

LA PAROLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADIAN MUSEUM

By Warren A. Perrin, Chairman

December 2021

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SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!

If you know anyone who'd like to get this newsletter, send their name and email address to darylinb@plddo.com.

HELP PROMOTE THE CULTURE

Your tax-deductible contributions¹ can help fund these important projects:

- Finding the [lost location](#) of our first Acadian settlement.
- Transcribing and digitizing tapes of rare and valuable interviews.
- Developing videos and podcasts for distribution online.
- Promoting the French language and "immersion" programs.
- Expanding and categorizing our holdings of cultural treasures.

You can donate¹ [online](#) or by sending a check to The Acadian Museum, P.O. Box 53597, Lafayette, LA 70505.

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If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send your request to darylinb@plddo.com.

¹The Acadian Museum is a Louisiana 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Our New Book Going Statewide on Talk Radio

Historic weightlifting champs Walter Imahara (pictured below) and Warren Perrin will be interviewed on Baton Rouge Public Radio 89.3 FM on Monday, December 6 at 9 am to promote the new book [University of Louisiana's National Championship Weightlifting Teams](#). Hosted by award-winning journalist and broadcast veteran Jim Engster, the [Talk Louisiana](#) show on WRKF connects listeners with Louisiana newsmakers through live interviews and original reporting. Listeners can participate by phone (877-217-5757) or email (talk@talklouisiana.org).



Walter Imahara, world weightlifting champion known as the Asian Cajun, is shown talking after receiving the UL Outstanding Alumni Award at the Alumni House. After the attack at Pearl Harbor his family was forcibly removed from their California home and interned in a camp in Arkansas during WW II. In 1988, the US issued an apology for the illegal detention of Asian citizens and this inspired Warren Perrin to petition the British Crown to apologize for the Acadian Deportation. Warren and Walter will discuss this on WKRF on December 6 at 9 am.

Visit Us, "Like" Us on Facebook, or Shop in Our Store!

The Acadian Museum is open Tue-Fri from 1-4 pm and Saturdays from 10-noon. But you can also visit us online through our [website](#), [Facebook page](#), or [museum store](#). For group tours, dial 337 456-7729.

ACADIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE FOUNDATION, INC.

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

MUSEUM NEWS

Volunteer of the Month



The Acadian Museum has named Natial d'Augereau as Volunteer of the Month. A native of Henry, Natial been a volunteer for the museum since its start. She sold water as a fundraiser at the

Fourth of July celebration before it ever opened. She and her family have donated many items that are on display. She currently heads the committee of Wednesday afternoon volunteers and is hoping to find two more volunteers to help on a regular basis. "Come work as a volunteer," she says. "There is so much here to learn about our heritage and our history!"

Book Signings

We are accepting invitations to give presentations. Here are some scheduled talks:

- December 7, Lafayette Kiwanis Club, Petroleum Club at noon
- April 11, SAGE seminar at the University of Texas, Austin Texas at 2:30 pm

Catherine Blanchet's Life Work Honored

Catherine Brookshire Blanchet documented songs and dances in French starting in the 1940s by recording school children and adults. She taught these songs and many more as music supervisor of Vermilion Parish Schools.



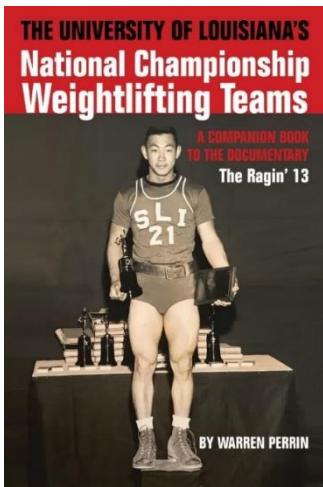
On Friday, January 7, 2022, from 9 to 11:30, the the entire community is invited to sing and dance at the Vermilion Parish Public Library. This public event is funded with support from the Louisiana Folklore Society, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Louisiana Division of the Arts and the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

New French Immersion Scholarship for Students to Study in Nova Scotia

The Acadian *Centre Acadien* and the Abbeville Cultural & Historical Alliance are offering a scholarship for Vermilion Parish students to study French at the University of Sainte-Anne in Church Point, Nova Scotia. The five-week session starts July 3.

Alliance president Lloyd Doré III says the awards have provided a unique experience and helped expand the student's understanding of their Acadian heritage. To apply, call 893-5400 or email L3Dore@doretax.com. Completed applications are due by December 31, with interviews scheduled in Abbeville January 8.

A Busy Weekend in November



On Friday, November 26, we had a private screening at the UL Alumni House of the movie *Ragin' 13* by Nicholas Campbell and launched my new companion book, *The University of Louisiana National Championship Weightlifting Teams*,

which is now on sale for \$30. The book can be ordered by calling (337) 456-7729 or [click here](#) to read more about it or order online.

The next morning, we hosted a group of team members and others from various parts of the country (and the world) who were in Lafayette to attend the UL football game in connection with the celebration of the 55th anniversary of the UL weightlifting team winning the National Collegiate Weightlifting Championships in 1966. Incredibly, our weight-lifting team won eight national titles in 13 years. Visitors included:

Walter and Sumi Imahara of Baton Rouge
Audrey Davis of Houma
David Meltzer of Arizona
Lee Soileau of St Francisville
Pascal Lozano of France
Rogers and Charlotte Romero of New Iberia
John and Susie Luke of Donaldsonville
Dave Pearce of Abbeville
Travis and Cindy Werner of Erath
Joe Murry of New Orleans
Ryan (Toby) Bernard of Houston and Santa Fe

That afternoon, our group of former weightlifters was introduced to the crowd during the football game...we won the first national championship for the university in 1957.



On Sunday November 28, Mary and I were invited by Mayor-President Josh Guillory to help host the French Ambassador to the United States Philippe Étienne (right, below).



LOUISIANA/CAJUN NEWS

French Ambassador Praises Passion for Acadian Heritage

This article by Davide Mamone appeared in *The Acadiana Advocate*:



While we were welcoming the ambassador, Mary Perrin (left) enjoyed a visit with Bishop Deshotels (center) and filmmaker Pat Mire (right).

Also pictured at the reception at the City Club are (below, from left to right) Philippe Gustin, former director of CODOFIL and the International Center of Lafayette; Dr. Barry Ancelet, folklorist and Cajun ethnomusicologist; and Dr. Mathé Allain, renowned folklorist, historian, and author.



Philippe Étienne, French Ambassador to the United States, on a three-day diplomatic mission in Louisiana, celebrated the resilience of the French partnership

with Louisiana despite the 20-month travel ban between the United States and the European Union, which was lifted Nov. 8. In an interview with *The Acadiana Advocate*, Étienne praised Acadiana's French language programs and encouraged investments in other partnerships.

"We seek for a close relationship between education, jobs, and business opportunities," Étienne said. "The French companies are the second-largest foreign investor in Louisiana for the number of jobs created, in particular in gas, but also chemistry and hospitality. There are definitely opportunities."

Every year, nearly 12,000 jobs are created in Louisiana by French companies... [and] there are 1.5 billion dollars in transactions between France and Louisiana every year, a sign of how strong the partnership is today.

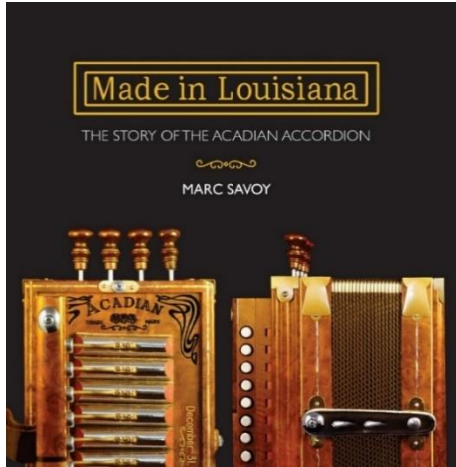
"The immersion schools are an important investment to create a new generation of bilingual Louisianans," Étienne said.

You can read more [here](#).



Marc Savoy Shares the Fascinating History of Cajun Music's Iconic Instrument

This article appeared on gratefulweb.com.



Most strands of American music have an iconic instrument. Horns for jazz, banjos for bluegrass, and electric guitars for rock and roll, but few invoke the immediate recognition as the accordion found in the wildly unique music of Louisiana Cajuns. And few know the instrument as intimately as world-renowned accordion player, builder, and author, Marc Savoy. Upon seeing a Louisiana-handmade diatonic accordion for the first time in 1957, a teenage Marc Savoy began his life quest: to build the perfect Cajun accordion. For Savoy, the story of his favorite instrument—and long-time livelihood—was one that deserved to be told, and tell it he has. On November 15th, Savoy's new book, *Made in Louisiana: The Story of the Acadian Accordion* will be released via UL press.

Read more about it here:

<http://www.gratefulweb.com/articles/marc-savoy-shares-fascinating-history-cajun-musics-iconic-instrument>

Newsletter - *Generations*

Thanks to Marty Guidry for sending us the *Generations* newsletter:

In 2011, The Board of Directors of *Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Astour, Inc.* created the Circle of Distinction to honor members of the Guédry and Petitpas families that meet specific criteria and are selected by the Board. The Board of Directors of *Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Astour* will periodically select up to six (6) persons a year to the Circle of Distinction. Recipients will receive a Circle of Distinction Certificate and a Gold Medal. In selecting persons for the *Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Astour* Circle of Distinction, the Board will use these criteria: * The person must be a direct descendant of either Claude Guédry and Marguerite Petitpas or Claude Petitpas and Catherine Bugaret. * Persons with any variation of the Guédry or Petitpas surname are eligible. * The person through their work, their avocation or their life must have brought distinction to the Guédry or Petitpas name. * The person may be living or deceased.

On 1 October 2021 the Board of Directors of *Les Guédry et Petitpas d'Astour* appointed to the Circle of Distinction the following people: Charlene Guidry Lacombe; Geneviève Petitpas Pellerin; Mark Guidry; Genevieve M. Labean; Vernon Anthony Guidry; and Gordon J. "Gordy" Pettipas.

For more information contact Martin Guidry at guidryRmartin@gmail.com.

Historians Visit Museum



On November 17, Natial d'Augereau and Warren Perrin hosted three visiting historians who are working on various projects involving the museum's mission. Pictured in the Queen's Royal Proclamation Room, they are (L-R) Chris M. Segura, archivist at the UL Center for Louisiana Studies along with Taylor Suire and Megan Wittenberg, both UL Public History grad students.

Workshop: Brown Cotton Spinning and Weaving in Prairie Greig

A special workshop on "Madame Dronet's Legacy: Brown Cotton Spinning and Weaving in Prairie Greig" will be held Saturday, January 22, 2022, 10 am to 2 pm.

In the morning, Elaine Bourque will discuss the life of Therese Meyer Dronet, a Prairie Greig brown cotton spinner and weaver and Austin Clark will present detailed



information about her white bedspreads with cordons and boutons. The presentation will include numerous weaving techniques.

In the afternoon, the two presenters will demonstrate carding brown and white cotton, Acadian spinning on a spike, and weaving on a tabletop loom. Participants will be able to try each step as time allows.

Lunch is provided. The workshop is free and will be held at the Perrin Farm in Prairie Greig, 6805 Hwy 330, Erath, LA 70533. Participants must pre-register by contacting 337-456-7729 or perrin@plddo.com.

The workshop is sponsored by Acadian Museum and funded with support from the Louisiana Folklore Society, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Louisiana Division of the Arts and the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. See the [state website](#).

“Pont de Rose” is Officially Named the Rose Ashy Broussard Memorial Bridge

Alan Broussard sent this information regarding a bridge being named after his mother:

On November 20th, the state hosted a naming ceremony re-naming the Forked Island Bridge in honor of the late Rose Ashy Broussard. More than 100 family and friends gathered on the North ramp of the bridge as Senate President Paige Cortez and District 47 Representative Ryan Bourriaque raised the new signage. Rose lobbied for 20 years to secure funding and construction of the bridge. Since its dedication in 1975, locals refer to it as *Pont de Rose*. Senator Bob Hensgens' senate bill 26 (declaring the naming) was signed into law by Governor Jon Bel Edwards on Aug. 20, 2021.



Rep. Ryan Bourriaque and Senate President Paige Cortez are shown addressing the crowd.



Alan, Hal, Yvonne, and Richard Broussard are pictured sharing the moment.

Two Acadiana Musicians Nominated for 2022 Grammy Best Regional Roots Album

This article by Megan Wyatt appeared in *The Advocate*:

Two Acadiana musicians have been nominated by the Recording Academy for a 2022 Grammy Award. Zydeco musicians Sean Ardoin and Corey Ledet were nominated in the Best Regional Roots Music Album category.

Sean Ardoin and Kreole Rock and Soul received a nomination for *Live in New Orleans* and Corey Ledet Zydeco for the self-titled album *Corey Ledet Zydeco* in a category the Academy reserves for "albums containing at least 51% playing time

of new vocal or instrumental regional roots music recordings." It's the third Grammy nomination for Ardoin and the second for Ledet.

Read more here:

https://www.theadvocate.com/acadiana/entertainment_life/article_28925356-4c93-11ec-a7a6-d781eefb8d6b.html

Bayou District CEO Resigns

We received this email from David Cheramie, CEO of the Bayou Vermilion District:

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This message is to inform you that I have tendered my resignation as CEO of the Bayou Vermilion District effective today EOB. It has been an honor and a pleasure working with you and I hope you continue to have a prosperous relationship with the BVD and Vermilionville for the betterment of the environment and the culture of Lafayette Parish. Thank you for your valuable collaboration and your friendship. I am sure I will see you all again down the road in our work in achieving those goals.

I wish you all a safe and happy Thanksgiving Holiday.

Sincerely,

DAVID CHERAMIE, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

337.233.4077 ext. 202
ceo@BayouVermilionDistrict.org
BayouVermilionDistrict.org
300 Fisher Road / Lafayette, LA 70508



Charlene Richard and Nonco Pelafigue— One Step Closer to Sainthood



Charlene Richard

Nonco Pelafigue

This article by Lisa Soileaux appeared in [Crowley Today](#):

Two Acadiana natives are now closer to possible sainthood.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops gathered in Baltimore, MD, on Wednesday, Nov. 17, to advance the cause of canonization of three people, two from right here in Acadiana.

The two Acadiana natives, Charlene Marie Richard and Auguste "Nonco" Robert Pelafigue, are now closer to possible sainthood after a vote by the bishops.

Bishop Douglas Deshotel, Diocese of Lafayette, addressed the bishops to tell the story of Richard and Pelafigue, who, each in their own way, inspired others to devote themselves to deepening their faith. Charlene Richard and Nonco Pelafigue now join Lt. Fr. Verbis Lafleur as three candidates from the Diocese of Lafayette on concurrent paths to canonization.

Charlene Richard, known as "The Little Cajun Saint," was an Acadia Parish middle school student in Richard. In 1959, Charlene, who was

12 at the time, was diagnosed with cancer and later died at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Lafayette within two weeks of her diagnosis. During those days under the spiritual guidance of Fr. Joseph Brennan, Charlene offered her prayers and suffering for the benefit of others. She is buried at St. Edward Catholic Church Cemetery in Richard, not far from where she resided with her large family. Her gravesite has garnered international attention with thousands visiting to pray each year for her intercession of their illnesses and for those of relatives and friends from around the world.

Nonco Pelafigue was a longtime resident of Arnaudville, a teacher, a producer of children's plays, and door to door lay evangelist who devoted his life to his religion. At the age of 89, he died in 1977.

Pelafigue, who as an infant in 1889, moved with his family from France to Arnaudville, was devoted to the Apostleship of Prayer League and Sacred Heart of Jesus. A humble teacher, he spent years living in a small cabin in Arnaudville, walking the roads around that community distributing leaflets about the Sacred Heart. Bishop Deshotel noted that Wednesday was a joyful moment to hear a unanimous voice vote supporting the pursuit of both causes for beatifying and canonizing both local parishioners of the Lafayette Diocese. Many of the Bishops who had never heard of Richard and Pelafigue were inspired by the two's holy lives.

You can read more here:

<https://www.crowleytoday.com/news-local/richard-pelafigue-one-step-closer-sainthood>

Smiley Anders: A Cajun Looks at Thanksgiving

[This article](#) by Smiley Anders appeared in *The Advocate*:

Here's a reminder that not everyone is so enchanted by the holiday just past:

Warren Perrin, of Lafayette, says, "I recall my Tante Edez Vincent calling Thanksgiving the *Holiday de les Americaine*."

"As a child in the early 1950s, I recall that Thanksgiving was not a big holiday like it is today. The mostly Catholic Cajuns did not take kindly to celebrating a day of festivities started by Puritan Pilgrims from New England."

He says many of their descendants were in the militia "responsible for the ethnic cleansing caused by the deportation of the Acadians from Nova Scotia in 1755."

Friends of the Humanities Announcements

We received this email from Kathleen Rosenberg:

Dear Friends: It is with much love and sadness that we share the passing of Betty A. Fleming, one of our Founders and the first president of the Friends of the Humanities (1989-90). Her grandson, Josh Caffery, shared with the Friends that the organization was "truly one of the most meaningful initiatives in her long and initiative-filled life. It was something she talked about and thought about up into her last weeks." Please remember her family in your prayers.

FRENCH/ACADIAN NEWS

Acadians in Quebec

Edmond Richard, our friend from Quebec, recently reminded me of an important historical fact concerning the Acadians which is often overlooked: Following the Deportations from 1755-1763, Quebec hosted the largest number of Acadians refugees and, therefore, today their descendants are numerous in Quebec and more than in any other place in the world. Here is what he wrote along with his source:

"Le Québec fut la terre d'accueil du plus grand nombre d'Acadiens et demeure le plus grand bastion de leurs descendants." (le généalogiste Placide Gaudet, 1905, dans *Cap-aux-Diamants*, #77, 2004)

Review: *Blood in the Water*, by Silver Donald Cameron

This review by Reid Forgrave, appeared in the *Star Tribune*.

A Canadian author's swan song uses a renowned local murder to ask big questions about ne Perhaps you remember the case: "Murder for Lobster," read headlines around the world, detailing the bizarre and tragic tale of a locally renowned ne'er-do-well who in 2013 was killed by three Nova Scotian lobstermen, sick of the man stealing their lobster traps.

It wasn't so much that the people of Isle Madame were terrified of Phillip Boudreau. Even though the picturesque island of Acadian fishing villages off the coast of Cape Breton Island had been terrorized by Boudreau's antics for decades, he

was usually relatively harmless: Threats and thievery, vandalism and vagrancy. Locals had grown to accept it. Boudreau had such a deep knowledge of the legal system, and how to evade its punishments, that locals figured it best to accept a few stolen lobster traps as the price of doing business. It was far cheaper than incurring Boudreau's wrath.

Cameron, who lived in Isle Madame for decades, exhaustively follows Isle Madame's first murder trial in 36 years. At times, his courtroom account is too exhaustive for a case that, despite haggling over specific details, seems pretty cut and dried.

Warren Perrin, légende vivante

Many thanks to Lucien Comeau for writing this wonderful article which appeared in *Le Courrier* on our past and ongoing work to preserve our Francophone heritage in Louisiana.



Louisiana's 500,000 Cajuns are unique in their Acadian, French and Creole heritages, but the use of their language is gradually being lost from generation to generation. Some, like Warren Perrin, are fighting to preserve it and continue their traditions.

Warren Perrin is a distinguished writer, lawyer and leader who has made significant

contributions to the Acadian and Cajun people. The Nova Scotia Courier recently had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Perrin and learn more about his history and journey.

A writer and friend of Acadia and the Cajuns, he contributes to his community and the diaspora. Thanks to collaboration with the *Société Nationale de l'Acadie*, the governments of Canada and France, lawyers and historians, Warren Perrin was able to obtain the Queen Elizabeth Royal Proclamation. This allowed for the first time the recognition of the historical wrongs inflicted on Acadians by the Crown and the establishment of a Day of Remembrance on July 28 of each year.

You can read the rest (in French) here:

<https://www.lecourrier.com/actualites/communautaire/warren-perrin-legende-vivante-c5c70d5aa2bcdb81b2bobaeff865b152>

French Villages in Nova Scotia to Offer to Share This Peace with Afghan Refugees

This article appeared in CBC News:

People forced to flee war in Afghanistan invited to find a new life in Clare. A campaign has been launched to attract Afghan refugees to French-speaking communities in Nova Scotia and to offer support to local organizations wishing to help the newcomers integrate. The Canadian government is assisting refugees in Afghanistan and has committed to resettling 40,000 of them in Canada. Some of them may end up in the Clare region.

Read the rest here:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/french-villages-in-nova-scotia-offer-to-share-this-peace-with-afghan-refugees-1.62442>

Tor Bay Recognized as Acadian Community

This article by Yvette D'Entremont appeared in the *Halifax Examiner*, talking about the community of Tor Bay, Nova Scotia, which is about 115 miles (185 km) northeast of Halifax.



Over the weekend, Radio Canada published an interesting piece about the Tor Bay region in Guysborough County being officially recognized as an Acadian community, 200 years after they first settled there.

Reporter Kheira Morellon spoke to ... area resident Jude Avery who founded *la Société des Acadiens de la Région de Tor Baie* in 2002. Avery had long fought for his community to be recognized and described the acknowledgement as a feeling of great accomplishment.

"Jude (Avery) came to our AGM and made a plea about why it was important for his region to be incorporated or included as part an Acadian region for la fédération acadienne, and the vote was unanimous," Marie-Claude Rioux said. "It was so touching; it was very emotional." Rioux estimates that there are about 500 Acadians living in the Tor Bay region.

Read the rest [here](#).

Gilbert Buote Award Presented



Georges Arsenault, Reg Porter, Antoinette Perry (Photo by Béatrice Caillié)

The Sister Antoinette DesRoches Historical Committee presented the Gilbert Buote Award to Reg Porter of Belle River, PEI. The ceremony was held at the residence of the Lieutenant Governor of the island, Her Honour Antoinette Perry. Here is the citation that was read:

The Gilbert Buote Award is presented annually by the Sister Antoinette DesRoches Historical Committee, a committee of the Association of the Acadian Museum of Prince Edward Island. It recognizes projects of merit in the fields of Acadian history and heritage in the province.

On his blog, Reg Porter features remarkable studies of old maps of Île Saint-Jean dating from the 17th to 18th centuries obtained from many archives in North America and Europe, many of which are little known even to historians of Acadie and Prince Edward Island. To access the maps of Île Saint-Jean, scroll down the following table of contents to June 30:

<https://regporter.com/pei/table-of-contents/>

Beaubassin's First Mothers Celebrated through Acadian Dolls



Sharon Gould of the Minudie Heritage Association, left, talks to Eva O'Byrne about the 12 Acadian dolls O'Byrne is giving to the association. The handmade dolls each come with a nametag featuring one of the 12 original mothers to settle at the Acadian village of Beaubassin.

This article by Darrell Cole appeared on saltwire.com:

Eva O'Byrne is proud of her Acadian heritage. Over the years, the 99-year-old Amherst resident has traced her lineage back to the original families who populated the former Acadian village of Beaubassin, near present-day Fort Lawrence, 350 years ago.

Now, she's donating a series of Acadian dolls she made in honour of the community's first 12 mothers to the Minudie Heritage Association.

"It's something I wanted to do," said O'Byrne. "It's important to tell their story."

O'Byrne, who was born a Betts, was first introduced to her Acadian heritage while speaking to her grandmother as a child. She asked her about the expulsion of the Acadians after reading about it.

...The dolls are beautiful and intricate reproductions of Acadian women of the 17th and 18th centuries, including the clothing they wore and the hats to protect them from the sun while working in the field.

"They're heritage dolls. Over the years I've made Yorkshire dolls, Loyalist dolls and Anne of Green Gables dolls, but the Acadian dolls were always my favourite ones to make because they represent where I come from and who I am," said O'Byrne. "At first, it took me about a week to make the first doll and it was something I did when I had the time. There wasn't a lot of time when you are raising kids. Everything is handmade."

More importantly, each doll comes with a nametag featuring the name of one of the community's first mothers...

You can read the rest here:

<https://www.saltwire.com/atlantic-canada/news/beaubassins-first-mothers-celebrated-through-acadian-dolls-100658156/>

Acadian Poet Raymond Guy LeBlanc Gave Voice to His People

This article by Eric Andrew-Gee appeared in *The Globe and Mail*:

Running into the Acadian poet Raymond Guy LeBlanc on streets of Moncton was like hearing an opera singer give an interview on the radio, the fellow poet Serge Patrice Thibodeau said. You couldn't quite believe it was the same person, the same prima donna's voice that had vibrated on stage.

In his daily life, Mr. LeBlanc "gave the impression of someone very fragile, very vulnerable." In a

world of bombastic, self-promoting writers, he was the opposite: gentle, quiet, self-effacing.

"But the second he got before a microphone," Mr. Thibodeau said, "there was an electricity." He trembled with emotion as he read bold nationalist poems, his breath as controlled as that of a jazz trumpeter. Sometimes he snapped along in rhythm, beatnik-style, or got the audience whooping like a honky-tonk performer. "I think after a reading he must have been exhausted."



Acadian poet Raymond Guy LeBlanc writes at St. Andrews by-the-Sea in this undated photo. Mr. LeBlanc died on Oct. 28 at the age of 76.

In this way, Mr. LeBlanc, who died on Oct. 28, aged 76, incarnated the remarkably successful Acadian struggle for recognition that he took part in over the course of a 50-year artistic career. By authoring the first collection of Acadian poetry published by an Acadian press, 1972's *Cri de terre*, he helped give voice to a long-silent people and cement a cultural renaissance in the French-speaking Maritime community.

Read the rest [here](#).

New Book by A. J. B. Johnston: *Ancient Land, New Land*



Historian and novelist A. J. B. Johnston has combined with Jesse Francis to produce a new book about the history of Prince Edward Island. It's called *Ancient Land, New Land: Skmaq—Port-la-Joye—Fort Amherst National*

Historic Site of Canada. The book is published by Acorn Press (Ancient Land, New Land – Acorn Press Canada) and its focus is on the Island's early Acadian and French colonial history, the history of the Mi'kmaq, and the early stages of the British colonial era. *Ancient Land, New Land* is beautifully illustrated and designed. The authors incorporated the latest research into the text, including contributions from renowned Acadian historian Georges Arsenault and historians Earle Lockerby and Ed MacDonald. This is the second time John and Jesse have co-authored a book on the history of Canada's smallest province. Their previous book was the award-winning *Ni'n na L'nu: The Mi'kmaq of Prince Edward Island* published by Acorn Press Canada.

The book can be purchased at Acorn Press here: <https://www.acornpresscanada.com/store/ancient-land-new-land>

The author's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HistoryandFiction/>

LAGNIAPPE

It Keeps Me Connected: Preserving Traditional Medicine Across Cultures

[This article](#) by Maria Clark appeared in the *Daily Advertiser*:



A cup of chamomile tea before bedtime. Peppermint for an upset stomach. Fresh squeezed lemon juice stirred with local honey to soothe a sore throat.

There are simple, go-to remedies using ingredients found around the home that are a part of many family traditions for generations. In the South, with its culturally diverse history, these traditions vary but are still observed in the routines of many households. Some are upheld for memory and other times accessibility.

In parts of rural northeastern Tennessee, where people may have plans with high deductibles or live in areas with limited services, seeking preventative medical care is not always prioritized, said Dr. Reid Blackwelder, a professor of Family Medicine at Eastern Tennessee State.

"That drives people to ask, "What can I do myself, and what did I learn from my mom and grandma?" he said.

For Beverly Fuselier and Mary Perrin, who help maintain the Healers' Garden at Vermilionville as part of the Lafayette Parish Master Gardener's program, it's a love of preservation and a connection to the past. They co-authored a book called *Healing Traditions of South Louisiana* about the history of medicinal plants in Acadiana dating back to their Native American, Acadian, and Creole origins. The book covers folk remedies and the history of the *traiteurs* or faith healers in Louisiana Cajun culture who used a combination of prayers and herbs as community remedies.

"When the Cajuns first arrived here, they didn't know what plants were edible, which were poisonous. That was borrowed knowledge from the people who were already here."

Congratulations to our Museum Supporters: John T. and Sandra B. Landry

This appeared in *The Acadiana Advocate* on November 14, 2021:

For decades, John T. and Sandra Landry have worked to help and honor those in education and spiritual work in Acadiana.

In 1991, they established an award at UL to acknowledge a top business professor each year. Since then, they have created two endowed funds at the community Foundation of Acadiana—one to support St. Theresa Catholic Church and one for Vermilion Parish nonprofits through a CFA affiliate. They have also made a generous gift to Our Lady of the Oakes Retreat House in Grand Coteau, where John T. was captain of the Abbeville men's retreat group for more than two decades. "We are very humbled and grateful," they said. "When you give of yourself, you get it back a hundred-fold."

Are You a Léger, Leger, Légère, LeGere, or Lege?

Léo-Paul Léger sent us this email about which lineage of the Léger family ended up in Louisiana.

During the Deportation of the Acadiens of 1755, the Légers were gone from the Grand Pré area...so very few were deported. So, how did the Légers end up in Louisiana? To me, there are three different families with the name.

1---- First there is the first Léger to arrive in Canada. Jacques Léger alias LaROSETTE. Those are the Acadian ones. He was in the military...did some service in Nashwaksis...near Fredericton, the Capital of New Brunswick. Once he finished his military service, he decided to remain in the area so he went to Port Royal, in Nova Scotia. There, he met Madeleine Trahan and they married. At the time, the people would build log cabins or houses, whichever way you want to name them. So, in order to get logs, they would go in the back woods and cut the trees. In the spring, they would send those logs floating in the river and would end up in the part of Port Royal they called Round Hill. Even today, if you look at a map, and south of Port Royal, you will notice a lake by the name of Lake Larose. Very few of that area are aware of this fact.

Now that is the story of one lineage of Leger.

2---- The second one is the Leger...RICHELIEU. Those are the ones in Louisiana. I had a classmate of mine, who studied history. He was chosen, with a few others, to go to France and study the old plans in order to rebuild Fort Louisburg, in Cape Breton. I asked him to look into the story of this Michel Léger dit Richelieu. If he took the name Richelieu, I suspect it was because he was in the military also, and he would

have done his military training at the military base in St-Jesn sur le Richelieu, PQ. The story goes that he would have been on a visit the Magdalen Islands and was deported...believing he was an Acadian.

3---- The third Léger origin was ...PARISIEN. I am not aware of the full story on this one...I only know one person with that Léger. In the 40's or 50's, in Canada, we had a Cardinal Paul-Émile Léger. He was a Parisien. His brother, Jules, was a former Ambassador for Canada in the US. Here is a little story he told us during a radio interview. During those years, the Cardinal had to report to Rome every five years. It was the time before the invention of the airplanes. So, one year, the Cardinal invited his brother to accompany him to Rome. They traveled by boat from New York. Once they arrived at the entrance of the Mediteranean Sea, the Cardinal told his brother: When we arrive between Spain and Africa, we will be greeted by small boats. We will put a dollar on a rope and lower it to a boat. They will give you a gift. Well, he got his gift. A small scarf...made in China.

Cardinal Paul-Émile Léger, born April 26, 1904, died November 13, 1991. He became a Cardinal in 1953.



A Louisiana Christmas



We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays by reprinting this letter from Pam Bordelon, staff writer at *The Advocate*:

Louisiana celebrates three Christmases. That was the shocking tidbit State Archivist Florent Hardy shared with those attending [a] luncheon earlier this month... There's the traditional Dec. 25 celebration, St. Nicholas Day, and the Trappers Christmas.

Hardy also discovered that the first Christmas in Louisiana was celebrated in "La Nouvelle (New) Orleans" in 1718. In fact ... Louisiana was among the first states... to make Christmas a legal holiday. [It] wasn't declared a federal holiday until June 26, 1870. Prior to then, many Northerners thought celebrating Christmas was a sin... Not so in the South, where Christmas was an important part of the social season.

In New Orleans, the original Christmas celebrations included attending midnight Mass, "*La messe de minuit*," on Christmas Eve.

"At that time, Christmas was a very religious experience," said Hardy. "After Mass was *la Reveillon*, a big feast that featured a menu of wild game (duck, venison and turkey), daube glacé (a jellied meat), eggs, oyster dressing, chuck roast, homemade raisin bread and cakes."

While everyone was at Mass, Papa Noël paid a visit and filled the stockings of the children with a trinket and some fruit and sweets. "On Christmas day, you visited la crèche — the manger scene. Gifts were exchanged on New Year's Day," added Hardy.

While most of Louisiana celebrated on Dec. 25, families of German descent living in Robert's Cove in Acadia Parish celebrated St. Nicholas Day on Dec. 5. For many generations, extended families have gathered at homes in the cove to await Kris Kringle (St. Nicholas) and Black Peter to bring treats for the good children. According to ... louisianafolklife.org, people were afraid of this impressive, bearded figure ... who was said to punish children who had not been good since last Christmas.

Around WWII, the St. Nicholas Day celebration was suspended, but has seen a revival in recent years. Today a choir accompanied by St. Nicholas, Black Peter and Santa Claus visits homes in the cove. All the children are given treats, the choir sings German Christmas carols, and sweets ... are served.

And then there is the Trappers' Christmas in Barataria. Because Christmas was a very busy time of year for the fur trappers, the celebration was postponed until Feb. 25...

Santa Claus was known by several other names depending on what part of Louisiana a person called home. To those of French heritage he was Papa Noël, to those of German heritage he was Kris Kringle or St. Nicholas and to the Cajuns he was always a she called La Christianne.

"Along the River Road plantations, St. Nicholas arrived on a donkey and left goodies in the shoes of the children left out on the porch," added Hardy.

The familiar Santa who arrives via a sleigh pulled by eight reindeer (Blitzen, Comet, Cupid, Dancer, Dasher, Donner, Prance, and Vixen) was created by best-selling author Washington Irving in 1819.

"He couldn't figure out a way for St. Nicholas to travel around the world in one night, so he came up

with this idea of him flying through the trees," said Hardy. "Now in Louisiana, we know Santa, Papa Noël as he's called, comes in a pirogue pulled by eight alligators (Gaston, Tiboy, Pierre, Alcee, Ninette, Suzette, Celeste and Renée) from reading the 'Cajun Night Before Christmas.'"

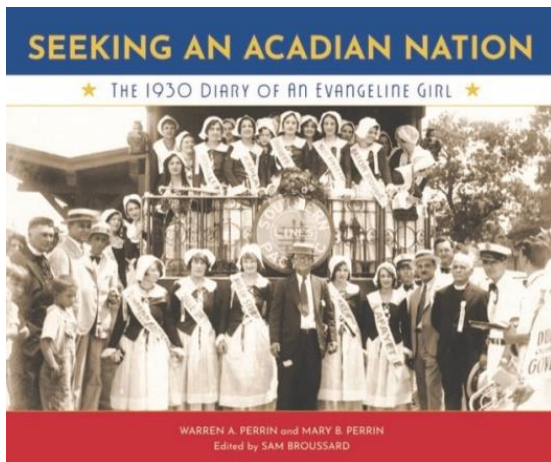
Another longtime tradition in Louisiana's River Parishes is the Christmas Eve bonfires on the levee, lighting the way for Papa Noël. "The tradition of the bonfires began with the Marist priests at Jefferson College in Convent (what is now Manresa)," explained Hardy. "It was originally celebrated on New Year's Eve." What started out as simple bonfires in the 1800s has grown into massive creations constructed by multiple generations who join together with family and friends and thousands of complete strangers for a huge celebration.

Further north in Natchitoches, Louisianans have been celebrating the Festival of Lights since 1927. Begun by the city's superintendent of utilities, today's celebration runs from Nov. 20 through Jan. 6 and draws more than 100,000 visitors. It features more than 300,000 Christmas lights, more than 100 displays and a parade as well as a candlelight tour of homes sponsored by the Natchitoches Historic Foundation.

Natchitoches isn't the only city with a Christmas parade... most cities and towns [have] a parade including Baton Rouge, Amite, Baker, Clinton, Denham Springs, Gonzales, Hammond, St. Francisville, and Walker. "Everybody celebrates Christmas," said Hardy, "but in Louisiana Christmas is a colorful, diverse and unique celebration."



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 other souvenirs:

- *Seeking an Acadian Nation*, our latest book traces the movement toward Acadian reunification starting in the 1800s and continuing to the 1930s.
- *Acadie Then and Now: A People's History* with articles by Cajun and Acadian authors from around the world. This book won the *Prix France-Acadie* in 2015.
- *Acadian Redemption - From Beausoleil Broussard to the Queen's Royal Proclamation* by Warren Perrin.
- *A Century of Acadian Culture, Erath (1899-1999)* by General Curney Dronet.
- *The University of Louisiana's National Championship Weightlifting Teams*, by Warren Perrin, a companion book to the documentary "The Ragin' 13."
- Historical "picture books" on Vermilion, Iberia, and St. Landry parishes.
- T-shirts, posters, and reproductions.

Coming Soon: Acadian Museum TV!



D.L. Menard at Lake Peigneur

We are still hoping to release our own YouTube channel of Cajun and Acadian video treasures. But we need your help finding those treasures! If you want to help with this effort, please go to www.youtube.com, search for "Cajun," watch a lot of the videos, and send us a link to the best ones (email rybernard@gmail.com).

Here is just one of the videos that we are queuing up for your enjoyment: D.L. Menard playing outdoors at Lake Peigneur with the Rees Family Band: <https://youtu.be/9EHP2TV8Y4A>

A massive effort is also underway at ULL to digitize many hours of old VHS tapes of local community leaders and others discussing their lives. Many of these are in French and will become part of the video site once the digitizing process is finished.

Once we have a critical mass of these videos ready for viewing, we will launch the Acadian Museum TV Channel. Stay tuned... meanwhile you can help the effort by doing a YouTube search (above) or [click here](#) to help in other ways.