**Acadian Village**

Acadian Village is a project of the Lafayette Association for Retarded Citizens. Located off Ridge Road, it is a replica of a latter 1800 Acadian Village.

*The Acadian Flag was voted the official flag at the 2nd National Convention of Acadians in Wisconsin, (Prince Edward Island) August 1884. The trio-color signifies the French-Acadian attachment to their mother country and the star of the Virgin Mary.*

**THE GENERAL STORE**

The store is a replica built on site in 1976. It was constructed of old red cypress and Louisiana long leaf pine and is an example of briquette entre poteaux (beams between posts). The exposed wiring in the store is typical of the first wiring when electricity came to Acadia. Between the years 1860 and 1900 the old country store was the main gathering place in most small communities.

**AURELIE BERNARD HOUSE**

Constructed in St. Martinville, the Bernard House is the oldest structure in the Village. The section on the left was built first (circa 1800) while that on the right is an addition, (1840).

Upon entry into the addition one will see a large painting of the exile of the Acadians from Nova Scotia (Canada) in 1755. The painting in the small rear room depicts their arrival and settling along the bayous of Louisiana in 1764-1765.

The oldest section of the home contains an exhibit on Cajun music. Here, also, is the best example of the type of insulation used within the home. It is called bordellages entre poteaux (meat between posts).

**THE THIBODEAUX HOUSE**

The Thibodeaux House was constructed of cypress, the “wood eternal”, that is not rot and insect resistant. Each piece cut from tree and post was marked with Roman numerals for ease in assembling. The house dates to circa 1820 and came to Acadian Village from the Beauregard Bridge area.

The small rear "cabinet" room, the daughter’s room was accessible only through the parent’s room. The boys slept in the attic or left, the garret was reached by way of an outside staircase.

**THE LEBLANC HOUSE**

Built between 1821 and 1856 near Youngsville, the LeBlanc house is the birthplace of Acadian Senator Dudley J. LeBlanc. Stateman, spokesman and politician, Dudley LeBlanc was also the author of “The True Story of the Acadians” and “The Acadian Miracle”. His claim to fame was the invention of a very famous vitamin tonic by the name of Hadacol. 12% alcohol, it was guaranteed to cure all ills. The LeBlanc exhibit contains memorabilia from the life and times of "Countin' Dud".

**THE ST. JOHN HOUSE**

This house dates to circa 1840 and was donated to the Village by a local dentist. It was located on St John street here in Lafayette – Thus its name. It was built of salvaged cypress timbers from another building.

The house is currently being used as a schoolhouse. Among the desks is a three-wanter which came to us from an old school house near Sunset. Old books, inkwells, lunch pails and the wooden stoves round out the exhibit.
THE BLACKSMITH SHOP

The shop of a blacksmith likely held an awe with nearby farmers, small craftsmen, and the like. The metalworker was a master at his craft, and the tools and implements were marvels of precision.

THE BELLEW HOUSE

The Bellew House, originally known as the "Blacksmith House," was a residence built by Captain Henry Bellew in 1855. It is a two-story wood frame structure featuring a gable roof and a central chimney.

THE CASTLE HomE

The house was built in 1853 by Dr. John Castle, a prominent doctor in the area. It is a two-story brick structure with a hip roof and a central chimney.

THE NEW HOPE CHAPEL

The New Hope Chapel is a small church located by the Bellew House. It was built in 1862 as a place of worship for the community.

THE CASTLE HomE

In 1843, the St. Andrew's Band of the Methodists established a chapel in the area. The chapel was later purchased and converted into a private residence.

THE SALLE'S HOUSE

The Salle's House was built in 1866 by Mr. Salle, a local farmer. It is a two-story brick structure with a hip roof and a central chimney.

DOCTOR'S MUSEUM

The Doctor's Residence is located near the Salle's House. It was built in 1850 by Dr. John Salle. The building served as a residence and medical office for the doctor.

THE SALLE'S HOUSE

In 1845, the St. Andrew's Band of the Methodists purchased the property and converted it into a chapel.

THE CASTLE HomE

In 1846, the St. Andrew's Band of the Methodists purchased the property and converted it into a chapel.

L'HÔTEL PARISIEN, un hôtel luxueux dans le centre de la ville, est inauguré en 1773 et est financé par la reine Marie-Antoinette. Il est occupé à la cour de la reine et est rempli de toute l'élite de la société.
In the contest for control of the North American continent both the English and French colonial governors recruited Indian tribes to do much of their fighting. In the Mississippi Valley, Carolina traders instigated the Chickasaws to fight the French and to raid Louisiana tribes for Indians to sell in the Charleston slave market. In 1736, Governor Bienville sent a force of French soldiers and Illinois Indians to punish the Chickasaws. Led by Major Pierre D’Artaguettes, the army was accompanied by a Jesuit priest, Father Antoine Senat, as chaplain. On March 25, the Chickasaws won a major victory near the present site of Tupelo, Mississippi, captured Father Senat, D’Artaguettes, and others, and burned them to death. Father Senat led the condemned captives in singing hymns until engulfed by the flames.

Protestant Missionaries Elizar Butler and Samuel A. Worcester were chained to a horse and dragged 20 miles after they were arrested near the Tennessee River in 1831 for allegedly helping the Cherokees resist the seizure of their lands. After two years of imprisonment, they resumed their work among the Indians in Oklahoma.

Father Adrien Rouquette, a missionary to the Choctaw and adopted member of the tribe, was a well-known New Orleans author, who wrote of the nobility of the Native Americans. During the civil war, he ran the federal blockade to secure food and medicine for the Choctaws, who were suffering from malaria and malnutrition.

A 2,500-year-old Tchefuncte Culture Vase.

Un vase de la culture Tchefuncte, âgé de 2,500 ans.

Two of the six Indian canoes remaining in the State of Louisiana are in the Museum. This one, approximately 400 years old, is from a time frame and geographic area which made it likely that it was used in an attack on the DeSoto expedition.

Le musée comporte deux des six dernières progrès indiens de l’état de Louisiane. La datation et la situation géographique de celui-ci, vieux d’environs 400 ans, laissent penser qu’il a été utilisé lors d’une attaque contre l’expédition de De Soto.