès Mondial Acadien* was held in Louisiana in 1999.

More Cajuns connect at *Congrès*

By Judy T. Mire, Managing Editor
Kaplan Herald

The 2009 *Congrès de Mondial* may have been held thousands of miles away, but the *Kaplan* area was well represented at the event. After reading in the *Herald* about Becky Benoit's uplifting experience in Canada, another long time reader and former *Kaplanite*, wrote in to describe his remarkable journey to the land where his ancestors walked. It reads as follows:

It was with great interest, and not without shedding a tear or two that I read the article which the *Herald* posted relating to Rebecca Benoit's experience with finding her Acadian roots.

In the late fifties, my family moved to *Kaplan*, which I still consider to be my “hometown.” I graduated from ULL (SLI then) in 1956 with a degree in French, when French was not cool in Louisiana. I came to the Midwest to attend graduate school and remained up here where I put in 35 years of teaching both French and English. I, too, attended the *Congrès Mondial*

des Acadiens in Caraquet, New Brunswick this past summer. We may have crossed paths without knowing it.

Ever since I can remember, it had been my dream to go back to the area where our ancestors came from. Yet, somehow, I felt frightened to go there because I knew the experience would include overwhelming emotions. My wife and I had done much traveling, having been to Europe more than a dozen times, but somehow, I kept putting off planning a trip to L'ACADIE.

Chance has it that I met a lady from Caraquet, New Brunswick, and with her encouragement, my wife and I arranged to spend three weeks in the Maritime Provinces of Canada. My interest was in visiting communities where Acadians had settled and compare their culture to that of Acadiana.

So, my wife and I planned a trip that took us to five such communities. First, we went to the Pointe de l'Église area where there was an Acadian festival going on. We attended a Fais dodo in Petit Ruisseau with music by Bruce Daigrepont and Cedric Benoit.

We lived in a "gite" (bed and breakfast) in Petit Ruisseau with the Cormier family. We were treated like long lost members of the family who had returned. The night before we left, Norm and Renette Cormier, our hosts, invited a neighbor who played bass, along with a few other neighbors and we had a "party de cuisine." Norm played guitar and he and Renette sang for us.

From there, we went to Annapolis-Royal and Grand Pré where tears were shed because of the sad story of the deportation, but at the same time experiencing the warmth of the Acadian people who were glad to see their "cousins cadjins." Next, we went to Louisbourg on Cape Breton to visit the beautifully restored French fortress, then on to Cheticamp also on Cape Breton. From that community, we went to Miscouche in Prince Edward Island where the Acadian flag, as it flies today, was

adopted and also the Acadian National anthem.

Our final destination was Caraquet, New Brunswick for the last week of the Acadian Festival and the Congrès Mondial. There, we were greeted by one of the many families which opened their homes for visitors to the Congrès Mondial.

I reached my 75th birthday while on the trip, just prior to arriving in Caraquet. But my friend, Naya, invited two of her brothers, two of her sisters, the sister's friend and a niece for dinner and we had a most wonderful belated birthday party. The food was great, and so was the wine Naya made herself. Everyone had to sing a song.

On one of the days we were there, Naya, her husband, François, and her son, Michel, came to visit us at the home where we were staying. Michel is an accomplished musician and composer and he brought his guitar and sang for us.

We attended several musical events where we saw wonderful artists such as Zachary Richard, Feu Follet, and Edith Butler who is a great interpreter of Canadian folk songs as well as popular music.

We also attended the Trahan family reunion, but there were very few Trahans there. There are no Trahans in the Caraquet area. We met a family from Ottawa, one from Montreal and several from Louisiana.

We attended church on Sunday and were surrounded and hugged by people in the congregation. A young girl was being baptized that Sunday and after the mass, an elderly lady with the most beautiful voice stood in the middle of the church and gave a most beautiful acappella interpretation of the hymn "Amazing Grace" both in French and English. She said she was the cantor of her church in Montreal and never went into a church without offering a hymn to God. The high light of the festival is the Tintamarre which was an experience like nothing I had ever seen. (or heard, might be a better word.)

At 6 p.m. on the 15th of August, the church bells ring and for a whole

hour, people march up and down a blocked off area of town making all the noise they can with anything imaginable, such as air horns, pots and pans, drums, tin cans, whistles, horns, whatever makes a loud sound. There even are prizes for various noise makers: for example, the "invention" that makes the most noise.

People dress up in various costumes and they parade up and down the street for an hour. Then the church bells ring again, and then it's time to stop. (But it doesn't really stop: it just tones down a bit.) The event seems to say, "We are Acadiens; we have triumphed; here we are." A glimpse of this can be found at YouTube - Tintamare, Caraquet, New Brunswick, Canada 15 August 2009 and YouTube - tintamarre 2009 caraquet.

What impresses the people from the Acadian Peninsula of New Brunswick and other Acadian communities is that even though Louisiana Cadjins probably endured more suffering than anyone of the other Acadians, we have survived. What especially touches them is that in spite of the fact that we have been separated from them by more than 2,000 miles and two and a half centuries, we are still very much like they are and we think it is important to go back and see where it all started. They feel so honored that we should make this pilgrimage to touch the soil from whence we came and to see them, our cousins.

On this trip, what touched me the most was that I found people who spoke no English and it was like stepping into life as I knew it 65 years ago when almost none of our neighbors spoke English and when a number of my school mates spoke no English when they started school. I also found that they know many expressions which we know in Louisiana, but which are not known in standard French. Some of these expressions I had not used in over 50 years, and it was like finding old friends

My grandparents came from the

Youngsville area where there were a number of families who were from France and so they spoke a French that was really close to standard. So, it was like talking to my grand parents' friends and family. The main difference, I found, is that all of the communities I visited were provided with an opportunity to be educated in French as well in English. They usually have the ability to read and write in both languages. Also, they have been quite open to letting standard French become part of their language.

It was with many tears that we left our friends from New Brunswick. I have not yet changed the time on my watch from Halifax time to central time, maybe because I cannot bring myself to acknowledging that we have really left.

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Patates Nouvelles, le bulletin-courriel du CODOFIL / CODOFIL's newsletter - Octobre 2009

We celebrate in October Acadian Heritage Week, the Creole Cultural Celebration and Festivals Acadiens and Créoles, among other events. Don't be confused: I am proud to be Cajun-Acadian, French-speaking and Louisianian, and it's wonderful that we celebrate ourselves. At the same time, I recall the weeks just after the arrival of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita 4 years ago. For several days, we put aside the question of being anything other than human beings. Do we need to wait for a crisis to remember our natural ties with all human beings and our entire planet?

Louisiana shone at the **2009 World Acadian Congress** in the Acadian Peninsula of New Brunswick, Canada. Some highlights: the gang of young adults worked tirelessly and who were great ambassadors, the welcome from all the Acadians when we said we were Cajuns from Louisiana and the joy of being with our family. Congratulations especially to

Rachelle Dugas for an extraordinary job!

A new French table! Every Thursday at 6 p.m. at Mulate's in Breaux Bridge. The organizer is Dane Thibodeaux and you can reach him at dthibodeaux@ymail.com. For a list of all the French tables in Acadiana visit this web site:

www.codofil.org/francais/regularevents.html

Acadian Heritage Week

October 3 TO 11

PROUD TO BE CAJUN!!!

Cultivating our Acadian garden!!

(Mark it on your calendars for next year.)

You can access some of La Galerie, my TV program on the French speakers of the Lafayette are, on the web site of the Franco-American Archives of Maine at <http://www.francoamericanarchives.org/ENG%20files/Laarchives.php>. the others will soon be available.

Congratulations go out to **Graydon Nicholas**, a member of the Maliseet First Nation, for his appointment as New Brunswick's new Lieutenant-Governor! He is the first member of the First Nations (Native Americans) to be named to this post!

Louisiana French – a Youtube phenomena with the video **La Grâce du Ciel**, written by **David Marcantel** and sung by **Les Amies Louisianaises**. It's receiving more than 300 hits per day. Click on the following link to watch it: [: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56LNciQaabw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56LNciQaabw)

The Book Corner

A book on Louisiana women, including Marie-Thérèse Coin Coin and Cléoma Breaux Falcon! / Louisiana Women: Their Lives and Times (Southern Women: Their Lives and Times) (Paperback) by **Janet Allured** (Author, Editor), **Judith F.**

Gentry (Editor) University of Georgia Press (May 15, 2009)

Coastal problems and the Houmas Indians in the Washington Post by Kari Lydersen

<<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/19/AR2009071901819.html>>.

You will find information on the Dictionary of Louisiana French and how to order it on the following site: http://www.crt.state.la.us/codofil/Newsletters/Louisiana_French_Dictionary.htm

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Français

L'Acadie des terres et forêts a hâte d'accueillir le monde en 2014

(« L'Acadie » cont. De page 1)

amitié et une belle unité parmi la population de nos trois sous-régions », a pour sa part commenté le coprésident, Serge Fortin, du Témiscouata. « Nous sommes très reconnaissants envers nos amis canadiens qui nous ont approchés afin d'embarquer dans ce magnifique projet. Sans leur apport, nous n'aurions jamais pu envisager un tel rêve. Voilà une belle preuve que nous formons une belle famille et que nous avons réussi à faire fi des frontières physiques et politiques qui nous séparent », a déclaré la coprésidente, Louise Martin, du nord du Maine.

Les coprésidents tiennent à remercier tous les organismes, les gouvernements, la population en général et les proches collaborateurs pour leur appui dans cette belle aventure. Cinquante municipalités du territoire ont contribué un dollar par habitant, ce qui constitue la majorité du financement nécessaire pour l'élaboration du dossier de présentation qui comprenait la préparation d'un document écrit, du matériel promotionnel (brochure, affiches, dvd, site Web) et de la visite des membres du comité de sélection.

Les prochaines étapes pour le Comité provisoire de l'Acadie des terres et forêts seront de se rencontrer et de finaliser les dernières tâches afin de laisser la place au nouveau Comité organisateur du Congrès mondial acadien de 2014 (COCMA) qui sera mis en place dans les 150 jours suivant la signature du protocole d'entente avec la Société Nationale de l'Acadie. La région de l'Acadie des terres et forêts a reçu symboliquement le drapeau acadien de la SNA à la conclusion du Congrès mondial acadien de 2009, le 23 août à Tracadie-Sheila.

« Nous tenons à remercier la SNA et les membres du comité d'évaluation de nous avoir choisis. Nous mettrons tout en œuvre afin de tenir un événement haut en couleur en 2014. Nous invitons tous les Acadiens de la diaspora à venir découvrir notre savoir-vivre, notre savoir-faire, notre bonne humeur et notre façon à nous d'être Acadiens. Nous invitons tout spécialement la population des deux autres régions candidates, soit la Louisiane et la province de Québec à se joindre à nous pour la grande fête. Nous leur ouvrons grands nos bras », a indiqué M. Étienne Deschênes, coordonnateur du Comité provisoire de l'Acadie des terres et forêts.

Sur un territoire de moins de 100 kilomètres à la ronde, la région de l'Acadie des terres et forêts regroupe environ 100 000 habitants, soit la plus grande agglomération d'Acadiens sur le continent. Le slogan du cinquième congrès sera « L'Acadie du monde : une nouvelle Acadie! »

Hugues Chiasson, Comité provisoire du Congrès mondial acadien 2014

Nouveau Brunswick, Canada
Reimprimé avec permission :

Patates Nouvelles, le bulletin-courriel du CODOFIL Octobre 2009

On fête en Octobre la Semaine de l'Héritage Acadien, la Célébration de la Culture créole, les Festivals Acadiens et Créoles, parmi d'autres événements. Soit pas confus : je suis fière d'être A-Cadienne, Francophone et Louisianaise, et c'est bien magnifique qu'on se fête. En même temps, je me rappelle les semaines juste après l'arrivée des ouragans Katrina et Rita il y a 20 ans. Pendant quelques jours, on a tous mis à côté la question d'être autre que les êtres humains. Est-ce qu'il faut espérer des crises pour se rappeler de nos liens naturels avec tous les êtres humains et la planète entière?!

La Louisiane a brillé au Congrès Mondial Acadien 2009 dans la Péninsule Acadienne du Nouveau Brunswick au Canada. A souligner : la gang des jeunes adultes qui ont travaillé bien forts et qui ont été des bons ambassadeurs, l'accueil de tous les Acadiens quand on s'est dit Cadien de la Louisiane et la joie d'être parmi notre famille. Félicitations particulièrement à **Rachelle Dugas** pour un travail extraordinaire !

Une nouvelle table française!

Tous les jeudis à 6 p.m. chez Mulate au Pont Breaux. L'organisateur est **Dane Thibodeaux** et tu peux te joindre à lui au dthibodeaux@ymail.com.

Pour une liste de toutes les tables :
www.codofil.org/francais/regularevents.html

Semaine de l'Héritage Acadien
3 au 11 octobre 2009

Soyez fiers d'être Acadien et Acadienne !!!
Cultivant notre jardin acadien

Vous trouverez les informations sur le **Dictionnaire du français louisianais** et comment faire la commande au site suivant :

http://www.crt.state.la.us/codofil/Newsletters/Louisiana_French_Dictionary.htm

Vous pouvez accéder quelques émissions de **La Galerie**, mon émission de télévision sur les Francophones du coin de Lafayette, sur le site web des Archives Franco-Américaines du Maine au <http://www.francoamericanarchives.org/ENG%20files/LAarchives.php>. Les autres seront bientôt disponible.

Félicitations à **Graydon Nicholas**, membre de la Première Nation Maliseet, pour être nommé **Lieutenant Gouverneur de la Province canadienne du Nouveau-Brunswick!** Il est le premier membre des Premières Nations (Amérindiens) d'être nommé à ce poste!

Le français louisianais – une phénomène sur Youtube avec le video de **La Grâce du Ciel, écrit par David Marcantel et chanté par Les Amies Louisianaises**. Ils reçoivent plus de 3000 visionnements par jour. Cliquez sur le lien suivant pour le voir : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56LNciQaabw>

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Qui est riche et qui est pauvre ?

Une petite histoire.

Écrivain inconnu

Un jour, un père de famille très riche, emmena son fils à la campagne, pour lui montrer comment vivent les gens pauvres...

Ainsi, ils ont passé quelques nuits chez un fermier, qui fut connu comme étant très pauvre.

A leur retour, le père demanda à son fils de lui raconter comment il avait trouvé son séjour parmi les gens pauvres...

Et l'enfant répondit: Nous avons un chien, eux en ont quatre...Nous avons une très grande piscine, eux ont rivière sans fin...

Nous avons des lumières pour illuminer notre jardin, eux ont les lumières des étoiles à la nuit...Nous avons une superbe vue jusqu'au bout de notre tout grand jardin, eux ont tout l'horizon... Nous avons un beau morceau de terre pour vivre, eux ont des champs qui vont bien plus loin...

Nous avons des serviteurs, eux servent les autres... Nous devons acheter notre nourriture, eux la font eux-mêmes... Nous avons des murs sur nos territoires pour nous protéger, eux ont des amis qui les protègent...

À ces mots le père fut fort étonné... et l'enfant ajouta encore: Merci de m'avoir montré, en définitive, combien NOUS sommes pauvres...

Morale de cette petite histoire... Vivez heureux avec ce que vous possédez, et ne vous tracassez pas pour ce que vous n'avez pas !

Voilà mes amis parfois c'est utile de voir les choses d'un autre côté.

