Melançon name made a mark on Acadia

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OPELÉNAS—There may be only a letter and a difference of a name between them, but in the town between Melançon and Melançon is the tale of Acadia.

Both branches of Les Filleau de Melançon, Melançon were in town Saturday as they took their turn in the Congress Mandala Acadiana, the World Acadian Congress.

"The names put in the spelling," the people said. "They were working the names from French." 

From here, France's chief mission moved in the French colonial period in the Americas.

Thus, south New Brunswick, Canada, attended the family reunion at the Jardine Building with her son, June Mitchell, and her sister, Loretta Melançon.

"Not in our case," added reunion coordinator Lyndon, Melançon of Ham.

by nestled outside of the large population centers of Nova Scotia, Pierres and his people lived within the settlement of Grand Prairie.

Consequently, when British soldiers rounded up the French of Nova Scotia in 1759 and expelled a culture, the Melançons became Cajuns while the St. John inhabitants fled through the woods to New Brunswick.

"They were helped by the Micmacs Indians," said Diane of her ancestors. "Otherwise they probably would have perished or been caught by the British."

"A shared love of genealogy was responsible for the Melançon reunion, said Lyndon. "To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Grand Prairie, we organized a special gathering of family and friends."

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celebration, Lyndon and Caroline agreed to organize the reunion.

"We wrote letters and emailed all over the world," said Caroline, an award-winning printer designer. "We sent out the invites to all the family members."

"We talked long distance on the phone for two hours. It's a cost of Colby," she laughed.

Before the reunion, the family newsletter had 100 subscribers.

"There are no people we've lost," Caroline said, "so we were going to have to wait a lot more newsletters. All of these people mentioned our family members that we will have to add to the database."

The reunion was a hard work, but very exciting. The meeting family members for the first time, people I'll stay in touch with for the rest of my life." Other than contacting the relatives and planning the event, Caroline, Lyndon, and their families had to pull together a program of activities. They had good food, music, and learning sessions scheduled for Sunday.

"The family had a great time celebrating with family and friends. By all accounts, the Melançons and the Melançons were having fun.

"I met with Melançon in 1998, said Caroline. "They came from Lévis, and said, 'I was suprised how much we knew about the people who are like they are here. We should have them every year.'"

"We were happy to spend time with them again last year."

There are so many people who want to know about our family. It's great to know that we're going to have a great time."

"We want to put that money into the French Immersion classes to help preserve our heritage and culture."