

23,000³ names in it. Almost totally Acadian and mostly from the Prince County area of Prince Edward Island.

I really want to thank the people who are responsible for my being here in Miscouche today at this forum on «Acadian history and genealogy». First, an interesting lady from Maryland, Lucie Consentino, who has a very large and fantastic website on Acadia (www.acadian-home.org). She asked me via the Internet to write an article on Island Acadians for her Internet newsletter. Because of that article, Georges Arsenault contacted me and through emails, he asked me to participate here today. A couple of weeks ago, I met them both here at the museum. So I also wish to thank him for the opportunity to express my ideas in a public forum. Lastly, I would like to thank the members of the Sister Antoinette DesRoches Historical Committee. I think Sister Antoinette would have been very happy with what you are accomplishing here. I found the topics and articles regarding the forum last spring very interesting

and informative, and this forum is the same. My paternal grandfather John B. Perry and Sister Antoinette were first cousins. Sister Antoinette told me many things about my grandfather and his family, which I had not known. She was a great woman and an Acadian patriot. I am not sure she would have approved of the name of the committee though, for she was a very humble servant of the Lord. But she is not here, physically, only in spirit, and I think it is very fitting that you would honor her memory by using her name in the committee's designation.

I would like to close now with a quote that I find very suitable. It is from Antonine Maillet's classic novel *Pélagie-La-Charrette*. The sea captain Beausoleil counsels Celina :

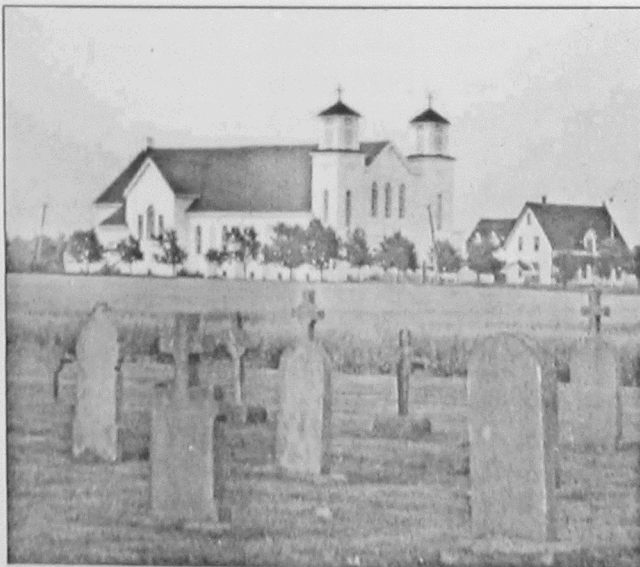
*From here on it's in the future
one must look for roots.*

*And it's my thinking
that to count them all will need
lengthy journeyings far north
and far south.*

She
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DesRoches)
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3 Now in 2004, there are over 30,000 names in the database.



The Saint-Philippe-et-Saint-Jacques Cemetery (Baie-Egmont), an example of a parish cemetery where one finds much precious information for genealogical research. (Photos : archives James Perry)