Longfellow Immortalized in Land of Evangeline

Editor's Note: Louisiana has begun to plan for its bicentennial celebration of the Acadian migration to Louisiana. In Lafayette, March 3 marked Acadian Bicentennial Celebration Day, sponsored by a formal committee and directed by officers elected. The new organization will hold its first formal meeting March 10 in St. Martinville, heart of the Evangeline country.

The story of Evangeline's grave has been told to millions. It began with a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, which carved the romance of the Acadians into the heart of American literature. Longfellow's poem, first published in 1850, was an instant success, and the story of Evangeline and her lover, Gabriel, has been retold countless times since then.

Many people have always considered the romance a mere fiction, but many have also believed that the story of Evangeline is true. In fact, a recent study suggests that the story may have been inspired by a real events.

Longfellow's Version

Longfellow's version was best known by the story of the exile, and his poem evoked great sympathy for the Acadians. He based his story on Evangeline on the life of one of the refugees, Evangeline Labeche, who was severly ill at the time of the poem's composition. Research has proved that Evangeline was actually alive, and that the real name of her sweetheart was Gabriel. Unfortunately, the facts do not agree with the poem's account. The story of Evangeline's grave was first published in 1850, and the story of the grave was not known until after the poem was written.

Evangeline's grave is located in a church in St. Martinville. The church was built in 1850, and the grave was later moved to a more visible location. The church is now a popular tourist attraction, and visitors can see the grave and learn about the story of Evangeline and Gabriel.

St. Martinville Today

St. Martinville is now a small town, but it was once a bustling Acadian community. Today, the town is a popular tourist destination, with many attractions related to the Acadian culture.

The town has also been the site of the annual Acadian Festival, which celebrates the history and culture of the Acadians. The festival includes a parade, a French creole food fair, and a variety of cultural events.

The town is also home to a number of historic sites, including the Acadian Museum, which is dedicated to the history of the Acadians.

The town is a popular destination for tourists, and it is a great place to learn about the history and culture of the Acadians.