"BEAUSOLEIL" BROUSSARD LEADS THE WAY - AGAIN!

Daft brush strokes by master muralist Robert Dafford bring to life historic Acadian figures on the mural he has been commissioned to paint for the Acadian Memorial in St. Martinville, Louisiana. The 30' x 12' canvas is being filled with figures of exiled Acadians painted as though they are arriving in Louisiana in the mid-18th century.

Mural committee chairman Carole Lannan announced that work started on the massive painting in December 1993 and will be approximately 60% complete by April 1994 when the canvas will be transferred from Dafford's studio to the Heymann Building on Jefferson Street in Lafayette, Louisiana, as part of an exhibit of his earlier paintings on The Acadian Exile. "Dafford will continue working on the painting while it is introduced to the public during the 1994 Festival International exhibit," said Lannan.

"At the forefront of the painting," said Project co-chair Janie Bulliard, "is the figure of Joseph Beausoleil Broussard, so honored as a tribute to his leadership ability which was recognized in Nova Scotia and acknowledged in Louisiana when he was named commandant of the Atchafalaya District in April 1765." He died there on September 4, 1765, prematurely, perhaps, but not before he knew he had led his people to Nouvelle Acadie.

On his far right, is the figure of Pierre Richard, an early settler in the Opelousas Country who probably arrived in Louisiana in 1765 with Broussard. The Richard figure was funded with a donation of $2,000 by "Des Richard de Parteur, Inc., an organization of Richard descendants.

"On Broussard's left," Bulliard pointed out, "is the figure of a woman representing Elisabeth Thihodeau, widow of Cosme Broussaux, who arrived in Louisiana in 1767 and who was settled with her children, on the Mississippi River in the area of St. Gabriel. Figures from all of the Acadian settlements in Louisiana continue to be developed in the mural and the public is invited to view its progress at Festival International in Lafayette, Louisiana, April 21 thru April 24, 1994. At that time, costumed docents will be present to tell stories of the mural figures."

The drawing for a trip to Canada to attend CONGRES MONDIAL ACADE (Continued on Page 4)
Iberville names included on Wall

"Soirée toi ami, la mon nom et soi qui tes toi!"

"Pensez, si c'est vrai, aux mots qui vous ont été confiés...."

This sentiment will caption the Wall of Names. More names to be remembered will be those of a group settled in present-day Iberville Parish in 1770. The story of their passage aboard the "Britannia" follows this list.

Oliver Benoit, Marie Brunet, wife; Charles Benoit, son; Marie Rose Benoit, daughter; Magdalene Benoit, daughter.

Louis Laste, Anne, wife; Marie Laste, daughter; Marie Rose Benoit, orphan; Magdalene Laste, daughter; Antoine Laste, son; Paul Laste, son; Veubelle Laste, daughter.

Etienne Ruel, widow; Etienne Ruel, son; Francois Ruel, son; Pierre Ruel, son; Oberdail Ruel, son.

Thomas Trahan, Marie Carpin, wife; Pierre Trahan, son; Joseph Lejeune, brother.

Antoine Delar, Marie, wife; Etienne Simon Delar, son.

Jean Varene Lejeune, Blaise Lejeune, brother; Marguerite Lejeune, sister; Pierre Primo, Susanne Plant, wife.

In "The Founding of New Acadia," the author and historian Carl Broseau tells us that "...thirty Acadians from Maryland—bought the "Britannia," a New Orleans bound schooner, at the port of West Tabor, Maryland—on January 3, 1770. The English vessel reached the mouth of the Mississippi River on February 21, but fog decreased their speed and the Acadians arrived by a friendly wind and strong current to meet the vessel at Matagorda Bay, Texas. Upon reaching the Texas coast, the "Britannia" was seized by Spanish authorities and the passengers and crew were arrested as smugglers. For a time the prisoners were confined at hard labor in frente de los Bienes (present day Galveston, Texas). They were soon released. Arriving at Natchitoches, in late October, the Acadians crossed the Mississippi to press on to New Acadia. Commandant Athanase Dementier attempted to force them to remain at the Mississippi River port, but in the end he was unsuccessful and the Acadians moved on. In mid-April, 1779, the exiles were given 600 acres of land in a present-day Iberville Parish."

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LA CAROLINE -- LAST OF ACADIAN EXPEDITIONS

Acadian exiles who were among the last shipload of immigrants to arrive in Louisiana over 200 years ago were honored during a special commemorative mass held Sunday, Dec. 12, 1983 at St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church in St. Martinville, Louisiana.

Modern day Acadians bearing family names derived from those who migrated to the United States in 1779 were guests at the mass and honored by the French descendants of the families they represented.

At the same time the mass was being held in St. Martinville, another memorial mass was being offered in St. Martin de Tours Church in France, which was the port of embarkation for the ship "Caroline" which carried the Acadian exiles to Louisiana.

The ship entered the Mississippi River below New Orleans on Dec. 12, 1779. La Caroline was the last of seven ships that were called the "Acadian expeditions" which brought families from colonial Louisiana that year. They were part of approximately 3,000 persons who, after being expelled from Nova Scotia in 1755, were resettled in France, only to be discontinued by a government apathetic to their needs.

(Continued on Page 4)

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Last chance to win trip to Canada

To donate to the mural and enter the drawing for the free trip to Canada, fill in this form, or a photocopy of it, clip it out and mail it along with your check to ACADIAN MEMORIAL PROJECT, City of St. Martinville, P.O. Box 47, Dept. AM, St. Martinville, LA 70382. Make check payable to Acadian Memorial Project. Your name will be entered into the drawing for the trip to Canada each time you contribute $50 to the Acadian Memorial Project's Mural Fund. This special offer is made to raise funds to purchase the mural square sires until April 24, 1994. NOTE: These tickets are non-refundable and void only if the trip to Canada to attend the Acadian World Congress on August 14-21, 1994, with the St. Martinville group.

Yes I want:  
--- Mural Squares $50 each

- [ ] Enclosed in my check for

- [ ] Bill my Name on card

- [ ] Check if ever I win a trip to Canada

- [ ] Address

- [ ] City, State, Zip

- [ ] Photo acknowledgement will be sent to winner.

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BEAUSOLEIL
(Continued from Page 1)

EN, the Acadian World Congress to be held in New Brunswick, Canada, in August 1994, will take place at the mural site on Sunday, April 24th. "You need not be present to win," said Project co-chair Patricia Resweber, "but you must have made at least one $50 donation for a 6" x 6" square of the mural space between April 26, 1993 and April 24, 1994. "CONGRES MONDIAL ACADIE has donated two passports for free entry to all events sponsored by them. An entry form is available elsewhere in this newsletter.

CAROLINE
(Continued from Page 3)

after nearly 30 years of wretched living conditions, they were told of a generous offer of arable land by Louisiana's Spanish government, some 1,996 Acadian refugees in France accepted the challenge to begin a new life in Louisiana.

The 25 families aboard the Caroline settled in the present day parishes of Ascension, Assumption, St. Landry, Pointe Coupee, St. James and St. Martin.

The Beaverville list of names which appears on Page 2 is as found in "Spain in the Mississippi Valley, 1765-84..."
Ed. Laurence Kinnard

Calling All Cajuns Calendar

Sunday, April 10, 1994
Gaudet Family Reunion
St. Mary Parish, Louisiana
318-836-5544 or 318-984-6999.

10 am to 4 pm Saturday, April 16, 1994
Cajun Creole Market Days
The Boulevard, St. Martinville, Louisiana. 318-394-2250
A gathering of talented -- parish artisans, craftpersons, cooks and growers.
Shannon Reynolds, Manager, Main Street, St. Martinville.

April 19 to 24, 1994
Festival International De Louisiane
Exhibits include the Acadian Memorial Mural is Lafayette History Museum, 116 Polk Street, Lafayette, Louisiana.

Sunday, May 15, 1994
Sonnier Family Reunion
Scott, Louisiana
Contact Eddie Richard, P.O. Box 456, Scott, LA. 70583-0456.

6 pm Wednesday, July 13, 1994
Quarterly dinner meeting, Acadian Memorial Project
La Place d'Evangelie, St. Martinville, LA
318-394-4010, Peggy Hulin for information.

August 12 to 22, 1994
Congrès Mondial Acadien
P.O. Box 4530, Dieppe, New Brunswick, Canada E1A 6G1

The Acadian Memorial Project
P. O. Box 379, Dept. AM
St. Martinville, LA 70582

Carroll J. Dugas
100 Normandy Road
Lafayette, LA 70503