

# Walk with Evangeline

Created by St. Martinville Garden Club



~1604~

## French Presence establish in the New World

Before Acadia was founded, European traders and fishermen had already been visitors to these shores. Native American were already in Acadia by the time the first Europeans arrived. A French presence was finally established in the New World in 1604, when in the early spring, a contingent of explorers, businessmen, and figures like Samuel de Champlain, Sieur de Poutrincourt, and DePont Gravis, left Le Harve France to settle the colony that became Acadia.

~1671~

## First Acadian Census

The First Acadian Census took place in Port Royal in 1671. Once of the First in Canada, the total count was 392 people, 482 cattle, and 524 sheep! In the 1680s and 1690s many people left Port Royal and settled other areas.

~1713~

## War of Spanish Succession Ends

The Treaty of Utrecht ended the War of Spanish Succession in 1713, make the Acadians in Nova Scotia permanent British subjects, while Ile-Royale (Cape Breton) and Ile Saint-Jean (Prince Edward Island) remained French.

~1730~

## Acadians Sign Oath of Allegiance to the British Crown

By 1730, the majority of Acadians had signed an oath swearing allegiance to the British Crown, but they insisted they would not fight either the French or the Native Americans.

~1754~

## Beginning of the French and Indian War

At the beginning of the French and Indian War of 1754, the British government demanded that Acadians take an oath of allegiance to the Crown that included fighting against the French. Most of them refused.

~1755~

## Decision made to Begin Expulsion

British lieutenant governor Charles Lawrence and the Nova Scotia council decided on July 28th, 1755, to deport Acadians. Although, Grand Pre to this day is the most well-known symbol of the expulsion, it actually began at Fort Beausejour on August 11, Acadians were forcibly removed from their colony. The British military expelled more than half of the roughly fifteen thousand Acadians who resided in Nova Scotia. Up to Ten thousand Acadians died during the Expulsion from disease, starvation, neglect, and exposure to the elements, as well as from violence from the British.

~1764~

## Acadians settle in Louisiana

From 1764 to 1789 about 3,000 exiled Acadians traveled by ship to live in Louisiana, some taking as long as six months and arriving in the same clothes they were deported in. Louisiana was then a colony of Spain, but the Acadians managed to retain their French culture. Their descendants, the Cajuns, continued to keep their language and lifestyles. This culture is alive and well today and well over 500,000 descendants can be found in the parishes of Louisiana which make up Acadiana.

~1847~

## Henry Wadsworth Longfellow publishes poem, Evangeline

The Famous American Poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow published Evangeline in 1847 and has been translated into over 130 languages. The world discovered the tragic history of the Acadians, as Evangeline and her lover, Gabriel became folk heroes. Although there are many regional differences, Acadians were able to maintain a distinct culture. The Evangeline Oak became the most photographed tree in the USA and thousands of tourists flooded the town of St. Martinville, nicknamed "Le Petit Paris." The Story of their culture, history, and romance, would be told in a 1923 film titled, Evangeline, starring Dolores del Rio, who would on to model for and donate the statue of Evangeline which sits behind the St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church, one of the first Catholic Churches in North America.



Evangeline Oak Park

Old Market Street



Catfish Alley



Evangeline Monument



Church Office

Presbytere



St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church



St. Martin Street



#1 Maison Duchamp

Funeral Drive

Evangeline

Boulevard

Main Street