

LA PAROLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADIAN MUSEUM

By Warren A. Perrin, Chfairman

August 2024

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MUSEUM HOURS

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EDITORS: Bruce Perrin, Mario Lagacé, and Ryan Bernard.

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Gala Soirée Planned to Honor Lt. Gov. Nungesser

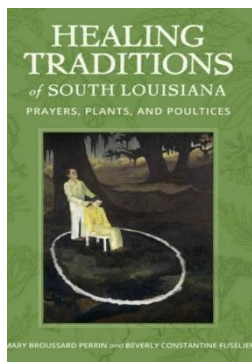


Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser

We are planning a gala soiree with music and food in Erath, LA benefiting the Acadian Museum. Currently scheduled for Friday, Nov. 15, 6 pm at the Community Center in Erath’s City Park, the event will mark the induction of Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser into our Order of Living Legends. Several prominent guests will be in attendance.

Please plan to attend and support our nonprofit museum which has been open free to the public since 1990. We are the largest Acadian Museum in the country. Sponsorships for tables that seat up to eight people are available. For tables, contact me directly perrin@plddo.com or 337-501-3049. You can learn more and buy tickets or sponsorships at <https://bellesoiree.cc/>.

Book: Healing Traditions of South Louisiana



Healing Traditions of South Louisiana is the most comprehensive history available today of the healing arts from the dawn of civilization to present times, including details on the mystical arts of the Cajun *traiteur* as well as the plants supporting their magic ([read more](#)). To place an order, call (337) 456-7729, or visit our [museum boutique](#).

ACADIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE FOUNDATION, INC.

203 S. Broadway, Erath, Louisiana 70533 | (337) 233-5832 or (337) 456-7729 | acadianmuseum.com

MUSEUM NEWS

Acadian Day of Commemoration: Henry Peterson Inducted as Living Legend



L-R: Warren Perrin, Father Jason Vidrine, and honoree Henry I. Peterson Jr.

On July 28—the Day of Commemoration of the Deportation of Acadians—a gathering took place at the Acadian Memorial in St. Martinville for the induction of Henry I. Peterson into the Order of Living Legends. Over the years, Henry has built a massive [genealogy database](#) with over 750,000 individuals. His full biography is [here](#).

Since 1997, the Acadian Museum has recognized and honored over 250 individuals who helped shape and define our culture. Many have since passed away, but we still honor them online at [acadianmuseum.com](#).

At the induction, I addressed the audience and focused on my 15-year mission to secure an

apology from Queen Elizabeth II for the Acadian expulsion in the 1750s. It's never too late to address a wrong. In 1988, I launched a petition, which is a lawsuit, against the Queen, and asked for no money. Instead, I asked for the recognition of our good name and the injustices against our ancestors, for the benefit of all Acadians.

L-R: My wife, Mary Perrin, at the induction ceremony with Marlene Menard of Erath. Marlene has been busy helping us plan new initiatives for the museum and for the town of Erath.



In the mid-1700s, Acadians in Nova Scotia were banished from their lands, costing them their property, homes as well as thousands of lives—about half died. In 1988, I began efforts toward acknowledgment and redemption of the struggles of Acadians.

On Dec. 9, 2003, Queen Elizabeth signed the Royal Proclamation acknowledging the wrongs to our ancestors and setting July 28 as an annual Day of Commemoration for the suffering of the Acadians. The apology was an essential step toward healing and fostering understanding within the culture. The only signed copy of the document outside of the Canadian Archives is on display at the Acadian Museum in Erath, LA.

Erath's Annual 4th of July Celebration



Two local girls on a parade float

Our hometown of Erath, LA celebrated its annual Fourth of July

festival and the Acadian Museum was well-represented. Thanks to the hard work of our associate Marlene Menard and her father Donald Menard—former Town Alderman and fire chief—the Acadian Museum collected nearly \$400 in book sales during the event. After the Menards took down their tent, they put out the sign that the museum was open and were really excited to see visitors pour in—some from as far away as California, France and Canada.



Along with Marlene, we are planning creative activities to get more people to visit the museum. For example, a monthly “night at the museum” might feature a designated family to honor and have food and live music. Stay tuned!



Treasures Found at D.L. Menard's Old Chair Factory



Musician DL Menard's former chair factory was full of museum-quality collectibles

Recently, Kim Langlinais invited us to pick up memorabilia of our choice from

the collection of twice-Grammy-nominated legendary Cajun musician D.L. Menard. We were delighted to come away with 15 boxes for the Acadian Museum. Kim and her husband bought the Menard's beautiful property located just south of Erath. We are hoping with enough local support we might someday open a special D.L. Menard museum in Erath.



L-R: Warren Perrin with Craig Miguez, who helped identify and appraise equipment

LOUISIANA/CAJUN NEWS

La Table Française – Come Speak French

South Louisiana locals meet regularly to share experiences in French—a great way to meet and improve your language skills. CODOFIL provides a [list](#) of events, but here are some of our favorites:

- **Arnaudville:** Last Saturdays, 9:30 am, Arnaudville Community Center. mavisfruge@aol.com
- **Broussard:** 2nd Fridays, 8:30 am, Valsin Broussard House, 408 W. Main St. (337) 445-3478
- **Erath:** Fridays, 10 am, Erath City Hall (337) 254-8522
- **Lafayette:** Wednesdays, 7 am, Dwyers Café, 323 Jefferson St. legauth@bellsouth.net
- **Lafayette:** 2nd Tuesdays, 5:30 pm, Petroleum Club, 111 Heymann Blvd. galatiolais@gmail.com
- **Loreauville:** Tuesdays, 7 am, Main Cup Coffee Shop, 101 N. Main St. joeroe@att.net
- **Maurice:** 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 10 am, 218 Chief Fred Ave. (337) 652-0166
- **Metairie:** Wednesdays, 6 pm, *Parlons Café*, 1001 Metairie Rd. (504) 982-0800
- **New Iberia:** Thursdays, 8:30 am, Cane River Pecan Company, 254 W. Main St. (337) 519-7942
- **New Orleans:** 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 5:30 pm, 1519 Jackson Ave. [Click here for info.](#)
- **Rayne:** Thursdays, 9:30 am, Bernard-Bertrand House, 1023 The Blvd. wjthibodeaux@yahoo.com.
- **Thibodaux:** Tuesdays, 5 pm, Jean Lafitte Center, 314 St. Mary St. mbreauxtoups@yahoo.com.
- **Via Zoom:** Mondays, 9 am. To connect to the meeting, contact mbreauxtoups@yahoo.com



L-R: Kim Langlinais and Marlene Menard look over some of the items in D.L. Menard's collection.

New Mementos from Erath Sugar Mill



Paul G. Moresi with clock and Underwood typewriter



Attorney Paul G. Moresi III brought us two wonderful artifacts from the Erath Sugar Company which have been added to our exhibit: an office typewriter and a watchman's clock. They are now on display along with a history of the Erath Sugar Company, which was formed on Nov. 9, 1909 by a group of Vermilion Parish citizens originally from Erath.

Summer Campers Keeping Cajun and Creole Music Alive



This article by Courtney Jennings appeared on the *St. Landry Now* website:

The Louisiana Folk Roots Kids Camp kicked off Monday in Opelousas at Le Vieux Village. All week long, the kids have been learning to play instruments like guitars, fiddles, and accordions. The camp participants have been taking part in daily activities which include music classes, jam sessions, singing, dancing, games, and folklife crafts.

This year the camp had 28 campers, some with no prior musical experience. Some returning campers have aged into Counselors in Training who enjoyed their experience and are excited about coming back to lead and teach newcomers. While many of the campers are local to the area, a few of the attendees have traveled from neighboring towns to participate in the unique cultural experience, two of which have come from as far as Alpine, Texas!

To read more, [click here](#).

Tribute to the Ardoin Family of Musicians



Home Ardoin And Friends Perform Family Musical

This article by Bobby Ardoin appeared on the *St. Landry Now* website:

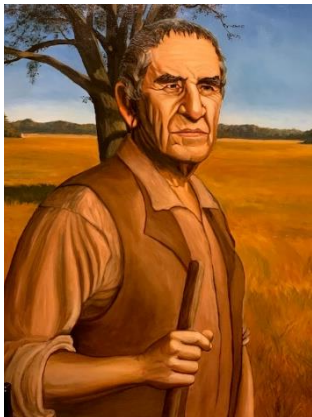
Amedé Ardoin, whose high-pitched voice nourished his ballads and waltzes performed during the first three decades of the 20th century, was saluted on Saturday with several of his songs played by his descendants.

Mark Ardoin—pressing down notes on the same type of one-row accordion used by his great-great uncle Amedé and Alphonse Ardoin, a great grandson of Amede Ardoin nephew Bois Sec Ardoin—highlighted a veteran all-star-member Capital City Jam session that lasted well over two hours.

With acoustic guitarist Don Fontenot, bassist Alphonse Ardoin and washboard percussionist Cliff Leday driving the rhythm and Bridgit Murphy accompanying nearby on the Cajun fiddle, the Ardoin-accented concert provided the same type of Cajun and Creole authenticity their ancestor once provided in Acadia, St. Landry and Evangeline parish dance halls and house dances.

To read more, [click here](#).

New Acadia Project Given Room to Explore



Artistic rendition of Beusoleil Broussard by Herb Roe

The [New Acadia Project](#) is an archeological expedition supported by the Acadian Museum, seeking to locate the settlements and gravesites of the pioneer

Acadians led by Beusoleil Broussard who settled in 1765 along the Bayou Teche near current-day Loreauville. Recently the Iberia Parish Council voted to delay approval of a permit to establish a solar farm near Loreauville which might have covered the missing grave sites. UL Professor Dr. Mark Rees and Krista Bernard addressed the council, so they're aware of the need for a full archeological investigation before this solar project moves forward.

Kress Honored by Académie française



Dana Kress Ph.D

Congratulations to Dana Kress Ph.D, a longtime member of our CODOFIL board, who will be awarded a prestigious literary award from the *Académie française*, also known as the

French Academy—the principal French council for matters pertaining to the French language. The Académie was officially established in 1635 by Cardinal Richelieu, the chief minister to King Louis XIII. According to CODOFIL Directrice Peggy

Feehan, Dana is only the second Louisiana resident to receive an award from the Académie.

Dana, longtime professor of French at Centenary, is the inaugural executive director of the Centenary College of Louisiana Press. The Centenary Press, founded in 2003, is best known for its heritage language imprint *Les Éditions Tintamarre*, which is dedicated to preserving and publishing American literature written in languages other than English.

About 10 years ago, Kirby Jambon received an award from l'Académie for a novel he wrote. The award was called the *Prix Henri de Régnier*. He went to Paris to receive it.

L'Académie awards a few dozen prizes every year. The one that Dana is getting this year is different. It's called: "Prix du rayonnement de la langue et de la littérature françaises."

Mavis Frugé Honored in Documentary



Mavis Frugé

A surprise celebration for Mavis Frugé was held on June 29 during the monthly *Table française* in Arnaudville, LA in honor of her 86th birthday and the recent LPD documentary about

her titled, [Mavis: One Simple Sentence](#).

Tout le monde est très fier d'elle! Thanks to Cheri Armentor for sending this news.

FRENCH/ACADIAN NEWS

Meet With Us at *Congrès mondial*



This month we will be traveling to the [Congrès mondial acadien](#) (World Acadian Congress), an international celebration of Acadian culture being held in southern Nova

Scotia around the municipalities of Clare and Argyle. The theme will be “Come live your Acadie.”

On Tuesday, Aug. 13, at 10 am, I will be giving a talk about “Revisiting the Queen’s Royal Proclamation on its 21st Anniversary” at the Legion Hall, 24 Corporon Road in Wedgeport, NS, to be followed by poetry readings in French from our Cajun folklorist Barry Ancelet and others. Later, at 4:30 pm, I will talk about the New Acadia Project (our archeological search for the first major Acadian settlements in Louisiana) at the Lion’s Club in Yarmouth, NS. Our Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser will be with us at the CMA, representing Louisiana at various functions.

Breaux and Hebert Family Reunion at CMA

On Aug. 11, Breaux and Hebert families are encouraged to attend the 11:15 am Mass at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, 65 Green St., in Yarmouth, NS. After Mass, there will be a lunch [pay your own way] at the Rodd Grand Yarmouth Hotel restaurant, 417 Main St. It's a short drive (.8 mi / 1.4 km) from the church to the hotel. This

is not a formal family reunion, but a gathering of cousins to “break bread together.” Hebert families RSVP nelwyn@cox.net or 337 967-2018. Breaux families RSVP to gaylebreauxsmith@gmail.com or 337 534-4107.

Maine Acadian Day Celebration



This article by Janelle Lopez appeared on the WAGM TV website:

Maine Acadian Day was held on June 28. Events took place and history was shared amongst people to celebrate the families who were part of the settlement of the Madawaska Territory.

Ken Theriault, Madawaska Historical Society VP said, “A lot of people think this is just an Acadian thing but it’s actually a hybrid group of people who came up from Saint Ann after they had lived there for 25 30 years after the *Grand Dérangement*. They were pushed out by loyalists who had left the 13 colonies after the American Revolution.”

Representative Troy Jackson read the proclamation of the establishment of Acadian Day. There was also a reenactment of the landing of the canoes and a meal was shared as part of the weekend celebration.

To read more, [click here](#).

Tracing the Experience of Acadian Women During the Deportation

Evangeline painting by George Rodrigue

This article by Adeline Vasquez-Parra was written for the journal *Common Place*:



The influence of the deportation on Acadian women refugees went beyond the 1847 poem “Evangeline.” This historical event, connecting people and places across cultures, also provides a unique perspective on gender, displacement, and settler colonialism. What was it like to be a displaced woman settler in the late modern Atlantic world?

The scarcity of archival sources presents challenges in constructing a complete narrative of the Acadian women’s experience of the 1755 deportation. Sporadic references to these women appear in French colonial archives, state archives in the United States, and provincial archives in Canada.

To read more, [click here](#).

Researching the Acadian Diaspora



Alex Legault (left), a master’s student at Dalhousie University in Halifax, is working to understand the connections between the Acadian diaspora

and the Bay of Fundy dike lands and tidal wetlands. The results of this research will help inform climate change adaptation decisions in the Bay of Fundy region in years to come. He will

have a booth at the upcoming *Congrès mondial acadien* (CMA) in Nova Scotia where he hopes to talk to any Acadians or Cajuns who are planning to attend. Please make time to visit him if you are attending the CMA this year.

Fire at Historic Sawmill Near Meteghan, NS

Gerald Comeau, Camille & Albert Geddry



Martin Guidry sent this report, written by Albert Geddry, a native of Meteghan, NS:

At 4 am on Saturday, 8 June, the historic Bangor Sawmill burned to the ground—very likely an act of arson as the sawmill had no electricity and worked on water power alone. Built in 1877, the mill became a museum in 2001 and had just undergone renovations for the CMA.

In 2004, our Guédry and Petitpas families visited the sawmill and had a wonderful demonstration of sawmill operations by Canadian Senator Gerald Comeau and retired Canadian Brigadier General Albert Geddry – donned appropriately in the historic clothing of sawmill operators.

This is a major blow to the folks in Clare and a sad day for Nova Scotians. This was one of the last functioning sawmills in North America with a certain water turbine called the Little Giant. A number of Geddry’s and Jeddry’s worked at this sawmill in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Fortunately, significant artifacts were saved and reconstruction is planned. The Bangor Sawmill is at 728 Maza Road in Bangor, SW of Meteghan.

Lights and Flags Planned for CMA



Recently, my friend Cyrille LeBlanc from Nova Scotia, sent a note about what will welcome us to our ancestral homeland this summer:

Since July 11, we have connected lights in the Acadian colours on the gazebo at the monument to the Wedgeport founding families site. The lights will be on until the end of the *Congrès mondial acadien* (CMA) on Aug. 18.

At the same site, we put the NS flag in the middle, the world Acadian flag on the right, and the Louisiana Acadian flag on the left. We consulted a Boudreau with a 40-year military history in which order I should put the flags. We put the Nova Scotia flag and not the Canadian flag because for the Louisiana Acadians Nova Scotia is their homeland and the CMA is in Nova Scotia.

La Maison de l'Acadie Celebrates Its 40th Anniversary at La Chaussée, France



Michèle Touret speaking on the 40th anniversary of the museum

Marlene Breaux Troups of Lafourche Parish wrote us about the 40th anniversary of an Acadian museum at La Chaussée, near Loudun, France, the twin city of Thibodaux, LA. The museum was founded in 1984 by our friend Michèle

Touret, who was a contributor to our 2014 book [*Acadie: Then and Now*](#).

An [article](#) in France's *La Nouvelle République* noted that the commemoration ceremony was held in Notre-Dame de la Chaussée church, "an emblematic place for the first settlers who left in 1632."¹ In her talk to the assembled audience, Michèle said "the history of La Maison de l'Acadie began in 1979, when I read Antonine Maillet's novel, *Pélagie-la-Charrette* [about] a person who was looking for her roots. I wanted to help those still looking for theirs and promote the history of Acadie as best I could."¹

In her email, Marlene noted: "It was good to see Michèle Touret in attendance, since she moved away from Loudun." Also in attendance were Françoise DuBois (the head of Loudun twinnings), Alexandra Baulin-Lumineau (one of the new presidents of *La Maison de l'Acadie*), and Karine Auger (president of the Loudun-Thibodaux twinning).

¹Translated from the French

Exposition des registres paroissiaux de Port-Royal pendant le CMA 2024



Ce registre a plus de trois siècles.

This article by Babatunde Lawani appeared on the Radio-Canada website:

De rares documents datant d'avant la déportation des Acadiens, en 1755, seront exposés au Centre acadien de l'Université Sainte-Anne, une exposition organisée à l'occasion du Congrès mondial acadien (CMA) 2024.

On trouve dans ces deux registres des renseignements datant de 1702 à 1755 sur les paroissiens de Saint-Jean-Baptiste de Port-Royal, devenu Annapolis Royal en 1713.

L'archiviste et directeur du Centre acadien de l'Université Sainte-Anne, Matthias Duc, souligne qu'il avait reçu plusieurs demandes de la population pour que ces documents soient rendus publics, notamment des Cajuns de la Louisiane qui planifient de venir en Nouvelle-Écosse pour le CMA, le mois prochain.

To read more, [click here](#).

LAGNIAPPE



Louisiana Public Broadcasting has announced a series of French films on your local PBS station.

LPB is back with a whole new series of classic French cinema! **CINÉMA FRANÇAIS** is a late night exploration of French films. The limited series airs on Sundays at 10:00pm beginning on June 30th. Dr. William Arceneaux, the founder of La Fondation Louisiane and board member of The Foundation for Excellence in Louisiana Public Broadcasting, returns to introduce the films, providing a little history and a little humor for each one.

In addition to **CINÉMA FRANÇAIS**, LPB offers French language children's programming on the LPB PBS KIDS 24/7 channel as well as an extensive archive video collection of French programs available on the Louisiana Digital Media Archive website.

For more information, [click here](#).

Alliance Française Announces Their Fall Open House



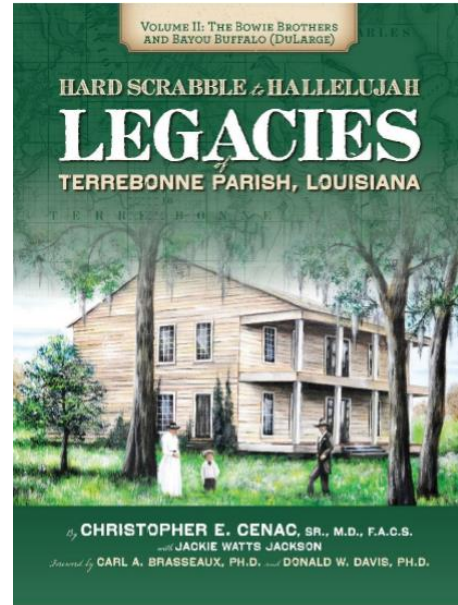
The Alliance Française de La Nouvelle-Orléans announces its Fall Open House:

Are you passionate about French language and culture? Looking to immerse yourself in the enchanting world of the French language? Join us for the Alliance Française Open House event, where we celebrate the vibrancy and beauty of French language and culture in the heart of New Orleans.

At the Open House, explore our wide range of French language courses designed for all proficiency levels. Whether you're a beginner or an advanced learner, our experienced instructors will guide you on your language learning journey. From Full Courses for a deep dive into the language, to Partial Courses for quick skill enhancement, we have the perfect class to suit your needs and goals.

For more information, [click here](#).

Hard Scrabble to Hallelujah: Legacies of Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana



On the cover, Mulberry Farm (Mulberry Place) built by Arthur W. Connely c. 1885 dismantled c. 1922; painting by Hans J. Geist 2022 from photo c. 1890.

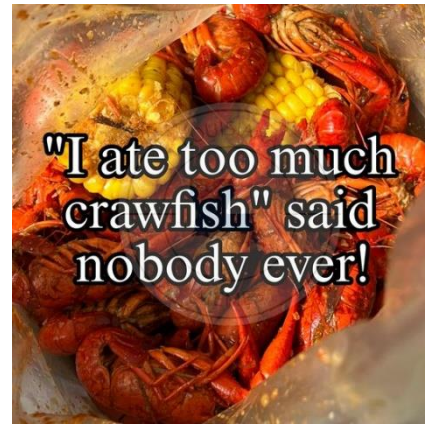
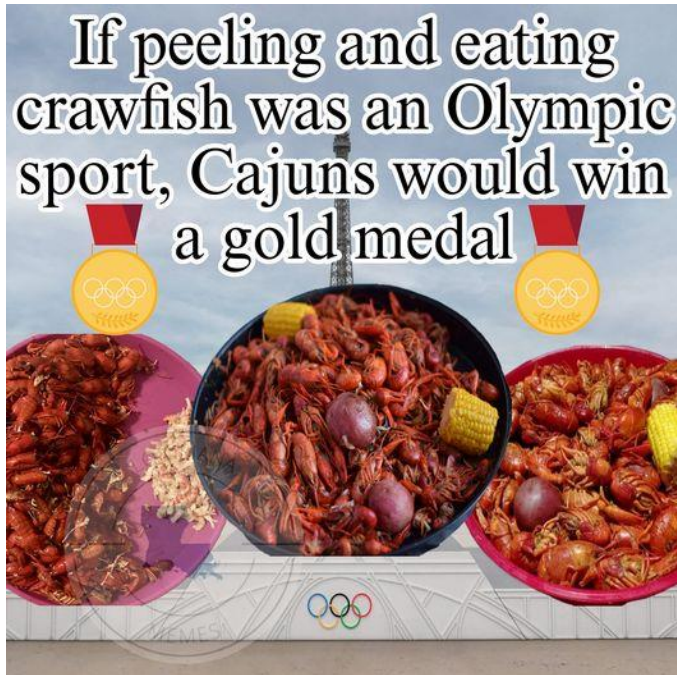
Dr. Christopher E. Cenac talks about the upcoming second volume of his new book on Terrebonne Parish:

Hard Scrabble to Hallelujah Volume II expounds upon the effects of coastal erosion, rising sea-levels, and the threat of tropical weather on the vulnerable Louisiana coast and the impact these forces have had on the possessions and livelihoods of DuLarge's residents. Always faced with the harsh realities of earning a living so very near the Gulf of Mexico, this work examines the investment made by the citizens of Terrebonne Parish in infrastructure to mitigate and control the wrath of Mother Nature. Release date Fall, 2024.

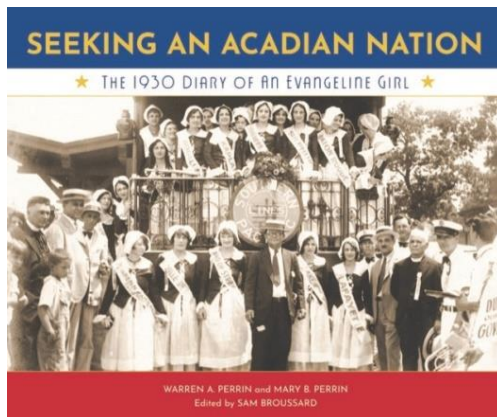
I was honored to be asked by Dr. Cenac to review the book. The book is in the final edits and we will announce when it can be purchased.

Best of the Internet

Once again, we present some of the popular Cajun-related memes we've found this month on the Internet:



Visit the Boutique / Get Cool Stuff !



Another way to support the museum is by visiting our [online boutique](#) and purchasing one of our books or souvenirs. Here's just an example of what you will find:

- [Acadie Then and Now: A People's History](#) with articles by Cajun and Acadian authors from around the world, edited by Warren Perrin, Phil Comeau, and Mary Perrin
- [Acadian Redemption - From Beausoleil Broussard to the Queen's Royal Proclamation](#) by Warren Perrin
- [Healing Traditions of South Louisiana](#) by Mary Perrin and Beverly Fuselier
- *A Century of Acadian Culture, Erath (1899-1999)* by General Curney Dronet
- [The USL National Championship Weightlifting Teams](#) by Warren Perrin
- Histories of Vermilion, Iberia, and St. Landry parishes by Warren Perrin
- T-shirts, posters, and reproductions.

Would You Like a Group Presentation?

As you can see from our [event calendar](#), the Acadian Museum gives regular presentations to groups around the region, and we would be happy to speak to your group. Here is a sampling of topics—or [click here](#) for a complete list. Send all requests to info@acadianmuseum.com.

- Acadian History and Culture
- The Queen's Proclamation – History of an Apology to the Acadians
- Folk Healing Traditions and the Traiteurs of South Louisiana
- The Development of Cajun Music
- Acadian Resistance Fighters and Beausoleil Broussard
- Louisiana: The French Renaissance: 1900-2000
- Longfellow's Evangeline: The Birth and Acceptance of a Legend
- Acadians' Role in the American Revolution
- Frenchie: Cajuns' Contributions in WW II
- Post Deportation Migrations of Acadians 1755-1800

Come and Visit—In Person or Online

You can read more about us on our website at www.acadianmuseum.com or stop by the Museum at 203 S. Broadway Street in Erath, LA. Museum hours are Tuesday-Friday 1-4 pm and Saturday 10 am-noon.



You can also see our extensive collection of historic Cajun- and Acadian-themed videos at www.youtube.com/@acadianmuseum



Still from the video of the late D.L. Menard playing at Lake Peigneur near New Iberia, LA