

# Acadian History Time Line

- 1497 John Cabot visited what is now Cape Breton Island on his way to Newfoundland
- 1518 Baron de Léry, from France, attempted to settle Sable Island at the tip of Nova Scotia
- 1524 Giovanni da Verrazzano named “*Acadie*” from “*Arcadia*” found in the Greek or Roman classics. *Arcadia* means a pastoral paradise. He may have combined this with the Mi’kmaq word “quoddy” or “cadie” which means “place, region, or meadow.”
- 1534 *Ile St. Jean* was named by Jacques Cartier, a French explorer, who tried to settle on the Saint Lawrence River for two years.
- 1560 49 fishing boats sailed from Port La Rochelle, France, to fish in the waters around *Acadie*.
- 1598 Marquis de la Roche, from France, attempted to settle Sable Island
- 1604 Pierre du Gua, Sieur de Monts was given exclusive rights to the fur trade in *Acadie* by King Henry IV of France. On April 7, 1604, Sieur de Monts set sail from La Havre, France with Samuel de Champlain, an explorer and cartographer; Dupont-Gravé, a shipbuilder; Louis Hébert, an apothecary; and 120 other settlers. On June 26, 1604 they landed on Dotchet Island and called it St. Croix Island. They built the first European settlement in North America.
- 1605 Sieur de Mont, Samuel de Champlain and surviving settlers leave St. Croix Island and explore the coast of Maine and Massachusetts. They landed in Biddeford Pool around July 10. After their exploration, they proceeded to Port Royal on the west coast of *Acadie* and started the first permanent settlement, called *Habitation*.
- 1606 Jean de Biencourt, Sieur de Poutrincourt, from Champaign, France, led an expedition to Port Royal on the *Jonas*. His plan was to establish an agricultural colony and try to recoup his lost wealth from France. He brought with him his lawyer, Marc Lescarbot to be the colony’s notary public and historian; his son, Charles de Biencourt de Saint-Just; Luis Hébert, a young apothecary who was to conduct experiments in the cultivation of grapes and grains and establish a winery.
- Marc Lescarbot, a lawyer, traveler, and writer, put on the first play, *Le théâtre de Neptune*, to welcome back Poutrincourt from his explorations on the coast of Maine. The god of the sea addressed Poutrincourt:

*Prepare for France a flourishing Empire*

*In this New World, where ages will inspire  
The immortal fame of de Monts and of thee,  
Under the puissant reign of great Henri.*

Establishment of *L'Ordre de Bon Temps* by Samuel de Champlain and Marc Lescarbot – an effort to keep the settlers from becoming bored, depressed and discouraged. The club provided fine cuisine and other types of entertainment.

- 1607 De Monts' monopoly was revoked, and the Port Royal settlement was abandoned. Most of the settlers returned to France, leaving *Habitation* to the care of the Mi'kmaq.
- 1608 Samuel de Champlain founded Quebec
- 1610 Another attempt was made to settle Port Royal by Poutrincourt and his son.
- 1611 The first Jesuit missionaries arrived in Port Royal to convert the Mi'kmaq to Christianity.
- 1613 A settlement was established at St. Sauveur on Mount Desert Island, in what is now Southwest Harbor, Maine
- Samual Argall from Virginia, commissioned by Governor Thomas Dale of Jamestown, attacked and destroyed the settlements at St. Croix, Mount Desert Island, and Port Royal.
- 1628 Claude and Charles LaTour (father and son) built Fort St. Louis at Cape Sable.
- David Kirk captured 18 French vessels and Charles LaTour.
- David Kirk captured Quebec. Nova Scotia and Quebec fell under British rule.
- 1632 Treaty of Saint Germain-en-Laye. France increased efforts to colonize *Acadie*. 300 settlers—soldiers, journalists, artisans—settled in Le Hève.
- 1635 French took possession of an English trading post on the Penobscot in today's town of Castine. They built Pentagoet.
- 1636 Le Hève settlement moved to Port Royal.
- Charles La Tour moved the Cape Sable settlement to the lower Saint John River.
- 1650 Over 400 inhabitants were found in the lower St. John River area.
- 1659 The British seized Port Royal and kept it for 13 years.

- 1667 France regained Port Royal
- 1670 Pentagoet became the capital of *Acadie*
- 1671 1<sup>st</sup> Acadian census—population 392
- 1672 Beaubassin was founded in northern Acadia.
- 1682 A settlement was established at Grand Pré
- 1687 A church was built at Grand Pré.
- 1697 Treaty of Ryswick—restored territories between France and England.
- 1704 2<sup>nd</sup> Acadian census—population 1450.
- 1710 Port Royal was seized by the British for the third time.  
British took over *Acadie*.
- 1713 Treaty of Utrecht – made *Acadie*, to its “ancient limits,” a permanent acquisition for the British. The French understand “ancient limits,” to mean only the Peninsula. They retained *Ile Royale* (Cape Breton Island), *Ile Staint-Jean* (Prince Edward Island), Chignecto, and *Acadie* as far west as the Penobscot River.
- 1713-1744 The Acadian population lived in relative peace and harmony. New villages were established and by 1740 the population had increased to about 15,000. This period of time has been called “The Golden Age” of the Acadians.
- 1744 Conflicts began to arise between the English and the French. The Acadians attempted to remain neutral.
- 1745 Fort Louisbourg was captured by the English.
- 1747 The French gained victory over a Nova Scotia garrison at Grand Pré. The Acadians remained neutral and faithful to their oath except for some 20 Acadians who were recruited by the French for the expedition.
- 1748 Treaty of Aix-La-Chappelle returned Fort Louisbourg to the French
- 1749 Fort Beausejour and Fort Gaspereau were built by the French to protect New Brunswick.  
  
Halifax was founded by the British, Edward Cornwallis. The capitol of Nova Scotia was transferred to Halifax.

- 2,576 British settlers were brought to Acadia.
- 1750 Fort Laurence was built across from Fort Beausejoue by the British. Fort Edward was built in Pisiquid (Windsor) by the British.
- Acadians from Chignecto area began to migrate to *Ile St. Jean* and *Ile Royale*.
- 1754 French and Indian war started in North America.
- 1755-1763 Acadians were deported from all of *Acadie*, and their homes were burned. They were taken by boat to the British colonies along the Atlantic coast – Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia. Some were taken to France. Virginia refused them, and those were taken to England where they were imprisoned for eight years before being sent to France. Some Acadians escaped the deportation by fleeing in the woods and making their way to Quebec, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick.
- 1758 Louisbourg fell and Acadians from *Ile Royale* (Cape Breton Island), and *Ile St. Jean* (PEI), were deported.
- 1760 The British began settling Acadia with farmers from New England. Acadia became a Protestant territory.
- 1763 Treaty of Paris ended the 7-year war. France ceded Canada to England.
- 1764 Acadians began to return to *Acadie*, now Nova Scotia; PEI; and New Brunswick. They were required to take the oath of allegiance to England and to settle in small groups throughout the colony.
- The first Acadians arrived in Louisiana. There were 20 of them.
- 1765 The first Acadian settlement was established in Louisiana.
- 1764-1765 2,000 deported Acadians migrated to the West Indies upon urging by the French. They explored Haiti, Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Martinique, and Gaudaloupe. The climate was too hot for them and many migrated north to Louisiana.
- 1779 Abbé Guillaume-Thomas-Francois Raynal, a French historian and Jesuit priest, wrote a multivolume *Histoire philosophique et politique des établissements et du commerce des Européens dans les deux Indes*, in which he gave idyllic descriptions of the landscape of Acadia and of the character and life of the Acadian people.

- 1780s American loyalists from the American Revolution were relocated to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.
- 1783 The first settlers arrived in the St. John Valley.
- 1784 The King approved land grants in Baie de Chaleurs area (the Gaspé Peninsula) and the Upper St. John Valley.
- 1785 1,500 Acadians exiled in France were transported to New Orleans by treaty between France and Spain. They blended with other cultures and became known as Cajuns.
- 1785 16 Acadian families migrated from Fredericton, NB to upper St. John Valley and settled on both sides of the St. John River in present day St. David, ME and St. Basile, NB. They erected a cross on the shore in St. David Parish.
- 1790 The Census reported 174 Acadian citizens in the Madawaska region.
- 1797 Tante Blanche saved the Madawaska settlement. Marguerite Blanche Thibodeau, Rene LeBlanc's daughter was called Tante Blanche because she was related to many of the settlers.
- 1810 Tante Blanche died and was buried in the church at St. Basil, N.B.
- 1829 Judge Thomas C. Haliburton published **An Historical and Statistical Account of Nova Scotia**, a two volume set – the first history of Nova Scotia.
- 1831 There are 2500 settlers in the St. John Valley.
- 1840 There are 3460 settlers in the St. John Valley.
- 1841 Catherine A. Williams published “**The Neutral French; or, “The Exiles of Nova Scotia”**”
- 1842 Ashburton Treaty defined New Brunswick and Maine border, separating Acadian families.
- 1847 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow published **Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie**
- 1850 First illustrated edition of **Evangeline** published. It included illustrations by Jean Benham, Birket Foster, and John Gilbert.
- 1854 Railway Act of Nova Scotia was passed and the Nova Scotia Railway Company opened.

- 1859 Frederick S. Cozzens published **Acadia, or A Month with the Bluenoses**
- 1864 College Saint-Louis, the 1<sup>st</sup> Acadian college, was established in Memramcook, NB
- 1866 Napoleon Bourassa of Montreal published *Jacques et Marie: Souvenir d'un people disperse.*
- 1868 The 1<sup>st</sup> Acadian newspaper “Le Moniteur Acadien” established in Shédiac, N.B.
- 1869 Nova Scotia built its tourism business, using Evangeline as a draw. “The Land of Evangeline” was used for marketing. A railway station opened in Grand Pré. The Windsor and Annapolis Railway Company bought six new engines named after characters of Longfellow poems: Evangeline, Gabriel, Gaspereau, Minnehaha, Hiawatha, Grand Pré.
- 1874-1944 4 other Acadian colleges were established in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.
- 1880 St. Jean Baptiste Society of Quebec invited Acadians to attend their convention in Quebec City. This was the first official meeting of an Acadian delegation since 1755.
- 1881 Acadians held the first Acadian National Convention in Memramook, NB. SNA was established. August 15 chosen as National Feast Day, and Notre Dame de l’Assumption chosen as the patron saint.
- 1884 2<sup>nd</sup> Acadian National Convention in PEI. The Acadian flag was designed—the French flag with a golden star in the left hand corner. The Acadian Anthem, Ave Maria Stella, and a Motto, “L’Union fait la Force,” were chosen.
- 1887 1<sup>st</sup> Acadian newspaper in Nova Scotia—**L’Evangeline** was founded.
- 1888 Sidonie de la Hussaye, a teacher in St. Martinville, LA, wrote and published *Pouponne et Balthazar: Nouvelle Acadienne*. It is a story of two characters set apart by language and culture – a tale she said was handed down by oral tradition from her grandparents.
- 1890 3<sup>rd</sup> Acadian Nation Convention at Point de L’Eglise, NS. Université Sainte Anne founded by Eudist Fathers from France—only institution that continues to provide instruction entirely in French.
- 1893 John Frederick Herbin published **The Marshland**, a book of poetry about Nova Scotia.
- 1895 Dominion Atlantic Railwa (DAR) was formed in Nova Scotia from an amalgamation of three Nova Scotia train companies.

- 1898 John Frederick Herbin published **The History of Grand-Pré.**
- 1900 4<sup>th</sup> SNA Convention, Arichat, NS
- 1903 Societé Mondial Acadian (SMA) founded
- 1907 John Frederick Herbin buys land in Grand Pré to commemorate Acadians.  
Judge Felix Voohries published **Acadian Reminiscences: The True Story of Evangeline** in LA.
- 1908 6<sup>th</sup> SNA Convention, St. Basile, N.B.  
4<sup>th</sup> SMA Convention—held in Memramcook, NB
- 1910 5<sup>th</sup> SMA Convention, Pointe de l’Eglise. SMA proposes to buy Grand Pré site
- 1912 Herbin offered to sell Grand Pré site to Acadians. Acadians did no respond.
- 1913 7<sup>th</sup> SNA Convention, PEI  
6<sup>th</sup> SMA Convention, Shediac, NB  
Clayton Edwards publishes “The Story of Evangeline” in prose  
1<sup>st</sup> prose version of Evangeline  
1<sup>st</sup> movie of Evangeline produced by Finis Fox, starring Miriam Cooper.
- 1916 7<sup>th</sup> SMA Convention, Moncton, N.B.
- 1917 Herbin sells Grand Pré site to DAR
- 1919 DAR agrees to sell Grand Pré site to SMA  
  
A silent film, **Evangeline**, was directed by Raoul Walsh
- 1920 Statue of Evangeline unveiled in Grand Pré.
- 1921 Fundraising by SNA to build St. Charles Memorial Church at Grand Pré site behind the Evangeline statue
- 1920s Voohries’ book led to a growth in the tourist industry in St. Martinville, LA area.
- 1929 **Evangeline.** A silent film directed by Edward Carewe starring Delores Del Rio and Roland Drew..
- 1930 1<sup>st</sup> Louisiana tour to Grand Pré
- 1931 A statue of Evangeline, modeled after Delores Del Rio, is unveiled by St. Martin De Tours Catholic Church in St. Martinville, LA

- 1933 1<sup>st</sup> Apple Blossom Festival in Grand Pré.
- 1955 200 year anniversary of the deportation  
Longfellow bust unveiled at Grand Pré National Historic Site.
- 1961 Official opening of Grand Pré National Historic Park
- 1992 Launching of Acadian World Congress at Grand- Pré
- 1994 1<sup>st</sup> Acadian World Congress, Moncton, N.B.
- 1993- 2004 **Evangeline, A Musical Drama**, Written and directed by Normand Godin.  
Shown during the summer months at *Théâtre Marc-Lescarbot, Université Sainte-Anne*, Church Pointe, NS
- 1999 2<sup>nd</sup> Acadian World Congress, Louisiana
- 1999 **Evangeline, The Musical**, Lafayette, Louisiana
- 2004 3<sup>rd</sup> Acadian World Congress, Nova Scotia
- 2005 250 year anniversary of the deportation.  
Longfellow bust unveiled by the famous Evangeline Oak in St. Martinville, LA  
The first Acadian Memorial Festival, “Calling All Cajuns” St. Martinville, LA
- Maine’s Biddeford-Saco communities celebrate the 400 year anniversary of Champlain landing at the mouth of the Saco River. A monument is erected at Mechanic Park in Biddeford and at University of New England on the actual site of the landing.
- 2006 The Notre Dames de l’Assomption and Evangeline statues from Notre Dame de L’Assomption Church of Chelsea, Massachusetts were donated to the Acadian Village in Van Buren Maine by the Diocese of Boston after the church closed.
- 2009 4<sup>th</sup> Acadian Word Congress, Caraquet, New Brunswick