Wall of names unveiled

Monument pays tribute to early Acadian exiles

Empress of Louisiana, St. Martinville, La.

ST MARTINVILLE — The curtain began to part, revealing the end of nine years’ work, and Sunday the public glimpsed for the first time the reason for the Acadian Exiles in Louisiana Monument. Inscribed on the enclosure's back wall were 3,000 alphabetical names the monument contained. Names of Acadians, ancestors of Louisiana’s Cajuns, who sought refuge in Louisiana following the France-British conflict in 1754.

“When the Acadians returned to their homes in Louisiana in 1763, many of them had already been living in New Orleans for 20 years,” said Bell. “And many of their families had been living in Louisiana for 200 years.”

The names of the 3,000 Acadians are listed on the wall of the Acadian Memorial, located on the banks of Bayou Teche on Main Street. The names are organized by county and town, allowing visitors to trace the migration patterns of the Acadians.

The monument is a lasting tribute to the Acadians, who made up a significant portion of Louisiana’s population today. The Acadians were a hardy people who adapted well to their new environment and made significant contributions to Louisiana’s culture and economy.

The Acadian Memorial is a testament to the resilience of the Acadians and their enduring legacy in Louisiana. It serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by past generations and the importance of preserving our heritage for future generations.