First Acadian Born in La.

Who was the first Acadian child born in Louisiana? I confess I didn’t have the slightest idea until I came across an essay by Alice Norrie in a now scarce little book entitled, “In Acadia.”

Published locally 62 years ago, “In Acadia” was compiled by Margaret Avery Johnson and it also included stories by John H. Fieldlins and Charles Dudley Warner.

Pres. Foster describes a visit to St. Martinville and some of his recollections there on the Acadians.

“I asked... permission to look over the church register,” he wrote. “And so began in the year 1855, the record of the first child born of Acadian parents in St. Martin, probably the first born in Louisiana.”

He then gives the baptism of the child in the St. Martinville church register. The English of which is approximately as follows:

“On the 2nd day of May, 1855, in the church of St. Martinville, the infant child of Charles and Cornelia LeBlanc, was baptized. The godfather was F. J. LeBlanc and the godmother was Mrs. J. L. Broussard.”

And so the first Acadian child born in Louisiana—or rather the first on record—was Magnus LeBlanc!

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the expiration of the Acadians from Nova Scotia. But it must be remembered that the first to settle Louisiana did not come immediately after this event nor in 1855.

The earliest record of Acadians arriving in Louisiana is April 4, 1826, when six families, numbering 38 persons, arrived in New Orleans. Of which families three were Acadian descendants. The fact is that Joseph Moreau was the progenitor of one of them.

The first group of Acadians arrived in New Orleans early in 1821, and organized the first church, St. Charles Borromeo, in that year.

To discuss the history of the Acadians would be to write a history of France, if not of France altogether, but this is not what we are about.

For the 150th anniversary of the Acadians being in Louisiana, let us recall the famous 150th anniversary of the Acadians being in Louisiana!