First DPs and Refugees of New World
Many Descendants of Acadians in U.S.

By Rev. Joseph P. Kiley (one of a group of Catholic beneficiaries of our loan)

The Acadians, known as the"People of the Forest," were first settled in Acadia, now Canada, by the French in the 17th century. They were driven out in 1755 during the French and Indian War. Some went to Nova Scotia, some to New England, and a few to the West Indies. Many settled in Louisiana under Spanish rule. During the American Revolution, the Acadians were divided in their support. Many sided with the British, while others remained loyal to France. After the Revolution, many were sent to the Mississippi Valley under the patronage of the Duke of Orleans. Many of these Acadians later migrated to the western parts of the United States.

Return to Homeland

Many of the Acadians returned to Acadia after the Revolution, and some of these returned to Louisiana. The Acadian population of Louisiana was estimated to be around 10,000 in 1800. The Acadians were known for their agricultural skills, and many became successful farmers in the region. The Acadian culture remained strong, with traditional customs and language preserved.

Children Taken From Parents

In 1815, a group of Acadians arrived in the United States. They were forced to leave Acadia by the British and were sent to the United States. Many of the Acadian children were separated from their parents and taken to be sold as slaves. The Acadians who were sold as slaves were later freed, and many returned to Louisiana.

Acadians Added Revolutionary Arms

Louisiana was a French colony until 1803, when it was ceded to the United States. The Acadians were able to continue their agricultural pursuits in Louisiana, and many became successful farmers. The Acadian culture remained strong, with traditional customs and language preserved.

Anti-Catholicism Ventilated on Acadians

There was a wave of anti-Catholicism in the United States in the 19th century, and the Acadians were often targeted. The Acadians were seen as different from the mainstream society, and this led to discrimination and prejudice. However, the Acadians were able to maintain their cultural identity and continue to thrive in Louisiana.