200th anniversary of Acadian odyssey being celebrated

(Ed's note: This is the first of a four-part series which traces the history of the Acadians as far back as the early 19th century. It is a continuation of the story published on page 12 in last week's edition of the Times.)

By Truman Sacey

More than half a million Louisiana citizens have a personal interest in the 200th anniversary of the Acadian exodus, which is being celebrated this year.

A Deluge of Acadians. In 1718, the Acadians were expelled from Nova Scotia and established communities in Acadia (now the Maritime Provinces of Canada), as well as in parts of the United States, including Louisiana. The exodus was caused by the English government's decision to consolidate its control over the region, and the Acadians were forced to leave their homes and emigrate to other parts of Canada or the United States.

Acadian Odysseys. Between 1715 and 1755, an estimated 5000 to 6000 Acadians emigrated to Louisiana, where they established communities and helped shape the state's culture. The Acadians were known for their strong religious beliefs, and their influence can still be felt in Louisiana's Cajun culture.

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Acadian families fled Nova Scotia in the 17th century, and by 1755, the English had taken control of Acadia, forcing the Acadians to migrate to other parts of North America. The Acadians numbered about 10,000 at the time of their expulsion, and they settled in locations throughout the eastern United States and Canada. The 200th anniversary of the Acadian exodus is being celebrated in Louisiana, where Acadian heritage is a significant part of the state's identity.

The Acadians settled in areas along the Gulf Coast, including in the present-day parishes of Lafourche, Terrebonne, Assumption, and St. James. They established communities and helped shape the region's culture, and their influence can still be felt in Louisiana's Cajun culture.

The Acadians numbered about 5,000 when they arrived in Louisiana, and they quickly assimilated into the local population. They played a significant role in the development of Louisiana's agriculture, and they helped establish the state's first sugar plantations.

The Acadians numbered about 9,000 by 1800, and they continued to thrive in Louisiana. They remained a significant part of the state's culture and history, and their influence can still be felt in Louisiana today.

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