LOUISIANA ACADIANs PLAN LON

Acadian Descendants Will Make Journey

Group To Be Joined Enroute To Canada By Other Pilgrims

Dudley J. LeBlanc Heads Party Including Girls in Norman Caps and Kirtles to Attend Observance of Tragic Deportation Anniversary

The Louisiana Acadians are going back to Grand Pre. Spanning the gap of nearly two centuries which separates them from their forebears home in Nova Scotia, a large party from this state will journey to the Canadian town to take part in the commemoration of the 175th anniversary of one of the most tragic events in the history of the Louisiana Acadian stock.

White House is being arranged. In New York the party will spend a day. In Boston the mayor and members of the council have invited the Acadians to be their guests. The Louisiana Acadians will meet the Acadians from the New England states in Boston and will leave on the steamship Yorktown August 17 and arrive in Nova Scotia early next day. On the night of August 20, by special train, the Louisiana Acadians will leave Grand Pre for Halifax, where plans are being made to entertain them. On the return trip the party will leave Halifax August 22 and will arrive at Quebec that night. In Quebec arrangements are being made for an open air banquet at which officials will turn over the keys of the city to the Acadians. Montreal entertainments will include a program over the radio. In Niagara Falls the party will in the autumn, towards the end of November. There were about 6,000 persons deported. About 1,000 escaped into the woods many being afterwards captured and sent out of the Province. About 3,000 made their way into the country to the North.

FAMILIES SEPARATED

They were dispersed and separated as much as possible. They were compelled to leave their homes on small schooners for places unknown, their parents being separated from their children.

They were scattered about as follows: Massachusetts, 1,000; Connecticut, 400; New York, 500; Pennsylvania, 500; Maryland, 900; Virginia, 1,740; North Carolina, 250; Georgia, 800; Martinique Island, 480.

Consider these strangers of different religious faiths being thrown upon the people of the colonies. They were not wanted and were not welcomed.

Louisiana at that time was a French province and there were many Acadians who first settled in Maryland, Virginia and Georgia who undertook the dangerous task of crossing the dense forest lying between them and Louisiana to seek refuge and protection of the French flag.

Three years after one of the schooners landed on the Martinique Island. The story is:

--- Courtesy Times-Picayune, New Orleans, La.

MISS HAZEL SAMPSON

of Abbeville, the first young woman to qualify as an "Evangeline Girl" for the trip to the Acadian celebrations at Grand Pre will be the official representative of Vermilion Parish.

Lafayette Librane
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--- Courtesy Abbeville, 1930