Letter expelling Acadians on display

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LAFAYETTE — In October 1755, Col. John Winslow, in charge of deporting the Acadian population of the Grand Pré region, wrote what is now described by a student of rare documents as "a striking letter, setting forth details of one of the most controversial British acts during the French and Indian War — the deportation of Acadians."

That letter, like the Acadians, has now completed the long trek from old Acadie to modern Acadiana. It was put on display Monday at UL Lafayette, where it will be kept for scholarly study and as an important piece of Acadian history.

"Original documentation regarding the Acadian deportation is understandably sparse," according to Carl Brasseaux, a UL Lafayette history professor and expert on Acadian history. "The most important eyewitness accounts were written by ... Winslow. Dupre Library has acquired the most important Winslow report that remained in private hands."

Contributions made by Friends of Dupre Library were used to purchased the document.

The 8-inch-by-6 3/4-inch piece of paper, yellowed by age but otherwise remarkably well-kept, will be on display on the third floor of Dupre

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