Hear ye! Year ye! Hear ye!

Festivals, choral groups, theatres, historical societies, museums, restaurants, merchants, and ordinary people, make your Acadian Festival costumes for the 375th (1979) celebration.

Jeanne Arseneault and Lynn Losier of the Historic Acadian Village, assisted by Pauline Dugas (illustrations) offer you a few diagrams for cutting and the directions for making your costumes.

Arranged by the Historic Acadian Village in cooperation with the Information Services of New Brunswick.

These models are (suitable) for the beginning of the colony (17th century), whereas the costumes you have seen at the Historic Acadian Village are of the 19th century, hence the differences on the (level) of the men's costumes.

For 1604, the shirt has gussets at the neck and under the sleeve. The vest (waist coat) is lapped over and the trousers are short with a narrow opening ("clapet"). Our ancestors' garments were (made) of home spun fabric and of linen cloth. You will have to substitute woolen cloths (woolen fabric, serge, flannel, etc.) for the home spun material. Unbleached and bleached linen cloth can still be found on the market, as well as (unbleached cotton) yellow cloth and calico.

French style wooden shoes are available for about 10 dollars at

F. Cousineau, Inc.
294 Lakeshore Rd., Pointe-Claire, P.Q.
H9S 463 Tel: (514) 695-4475

To buy unbleached linen cloth in bulk, that is in a piece 50 yards
in length, 34" wide, at $3.40 a yars, plus the cost of transportation, write to--
C.X. Tranchemontagne
459, rue St Sulpice
Montreal, Quebec
H2Y 2V8 Canada

For the 17th century period avoid colors that are too bright such as violet, turquoise, rose, lavender mauve, and scarlet red. Use brown, green, indigo (marine) blue, gold, and wine red with discrimination.

Space does not permit us to show each piece of the pattern, but we hope that with these (cutting) diagrams, the seamstresses will know how to go about enlarging and cutting. The ability of the Acadians to get out of any difficulty is well known— you will have some beautiful costumes.

WOMEN'S TRADITIONAL COSTUME (Le Costume Traditionnel les Femmes)

(Cotte) old word for ("Jupe") "skirt". The words "cotte" and "mantelet" (short coat) go together in all texts describing women's costumes.

The skirt was made of one width of "draquet" (woven cloth), the warp of linen and the weft of wool—32" to 36" in width. (Once the width of the cloth was removed from the loom) the selvedge (list) was worn at the bottom so that the bands or stripes were on the vertical. This rectangle of material varies (according to) with the waist size. There should be at the waist pleats of 2 3/4 inches or 1 3/8 inches in depth, gathered in a draw belt (string case) of linen in the back center—with an opening of 7 inches.

Suggested (fabrics): Plain or striped woolens of two or three colors in shades of brown, gray, indigo blue, black, -- a little red and/or white in the stripes—lacking woolens striped cotton with dark background. Avoid horizontal bands at the bottom of the skirt as in the popular Evangeline costume.

SHOES for women (Les chaussures des femmes). Wooden shoes of the 17th and 18th centuries, leather shoes and the galoches—kind of shoes whose sole was made of wood and the uppers (top) of leather.

See the galoches worn by the woman wearing an apron.

Accessories: Apron (or "devanteau") with a bib pinned to the short coat. Shawl, 72" square, woven of gray or black wool or of printed paisley.

CHILDREN'S COSTUMES (Le Costume des Enfants)

Children during this time were considered mini-adults— and so they were dressed as such. The little girl wore her skirt somewhat shorter (to the calf) than that of her mother, and a small (bodice) body (top of skirt), buttoning in the back was sewed to the top of the skirt. A small cloak, without a hollowing out, but buttoned the full length in front, 3/4 sleeves without a (cuff) fold, were worn over the "body" of the skirt. Neckerchief and head kerchief or a small caline.


SHORT COAT (Mantelet)

Camisole with long and loose sleeves. In 1604 in Acadia, cotton fabrics were non-existent; the short coats had to be of wool or linen. When cotton calicos became available at English merchants stores at the beginning of the 1800's, they were much sought after by the Acadian women for the purpose of trimming their garments with some color and flowers. As the old women of the Isle told us, the short coat was a kind of vest which reached down to the waist. It was doubled to give it a pretty appearance when the edge of the sleeve was turned back. The neck opening was bound with a bias which served as a casing for the draw string.

Note that the short coat is not laced (as in the Evangeline costume of the American Longfellow Family) but was closed in front with pins (buttons were a rarity). Fabrics suggested—calico, shades (earth colors) brown, rust,
green, indigo blue (dark), even black dotted with white. The bias is of contrasting color. Avoid the use of red (ca fait carte postale), turquoise, lime green and other pastel colors.

**Head piece (La Capine)**

Head piece: with a band, gathered at the nape tied at the throat. It was used mostly to work in the fields for the band gave protection from the sun. In Louisiana it is larger and the cajuns called it their sunbonnet (garde soleil)

Fabric suggested: yellow cotton, bleached linen.

**Small head covering (La caline)**

Small head covering which covers the top of the head, leaving the nape free for the toque (chignon) Figure 3. It is knotted under the chin, especially indoors. It is kept under the headkerchief to go out—Figure 4.

Fabric suggestions, calico with dark flowers, black gabardine or silk or dark indigo blue for old women (at this period a woman was considered old as soon as she was married). Neckerchief or Fichu (Mouchoir de cou on fichu) A square yard or 32" of whitened (bleached) linen folded in two. Two ways of wearing it: 1. Cross the points before inserting it in the hollow (opening) of the short coat (see Figure 2) 2. Join the ends of the front fold, pin and join the corners of the kerchief in front, at the waist (see drawing on cover page) It is in this fashion that the women of the Isle wore it (see cover page) Fabrics suggested: Fine whitened (bleached) linen, fine linen, cambric or batiste or white cotton.

**HEADDRESS, CAPS (Coiffes)**

During this period, women always covered their heads in bed or up, outdoors as well as indoors. Why? Because of custom, modesty or climate (protection from the sun as well as from the cold and rains. The most popular coifs (head coverings) were the caline (oh yes!). The capine, and the kerchief. The highly trimmed head coverings were reserved for Feast days (marriages, etc.) Often it was the priest who put the "oh la" in the lace, for fear that the Acadian woman become too coquettish, thus less Christian.

**VEST (GILET)**

Without sleeves reaches to the waist. Crossed completely in front, that is so it is buttoned on the side. A row of buttons very close to each other on each side (see cover page) Fabric suggested: Dark woolens

**SHORT VEST (Frac)**

It is a short vest with long sleeves without collar, with or without pockets. This garment is nothing like a tailor's cut. It is easily made of a heavy material which makes it unnecessary to double it (see the one worn by the little boy on the cover page) Colors: Dark indigo blue, gray, black, brown.

**SMALL BOY (PETIT GARCON)**

Small boy: Long trousers (to protect the knees from cuts and bruises) whose front opening extends the whole width of the trousers. Shirt of unbleached linen, which is slipped on over the head. 3/4 sleeves. Fabrics suggested: trousers—navy blue cotton drill (twill) thin woolen cloths, brown or gray.

**MEN’S TRADITIONAL COSTUMES (Les Costume des Hommes traditionnel)**

Trousers with "clapet" (culotte a clapet) During the period (time) when one did not know how to make the Fly, it was the "clapet" which overlapped the front of the men's trousers. The Acadians wore trousers with the "clapet" until the end of the 19th century. In the end of it's usage the "clapet" extended the whole width of the front of the long trousers (as the one worn by the small boy) For 1604 the trousers are full and short, with a narrow "clapet" which was buttoned on the belt. Using a commercial pattern sew the two front pieces together, thus doing away with the fly. For the "clapet" cut two vertical slits 16 cm (6 inch) long and 23 cm (9 in.) apart (which you will bind to avoid ravling(?).
On each of the edges which remain on each side of the "clapet" add a triangle of cloth. Since the belt is not sewed to the front of the pants, the triangles hold the front of the PANTS up when the "clapet" is lowered (Figure 5) Change your commerical pattern so as to give more looseness to the bottom of the trousers. No tight bottoms!!!

**SHIRT (Chemise)**

Made of unbleached linen, the man's shirts were full without a collar (a simple turn around the throat) and with a dropping arm hole— which means that the body of the shirt is a rectangle in which one cuts out (for the head) an 18 cm (7 in) diameter hole for the head. NO stitching at the shoulder, and an opening which comes down to only 2-3 cm (9 in) in front. The sleeves are also rectangles gathered at both ends. As the shirt is full, the line of the armhole falls below the shoulder. A gusset under the arm permits all movements. The sleeve is therefore shorter than in today's pattern. The shirt was gathered all around the circumference of the neck with a gusset at the level of the shoulder line for freedom of body movement (Fig. 6) The shirt tail was longer in the back than the front. Since you are not going to mow (cut grass) with the shirt you could eliminate the gusset under the arm.

Fabrics suggested: Unbleached linen cloth or yellow cotton for the shirt.

**MEN'S FOOTWEAR (Les Chaussures des hommes)**

Wooden shoes of the 17th or 18th centuries. Leather shoes which they learned to make when they came in contact with the Mimacs

**THE HEAD DRESS (HEAD COVERING) (Les coffures (couvre-chefs des hommes)**

Bonnet (tuque) red or grey, hat of soft gelt (Figure 7) Straw hat for working in the fields. Cap beginning in 1850 only.