French edition of Ernest Martin, Teacher in Poitiers University (retired), Honour President of the Acadian Friendship Committee, in review, 
INFORMATIONS DE LA VIEXNE, supplement. 
The return of Acadians in Poitou:

1773
1973 commemoration:

THE SAGA OF THE ACADIENS

AND THEIR RETURN TO THE POITOU

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ACADIA is the name given by the French in the beginning of the 17th century to their first colony the North America.

- This was a vast territory, yet unexplored situated south of the Gulf of St-Laurence, which is now in major part in Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

- ACADIA really began to exist as a colony in 1632 when several young families of farmers and artisans summoned then governor came from France and established farms and villages.

- On the drained swampland they grew rich prairies and raised herd of cattle.

They befriended the Indians and provided from the sea and the forests and with hard work enjoyed peaceful and prosperous life.

From the beginning to the end of its existence, ACADIA never ceased to be contested during all the wars fought between England and France and changed sovereignties several times before becoming in 1713, by the Treaty of Utrecht, a British colony.

ACADIA thus became Nova Scotia and for 30 more years Acadians were able to continue a life of relative peace and calm. The British however began to take steps which filled the Acadians with dread.

They installed colonies of Protestant immigrants, built HALIFAX, an important fort and seat of the moment, and called up a militia in which they intended to expulse the Acadiens, in spite
of the assurance these had received that they would never be called upon to fight against their former compatriots and King.

- On the 28th of July 1755 the council of Halifax decided that all of the Acadian population would be arrested and deported and their goods and properties confiscated.

- All their villages were burned, their cattle slaughtered and the fugitives hunted down.

Cruel fate for pioneers who arrived 120 years earlier with so much hope and courage.

- In 1763, the Treaty of Paris ended the disastrous seven years war and France beaten, ceded to England all of Canada with its 60,000 inhabitants.

From this point on, the Acadians desperate, ruined, return to France. The King, the Ministers and the great Lords laud their patriotism and upon their arrival, the refugees receive a very substantial pension for its day. A family of 10, received 60 sols or 3 pounds per day, which represented the price of a pair of oven or 5 times the salary of a farm worker.

However, this period of inactivity and waiting could not continue indefinitely and finally the idea prevailed to incorporate them into the agricultural society as there was at that time a vogue for agronomy.
The King's council in late 1772, decided to create and finance an agricultural establishment into which all of the Acadians would be incorporated. To this end the Minister BERTIN, called upon a Poitevin aristocrat, the Marquis de Pérusse des Cars, a man versed in agriculture who had already realized vast clearings on his lands.

1773, the first Acadians arrive in CHATELLERAULT welcomed by the Marquis de Pérusse, whose great hope was to establish in the Poitou a successful and ideal colony.

To lodge these families the Marquis had the genial idea to build not with stones as usually stone in the Poitou, but in "pisé" mortar mixed with dried branches and stacked between beams.

- Thus in record time, were built 58 houses, which were so well constructed that 200 years later the majority are still standing and in use.

- Unfortunately although many families contributed to their reinstallation with enthusiasm, others discouraged by the hard work of clearing, cynical from promises never kept, and ambittered by more than 10 years of inactivity passed in ports, became discouraged. In spite of the Marquis's sollicitude, the governments repeated and exceptional generosity—many of these families give up. Soon there are but 25 families left. These as originally planned, become owners of their properties and receive from the government 3 and even 5 farms abandoned by their fellow colonists.
These families settled down, integrated with the local people, and soon occupied privileged positions in the community.

For this reason you will still find the majority of these 50 houses, built for those repatriated of 1773, scattered around "la ligne Acadienne", still standing often inhabited and restored.