

Restigouche Multicultural Association (RMA)

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THE BULLETIN BOARD

INTERVIEW No 5

January 29, 2021



Clarence LeBreton
Author & Historian

Biography /Source :
https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clarence_LeBreton
Note: Translated by RMA.

Clarence LeBreton was born in Caraquet, New Brunswick (NB) on December 14, 1950. His parents are Émilie Chenard and Clarence LeBreton. He studied at the University of Moncton then at the University of Ottawa, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in history. During the 1970s, he was part of the team that led to the creation of the Acadian Historical Village,

with Jean-Yves Thériault, Antoine Landry, Jacques Boucher and Vincent Légère. Mr. LeBreton became chief curator of the Acadian Historical Village in the mid-1970s, a position he held for nine years. He then worked for the Liberal Party of NB leader, Doug Young. In 1982, he became director of the New Brunswick Aquarium and Marine Center and professor of history at the Shippagan University Center.

In 1992, after five years of research, he published a book entitled *L'affaire Louis Mailloux*, on the events leading to the riots in the village of Caraquet in January, 1875. The book had some setbacks due to a publishing problem and the work was withdrawn from the market. Les Éditions de la Francophonie republished the book on July 26, 2002, under the title *La revolte acadienne*, on the occasion of the Fête nationale de l'Acadie. The text was corrected and LeBreton took the opportunity to add documents.

Editor Denis Sonier stated that, "*This is too important a book, historically rich, to be forgotten.*"

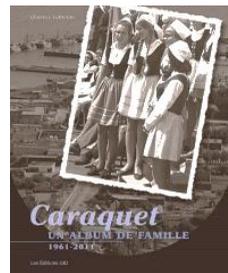
The book was a success and was sold in NB, in Quebec, as well as in Paris.

He left the management of the aquarium in 1997 to become Assistant Deputy Minister at the NB Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, a position he held until 2007.

He took charge of the Acadian Historical Village in 2007, and led the restoration work for the first phase and the construction work for the second phase. Mr. LeBreton was Assistant Deputy Minister of Northern Development and Assistant Deputy Minister of Tourism and Parks in NB until January 2011. He is still President of *L'Acadie nouvelle*, of its printer, Acadie Presse, as well as member of the board of directors of the **CapAcadie.com** portal.

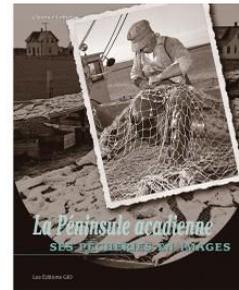
He retired from the Acadian Historical Village at the end of 2010.

In the fall of 2011, he published two books on the history of his region with Éditions GID de Québec, one, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the municipality of Caraquet *Caraquet un album de famille 1961-2011*,



and a second on the history of the fisheries of the Acadian Peninsula,

La péninsule acadienne, ses pêcheries en images.



Since 2014, he has been a member of the board of directors of the UNI Financial Cooperation trust fund.

Mr. LeBreton sits on the Advisory Committee on Federal Judicial Appointments for the Province of New Brunswick.

Married to Roslyne Friolet, the couple have two children.

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Q. Did you choose NB or did it choose you?

A happy coincidence, I think we chose each other.

Q. The best advice received?
Go for it, you can do it.



Browns football.

Q. Favorite hobby?
Watching a game of NFL and Cleveland

Q. Your passion?

I have several, including reading, traveling and golf.



(Playing golf with my son Michel in Cape Breton - summer 2019)

Q. You have the opportunity to dine with any historical figure, whom do you choose?

Barack Obama & Émile Zola.

Obama marked contemporary history while Zola and his *Dreyfus Affair* has always interested me.



Q. Best travel experience?

Of my many trips, two stand out: Scandinavian countries and Russia with my son Michel - when he was 12 years old, (today, he is a surgeon at the Georges Dumont Hospital in Moncton,

Reference: File 530 - News Articles

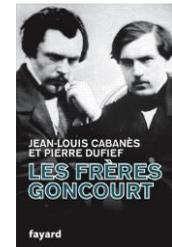
NB) and a Black Sea cruise with my wife.



(In Bourges, France)

Q. Destinations to discover?
Australia & New Zealand

Q. Last book read?
Les frères Goncourt - Jean-Louis Cabanes & Pierre Dufief at Fayard 2020.



Q. Favorite quote?
A. *God only made water, but man made wine*
- Victor Hugo

Q. Favorite author?
A. *Eric Larson* - American journalist and author of non-

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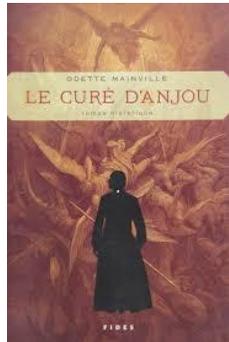
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fiction books. He wrote a number of bestsellers, including *The Devil in the White City*, about the Colombian World's Fair of 1893 in Chicago and a series of murders committed by HH Holmes in the city during the time of the fair.



Q. A book you recommend?



A. *Le Curé d'Anjou*
- Odette Mainville

Q. You are most proud of?

My participation in the creation of the Acadian

Historical Village and, of course, my children.

Q. You win the lottery - you do what?

Jackpot = Around the world tour.



(A haircut in Guatemala)

Q. Favorite movie / music?

Nicholas and Alexandra (1982) the tragic story of the last Czar of Russia. I prefer music from the 50's and early 60's called *Doo Wop*.

Q. Message to the newcomer to settle in NB & Canada?

That we, Canadians, are welcoming and offer you a vast and peaceful country... with, sometimes, unpleasant winters.

Q. A word best describes you?

Passionate

Q. Childhood hero? Now?

My father, a modest and courageous man. Now ...

Q. Your advice to those who assist newcomers?

Make sure to always welcome newcomers and actively participate in their integrations. Also, become well informed about their country of origin.

Q. The question you hate to answer?

None. All questions deserve an answer.



(In Mexico before the pandemic)

Q. What would you like written on your tombstone?

See you later, if later exists.

Q. Share something people don't know about you!

I am rather shy.

Q. The question I wish I had been asked?

What is your political allegiance and why?

**Did you know?
Source : Wikipedia**



The Historic Acadian Village is located in Bertrand, near Caraquet, in northeastern New Brunswick.

<https://www.villagehistoriqueacadien.com/>

The village, inaugurated in 1977, recreates the life of the Acadian people from 1770 to 1949.

Over 60 buildings, mostly original, are inhabited by performers in period costumes who bring ancestral customs and traditional trades to life.

The village won the "Phoenix Award" and "Prix Attractions Canada" 2001/2002.

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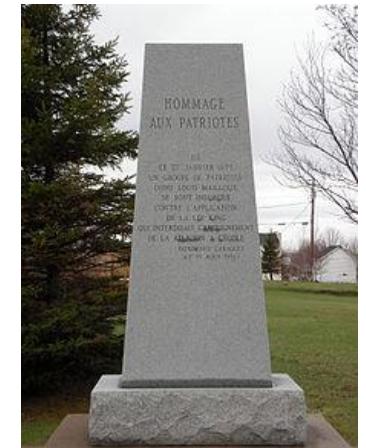
Reference: File 530 - News Articles

After an hasty investigation, several legal trials were organized for the riots and the death of John Gifford, ignoring the death of Louis Mailloux.

Eventually, all charges were dismissed in the case and the accused were released, however those events and subsequent trials tore the province apart.

More than a century later, opinions on these events remain mixed and controversial.

The Louis Mailloux affair is present in Acadian culture and part of many musicals and theatre plays.



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The Louis Mailloux Affair is a series of violent events assimilated to a "peasant revolt" that shook the town of Caraquet, NB in January, 1875.

Bill 87, passed in 1871, reformed the province's public education system and improved funding. This law was at the origin of the Question of the schools of New Brunswick which, during four years, caused many political problems in the province and the rest of Canada.

Caraquet was one of the cities with the strongest opposition. The precarious situation of part of the population, exacerbated by the control of a minority of English-speaking merchants, degenerated in January 1875.

Several riots and demonstrations, linked or not to each other and to the school question, took place. The police intervened with the help of a militia and were later joined by the army.

On January 27, a shooting took place in the house of André Albert. Two people, John Gifford and Louis Mailloux, died.

Financial partner:

