FINDING FAMILLE IN THE HOMELAND

Cajun travelers treasure the relatives they found on recent trip to France

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CARNAC, France – Marguerite Kermorvant wept openly as the Louisiana Trahans introduced themselves.

Meeting the American Trahans was a dream come true for the 92-year-old grandmother, who has never left her French homeland.

The Trahans were “the cradle of her family on her mother’s side,” said Kermorvant’s daughter, Marie Sens Epouse.

Alcidia Sens is responsible in large part for making her grandmother’s dream come true. When Sens was around 12 years old, her grandmother told her they are descendants of Acadiens, the French-speaking group that was expelled from what is now Nova Scotia in the 1700s. Some returned to France, and some eventually made their way to Louisiana.

“My grandma heard this from her mother, who was born in Belle Isle (France), but nothing else,” Sens wrote in an email to The Daily Advertiser.

The subject was taboo, she was told.

The reunion finally occurred at a restaurant in Carnac earlier this month, when a group of traveling Cajuns from Louisiana and beyond — including at least five Trahans from the Lafayette area — finally met their distant relative.

Brenda Trahan, who helped arrange the 15-day trip to France, said Kermorvant was overwhelmed with emotion, embracing her and crying when they met.

“When she stopped crying she told me again that she never dreamed in all her life that at the end of her life she would meet Trahans from Louisiana,” she said.

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