



“Claude” – the reconstruction of the face of an Acadian child born before the Deportation

**The following is a TRANSLATION of an article in French by ANNE-MARIE YVON that was posted on Radio-Canada on Thursday, November 20, 2014.**

Reference:

<http://www.rcinet.ca/fr/2014/11/20/le-visage-des-acadiens-prend-les-traits-de-claude/>

### The Face of Acadians Takes on the Features of Claude

Claude lived in the Annapolis Valley of Acadie around 1700. Was Claude a boy or a girl? We don't know. We do know, however, that this child died some time between the age of 6 and 9. He or she was buried in the cemetery of Sainte-Famille parish church, near the present-day town of Falmouth, Nova Scotia. The memory of this child disappeared in 1755 when thousands of Acadians were deported.

Suddenly, in 1996, Claude was found. The construction of a subdivision in the very spot where the cemetery was located resulted in the discovery of over 200 human bones, including the skull of young Claude.



DNA tests of the skull did not reveal the cause of Claude's death.

This work of art stirred emotions in the Acadian community. Susan Surette-Draper, president of the Amis de Grand-Pré, feels that Claude's face gives new meaning to Acadian history. She says that the British tried to erase this history, that many documents have disappeared, but that the reconstruction of Claude's face is like finding a rare gem. Archaeologist Talva Jacobson hopes that a bust of Claude will be shown in museums all over Canada in 2016.

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On July 19, 2014, at Grand-Pré National Historic Site, the archeologist and ceramic artist **Talva Jacobson** gave her first public presentation on the reconstruction process of the child's skull that was found in 1996 during the digs to establish the perimeter of Sainte-Famille Cemetery in Falmouth. The cemetery was part of the former Acadian village of Pisiqid (Windsor). Talva Jacobson is preparing her doctoral thesis at Michigan Technological University and is currently working at the Medalta Potteries National Historic Site in Alberta.

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