ANCIENT Cypress WALLS — These walls of foot-wide cypress planks are part of the Lacour family home at Mouton’s Cove, which dates back to 1725. The walls are pegged with wooden wedges and sealed with mud. No nails or metal screws of any kind were used in the construction.

AT LACOUR REUNION

Ancient House To Echo With Sounds Once Again

By Al Graham

ABBEVILLE — In the Mouton Cove region of Vermilion, an ancient house will echo once more with the sounds of life Sunday when some 200 - 250 members of the Lacour family, pioneer settlers in this area, hold their annual family reunion eight miles south of here.

The original house was built some time before 1725 by Allen Campbell, one of the original explorers and developers of the bayou country. It was made of foot-wide cypress planks pegged with wooden wedges, sealed with mud and — as was the practice during this time — no nails or metal screws were used in any stage of construction.

The exterior of the house has been gradually rebuilt over the years due to the ravages of time, but the interior remains almost exactly as it was, when constructed over 240 years ago.

In 1856, Ambroise Lacour Jr. purchased the house and moved it on a flatboat, towed by oxen, to its present site, Lacour’s land, part of the original Mouton estate, Mouton estate, had been purchased by Mouton in 1802 from one Bernard Indian Chief for — as tradition has it — a gallon of whiskey, a horn filled with gunpowder, an old musket and $1 in change.

Mouton, incidentally, was the brother of Jean Baptiste Mouton, who donated the land upon which the present Lafayette court house and St. John’s Cathedral stand.

The original structure has been added to over the years until now only the interior is that made of the original cypress paneling. Didier Lacour, the present owner and his family, live in another house on the estate and maintain the old place as a historical monument and possible site for a state museum.

Ambroise Lacour, the head of the original house had run away from his home in France around 1813 when only 14 years old because of a dispute with his foster parents concerning his education. Lacour was deeply concerned with scholarships and felt that the new world of America, remains lost in the remnants of history. But success he did achieve — young Lacour became the mayor of Abbeville in 1834 and also served as president of the parish democratic executive committee, sheriff of Vermilion Parish, Vermilion Clerk of Court, school teachers and auctioneer.

As evidence of his pursuit of knowledge, he corrected a historical mistake which appeared in a Texas newspaper concerning Jim Bowie’s famed knife. This erroneous report said the blade had been fashioned on Bayou Teche below Alexandria.

Lacour proved geographical discrepancies by pointing out that it was made along Bayou Vermilion below Allen Campbell’s plantation where Bowie resided long before 1814.

So when the family of Lacours meets in family reunion this Sunday, a wealth of history will be there with them — courting back to the infant days of the country.

FAMILY HOME — This is the exterior of the old Lacour family home as it stands today. While the outer portion has been rebuilt because of extreme age, the interior remains almost as it was when erected over 260 years ago. The family reunion will be held on the grounds of the old house.