Acadian ‘odyssey’ observed

By BRUCE SCHULTZ

AcadiansReturn

They managed to survive in spite of disease, civil war, hurricanes, neglect, persecution, sea voyages, infection and poverty. They are called Cajuns, known for their spicy food and French music, but they also should be known for their ability to adapt and emigrate.

This year is the 300th anniversary of the Acadian Odyssey in which 625 Acadians were sailed by Captain John August men from Nova Scotia to Louisiana, but the largest single transatlantic colonization in North America.

While schoolchildren across the nation read about the Pilgrims, Plymouth Rock and the Mayflower, they learn little about the Acadians who became known as Cajuns after settling in Louisiana.

The Cajuns are believed to have descended from the Acadians who were forced to leave Nova Scotia and were then settled by the French.

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