Beausoleil was a small band of Acadians conducted guerrilla warfare against the British after the dispersal of the Acadians. The British soldiers confiscated the farms, homes and other property of the Acadians, who refused to swear allegiance to the English king. (Drawing by Mary Lenny Perrin)

**Were Early Acadian Men Really the Docile Type?**

By ALTON BROUSSARD

Was the 18th century Acadian man really the docile, peace-loving, milk-toast type that history seems to indicate he was?

Certainly the Acadians as a people were family-loving farmers who followed pastoral pursuits and maintained an isolated existence in their new world Acadia.

But those French farmers, who so thoroughly possessed Southwestern Louisiana, really easy-going and non-confrontational, had to maintain any military organizations in Nova Scotia and were taken completely by surprise and were helpless when the British rounded them up, took them prisoners and dispersed them among the British colonists.

In Acadia the Acadians got along well with their Indian neighbors and had no need to defend themselves against the redcoats. They obviously did not anticipate being entrapped in the on-going-off again wars between the English and French over the colonization of Canada.

After the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, which ceded practical ownership of Acadia to England, including Acadia in Nova Scotia, the peace-loving Acadians considered themselves to be neutrals. They refused to swear allegiance to the British king. Several dispersed dispersals of the Acadians, mostly among the English colonies along the Atlantic Coast, again left them no opportunity to resist the hostile treatment imposed on them.

Perhaps it was these painful experiences that the Acadians remembered when, 12 years later, they re-grouped in Louisiana under Spanish auspices.

According to Alton Broussard, the Roster or the various Broussard genealogies, said the Broussard name was born in the British Isles, and the Broussard brothers were living in Acadia in 1702 when the British issued their order of expulsion of the Acadians. When the British rounded up the Acadians and some of their neighbors hid in the woods and carried on guerrilla warfare under the leadership of the two guerrilla fighters, Joseph and Joseph, within two years under the Treaty of Utrecht, the British army officer who owned a ranch in the Atlan
ticas, the document is dated April 4, 1765. A ringing epidemic, believed to have been yellow fever, claimed four of these Acadian leaders, including Alexandre and Joseph, within two years under the 1763 agreement with the British.

Joseph was buried in the Beausoleil Cemetery at Cole Gelee near Broussard in 1763. He and his other fellow Acadian had settled there on Bayou Tortue, where they suffered terribly during their first winter because of their crude and unsanitary living conditions. The area was thereafter called Cole Gelee, meaning "meaningless hill."

Although Joseph and Alexandre died shortly after settling in this country, they were unknown to many of the thousand thousands of Broussards in this area could trace their ancestry to these two fighting patriarchs of the Acadians.

From this summary of Acadian history one may conclude that whatever the nature of the Acadians in their homeland in Nova Scotia, they were not reluctant warriors under the leadership and benevolent rule of the Spaniards in Louisiana. And if the Acadians were not docile after the American Revolution, then perhaps their fellow militiamen in Louisiana was typical, the Acadians...