

**AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE  
ACADIANS, THEIR DEPORTATION AND  
WANDERINGS,  
TOGETHER WITH A CONSIDERATION OF  
THE HISTOTICAL BASIS FOR  
LONGFELLOW'A POEM EVANGELINE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649758999

An Historical Sketch of the Acadians, Their Deportation and Wanderings, Together with a Consideration of the Historical Basis for Longfellow's Poem Evangeline by George P. Bible

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**GEORGE P. BIBLE**

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**THE ACADIANS**

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FOR LONGFELLOW'S POEM

**EVANGELINE**

*With extracts from the original documents bearing upon the subject, and illustrations  
of scenes in and around Grand-Pré and Annapolis, Nova Scotia  
"the Land of Evangeline."*

BY  
**GEORGE P. BIBLE, A. M.**



**Philadelphia:**  
**FERRIS & LEACH**

27 and 29 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET

1906

## PREFACE

If every book must have a preface, and every author an excuse for writing it, then we will briefly explain why this book asks for a hearing.

Every student of literature has read Longfellow's beautiful poem, "Evangeline," and generations yet unborn will read and re-read it with increasing interest as the years go by. Indeed, while lovers love and hearts are true, the story of Evangeline will never lose its charm.

With its historic setting, it will always enlist our sympathies and command our admiration for the loyalty, simplicity and self-sacrifice of these home-loving Acadian peasants. The reader naturally asks how much of the poem is historically true, and where he may find something more definite relating to this people, without searching through musty records, to find, here and there, bits of information upon the subject.

Our smaller histories merely mention the incident of their expulsion, and lack of space prevents their throwing any additional sidelight upon the subject. We have, therefore, compiled from the most recent and authentic sources, supplemented by a trip

through that country, a brief sketch of the Acadian, his early struggles, his home life, cruel deportation, the confiscation of his property and destruction of his home; his treatment in exile and his wanderings in search of his kith and kin for twenty-five years following their separation. We have endeavored to give something of the life of his descendants as now found in the Madawaska country in the northeastern part of Maine and the adjacent parts of New Brunswick, on the St. John's River; on the shores of St. Mary's Bay, in Nova Scotia; and in the Teche country, in Louisiana.

We believe every reader of the poem will want to read this historical sketch, and we are sure every reader of the sketch will re-read with renewed interest the beautiful poem.

Our acknowledgment and sincere thanks are due to the Hon. C. H. Mouton, of Lafayette, Louisiana, and to Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Joseph A. Breaux, of New Orleans, Louisiana, for valuable information furnished to the author concerning the Acadian of the Teche country, and for permission to publish extracts from their letters. The sketch of the wooden chest, a valuable heirloom of the family,

was made by Mr. C. H. Mouton, a man over eighty years old at the time the sketch was made (1903).

To the Mouton ancestry may be correctly traced the original historic incident, which in after years gave Longfellow the basis for his "Evangeline." This accounts for the grave of the real Evangeline being located in the Teche country of the South, while the poet has given Philadelphia as the last resting place of his beautiful creation.

G. P. B.

PHILADELPHIA,  
May, 1906.



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