Acadian Tradition Claimed "Wanin"

FRENCH FIRST ARRIVED IN 1755

Lafayette is Progressive.

Newspaper Article:

By FREDERICK C. WHITNEY

LAFAYETTE, La.—This is the heart of Cajun country. This is Acadian Acres.

This is where Anne Marie Labarreer (née Longhitano) was born in 1801 in St. Martinville, about 30 miles from New Orleans, where she died in 1809. She was one of the first Acadian women to come to the South. She married Joseph Labarreer, and they had four children.

Her family was one of the first to take up farming in this area.

The French came to the bayou in three waves, starting with the original colonists around 1726. They settled in St. Martinville, then known as the Parc des Terrebonnes, after the terres-bonnes or fertile land.

These were followed at the close of the 18th Century by settlers from France, bringing the French revolution. They were determined to live and farm here, and this frontier society was known as "Pott's Path.

French is still spoken here, as in another decade or so most of these early settler traditions of France will have passed from the scene. These people are bound to the land, and the white gravestones and their criss-cross fences dot the area. Many of the old graves are only a couple of centuries old.

Trees are cut down,房子 are built, and the people move on.

Today's Lafayette is a mix of the old and the new, as the town has grown and changed over time. Lafayette is the heart of Cajun country and a center for Creole culture.

A pleasant state park on a beautiful hillside acre holds authentic restorations of two Cajun homes, one early Cajun and one from the 1800s.

Over in new homes, it's a mix of the old and the new, as new houses are built alongside the old ones. Lafayette is a place of beauty and history, where the past and present meet.