Beaubassin, Old Acadian Home

By DEBBIE D'AQUIN

There was a good breeze and the soil was fertile. There were hardly any mosquitoes. The site was well above sea level and the land would drain well. There were the many silted-in cypress trees across the bayou and one could navigate a canoe.

Fresh fish were plentiful in the river and ducks were in the swamp. On the prairie they could hunt for quail and dove. They would plant live oaks for shade.

The site, now one mile east of Carenac, reminded him of his home in Nova Scotia. The lovely land was exiled from Acadian homes, was well above sea level and the soil was rich. And the soil from Nova Scotia, a land from his home land.

The site was a mix of mud and moss and the roof is now made of corrugated metal. Dr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Arceneaux are now the proprietors of the home located on the corner of Hector Connolly Rd. and Voorhies Rd. (Photo by Paula Latelich).

BUILT CIRCA 1800 - Beaubassin was built circa 1800 in Beaubassin community, an area shown on early Louisiana maps as the "settlement of the Arceneaux family." The house is furnished with "boudoir," a mixture of mud and moss and the roof is now made of corrugated metal. Dr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Arceneaux are now the proprietors of the home located on the corner of Hector Connolly Rd. and Voorhies Rd. (Photo by Paula Latelich).

"It's eldest son, Joseph Louis Bold Ar.

During the process of establishing his livelihood, he built another home for his family.

Pierre Arceneaux called Beaubassin, "a settlement of the Arceneaux family."

The couple is especially fond of the old sour orange trees located on the 13 acres which date back to Beaubassin. The oranges were used for "medicinal purposes," he noted. The couple claims the oranges are delicious and call their drink " Sour Orleans."

The winter of '61 and '62 were severe and the old trees froze to the ground. But then they reappeared. Today they're 30-feet high," Arceneaux said.

The only way to find the house is to drive down Moss St. until it turns into Voorhies Rd. The house is located on the corner of Hector Connolly Rd. and Voorhies Rd. (Photo by Paula Latelich).

In 1948, the State of Louisiana placed a marker at the home site. Ron Raff Looney has painted the house and it is reproduced in his book, "Deaus Sejour." Other pictures of the home have also been painted.

Arceneaux is alarmed at the destruction of many old homes. His descendant Richard lived in Beaubassin. And hopefully one day he will be able to live in it too.

The house, like other old Acadian homes, was originally two rooms with an attic at the top where the boys slept called a garconniere. The stairs to the front porch lead to the attic.

The kitchen and dining room were a separate component behind the house. Later, as the family size increased, the kitchen was attached in the main house and a back porch added on. An office on the front porch was added on by a previous owner but has been removed.

Dean and Mrs. Arceneaux plan to renovate the cypress home and, upon completion, plan to live in the home part of the time. They hope to furnish the home with treasure old pieces of furniture, including an old family bed made of solid walnut. The couple is especially fond of the old sour orange trees located on the 13 acres which date back to Beaubassin. The oranges were used for "medicinal purposes," he noted. The couple claims the oranges are delicious and call their drink " Sour Orleans."

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