

# LA PAROLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADIAN MUSEUM

By Warren A. Perrin, Chairman

February 2025

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## MUSEUM HOURS

Tue.-Fri. 1-4 pm —Sat. 10-noon

For tours, call 337 456-7729 (weekdays) or 337 501-3049 (weekends or no answer).

## HELP PROMOTE CAJUN CULTURE!

Your tax-deductible donations<sup>1</sup> help:

- Find the [lost location](#) of the first Acadian settlement
- Archive rare tapes and interviews
- Give [talks and presentations](#) to clubs and civic groups
- Fund French “immersion” and other cultural programs
- Expand the museum collection.

Donate [online](#) or by check to Acadian Museum, Box 53597, Lafayette, LA 70505.

## SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!

You can also support the museum through a paid subscription [here](#).

**CONNECT WITH US!** [Help/Volunteer Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Museum Store](#) | [Video](#)

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

**SPONSORED BY:** Francophone Section of the Louisiana State Bar Association

<sup>1</sup> Acadian Museum is a Louisiana 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All contributions are tax-deductible.

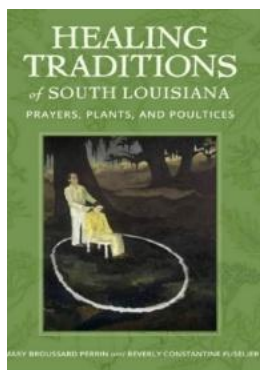
## Brrr!! Museum Gets Hit by Snowstorm, Closes Four Days



For the last 30 years, our little museum has seen all kinds of nasty weather. It’s Louisiana, after all! We’ve seen heat waves and massive rainstorms — even hurricanes that flooded the

building and sprung leaks in our roof. But what happened this past month really takes the cake (and we’re not talking [Guidry’s Cakes](#), next door). Our Acadian cousins up north may smile, but it’s been decades since we’ve seen a full 11 inches of snow in this tiny Southern town. Well, not to worry, we are back open for visitors Tue-Fri 1–4 pm and Saturday 10–noon (closed Sun-Mon).

## 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 Cajun *traiteurs* 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) 456-7729 | [acadianmuseum.com](#)

## MUSEUM NEWS

### Little Saint Canonization Work Progresses



One year ago, my sister Nat (left) and I were honored to host Postulator Luis Escalante of the Vatican (right) to help prepare the submission for sainthood for Charlene Richard the Little Cajun Saint from Richard, LA. He

and I are now busy writing her biography while Stanley LeBlanc researches her genealogy.

### Thanks to Dan Bourgeois for Donations



Thanks to my old friend Dan Bourgeois from Erath, who donated historic books, magazines, programs, and photos. Come see us any day Tue-Fri 1-4 pm and Sat 10-noon. The best

time to bring donations is Friday, 1-4 pm.

### Archeology Project Seeks the Gravesites of Our Acadian Ancestors



This month, I gave a talk about the New Acadia Project to the Evangeline Genealogical Society of Ville Platte, LA where I was introduced by my old friend Judge John Larry Vidrine (left). The NAP seeks to locate

gravesites of our original Acadian ancestors who settled along Bayou Teche in 1765. To support this historic project, you can donate [here](#).

### Visitors This Month

Some of our January visitors included Lafayette Parish School Superintendent Francis Touchet (right) and officials from the Quebec government (below) documenting touristic and religious sites in Acadiana.



## Historic Shawl Shows Its Acadian Roots

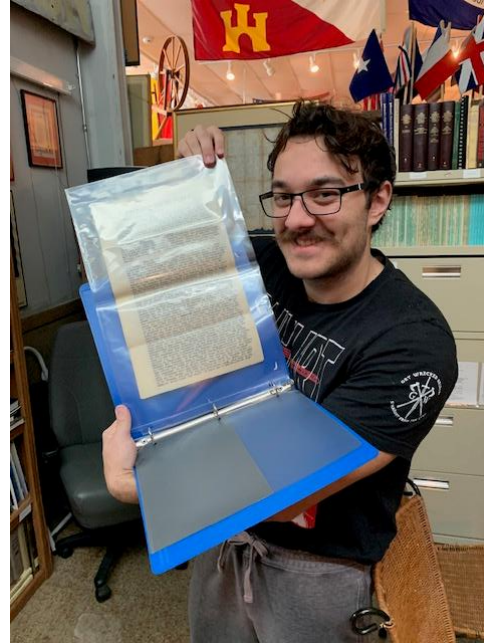


Tim Barry (left above) brought us this beautiful shawl that his eight-generational grandmother Maria Richard was believed to have worn during Acadian Deportation.

It was shown to some experts on textiles and the consensus is that while a piece could have survived, the dyes, color palette, and printing method point to more than 100 years after le Grand Dérangement. Indian block prints, or chintz, were popular exports to England and France, but again, at a much later date.

Another sign is the hem that resembles machine stitching, which of course wasn't invented until 1846. Even if was hand sewn, that's not typically how a hem would've been stitched at that time. Nevertheless, it's a wonderful piece of Acadian history that the Barry family cherishes to this day, and Tim will loan it to the museum for viewing.

## Kingfish Speech and New Volunteer



*Erath native  
Mike Romero*

This month we received a surprise visit from Mike Romero, an Erath native and history major at UL who showed us this original copy of a 1929 speech given by former Louisiana governor Huey P. Long in Abbeville, LA. He will donate a copy for us to do an exhibit on "the Kingfish," which was Huey Long's nickname. Long was famously gunned down in a shocking 1935 assassination at the Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge, LA.

Mike is a big fan of the museum and now has become our latest volunteer. "I would be happy to help," Mike says. "I can start with simple things like posting to my socials to get the museum noticed by more of my generation!! If you would need any specific media pages put up just let me know what you need."

If you have a talent or anything to contribute to our efforts, contact [info@acadianmuseum.com](mailto:info@acadianmuseum.com)

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## LOUISIANA/CAJUN NEWS

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### ***Le Musée* Recognizes Local Musician for Preserving Cajun Culture**



We found [this article](#) by Jae Malbrough on the KATC website:

Jerry Devillier started playing the harmonica at just five years old and developed a love for the instrument at a young age. *Le Musée* in Iota, LA honored Devillier for his many awards and volunteer work teaching others about Cajun music, culture and language. Devillier says he believes his work is keeping his culture alive.

"I do things like this as a volunteer, and it's preserved the music and the language, and that's all I do," Devillier said. "I'm 86 years old and I'm still going."

Celeste Babineaux says she and her three kids traveled from Lafayette to hear Devillier play his harmonica, but also ended up learning about Iota's history and *Le Musée's* World War 2 connection.

To continue reading, click [here](#).

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### **Cajun Musician Kevin Naquin Opens His Own Restaurant in Duson, LA**

[This notice](#) appeared on the KADN website:



Cajun accordion player Kevin Naquin opened Naq's-n-Duson

on Thursday, January 16. The casual dining restaurant, which is on the site of the former Thibodeaux's restaurant in Duson, LA, offers local favorites and live music.

You might remember Naquin as the frontman for *Kevin Naquin and the Ossun Playboys* or for his eight years representing West Lafayette Parish on the city-parish council.

Naq's offers daily plate lunches, po-boys, boiled seafood in season, and other treats.

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### **Seeking Survey Participants in Louisiana**

The following was sent in by Clint Bruce, *Chaire de recherche du Canada en études acadiennes et transnationales*.

Bonjour les ami-e-s ! Did you attend the *Congrès mondial acadien 2024* (CMA, or World Acadian Congress) held from August 10 to 18 in Nova Scotia? Or do you know someone who did?

We need Louisiana perspectives to share your experience of this event. Contributing to this study involves completing an online questionnaire lasting approximately 10 minutes. To take the survey, click on the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/LMDKNYc1XC>

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## Decoding the Opelousas and Attakapas Cattle Brands

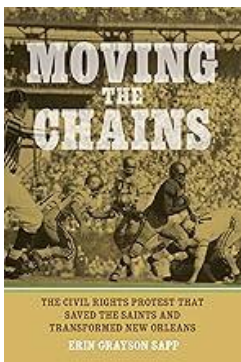


Charlotte Jones, a PhD candidate in Anthropology at LSU, will present her work on cattle brands common among Acadian and Creole families in South Louisiana. Her talk will be on Thursday, Feb. 6, 5:30 pm at the Center for

Louisiana Studies, J. Arthur Roy House, 1204 Johnston Street, in Lafayette, LA. Charlotte's dissertation project is an analysis of cattle brands in the Attapapas district recorded since the arrival of the first Acadian settlers.

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## How a Protest Saved the Saints Team



In 1965, a protest by professional football players helped pave the way for desegregation in New Orleans and sparked a civil rights movement. A friend of mine, author Erin Grayson Sapp, documented the remarkable

story in her book, *Moving the Chains: The Civil Rights Protest That Saved the Saints and Transformed New Orleans*. On Monday Feb. 3, at Tulane Law School, Sapp will join NFL Hall of Famers Bobby Bell and Ron Mix to discuss their role in the protest and how sports can change society. Participants can register [here](#) or you can read about (and order) the book [here](#).

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## La Table Française – Come Speak French

South Louisiana locals meet regularly to improve their language skills. CODOFIL has a [list](#) of these events, but here are some of our favorites:

- **Arnaudville:** Last Saturdays, 9:30 am, Arnaudville Community Center. [navisfruge@aol.com](mailto:navisfruge@aol.com)
- **Broussard:** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 323 Jefferson St. [legauth@bellsouth.net](mailto:legauth@bellsouth.net); 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays, 5:30 pm, Petroleum Club [galatiolais@gmail.com](mailto:galatiolais@gmail.com)
- **Lake Charles:** First Fridays, 4 pm, Central Library, 301 W. Claude St. [jerrie\\_abshire@hotmail.com](mailto:jerrie_abshire@hotmail.com)
- **Loreauville:** Tuesdays, 7 am, Main Cup Coffee Shop, 101 N. Main St. [joeroe@att.net](mailto:joeroe@att.net)
- **Maurice:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:wjthibodeaux@yahoo.com).
- **Scott:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, 1 pm, Begnaud House, 110 Benoit Patin Rd, [thesavoybandb@yahoo.com](mailto:thesavoybandb@yahoo.com)
- **Thibodaux:** Tuesdays, 5 pm, Jean Lafitte Center, 314 St. Mary St. [mbreauxtoups@yahoo.com](mailto:mbreauxtoups@yahoo.com).
- **Ville Platte:** Mondays, 2pm, at the Hundred Fold Coffee Shop on Coreil St. [ifsoileau@gmail.com](mailto:ifsoileau@gmail.com)
- **Via Zoom:** Mondays, 9 am. To connect to the meeting, contact [mbreauxtoups@yahoo.com](mailto:mbreauxtoups@yahoo.com)

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## FRENCH/ACADIAN NEWS

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### New Book on *John Winslow at Grand-Pré*



George Craig - Université de Moncton

This comes from Acadian historian Dr. Earle Lockerby, of New Brunswick, Canada, who is an old friend:

I want to let you know of the impending publication of a new book written by Jonathan Fowler and myself, titled *John Winslow at Grand-Pré*. It is major work (over 350 pages) and is based largely on John Winslow's journal, a manuscript that chronicles the deportation operation at Grand-Pré. As you may know, Jonathan has done archeological work at Grand-Pré over many years and has also conducted briefer archaeological investigations of various Acadians sites throughout NS.

This book will provide a detailed examination of Lieut. Col. John Winslow and his role in the 1755 deportations of up to 7,000 Acadians from Nova Scotia [which is still a] historical touchstone for Acadians and Cajuns, who are estimated to number about 1.5 million throughout North America.

We anticipate that the book will be released within the next few months by [Gaspereau Press](#).

Once the book is actually published, we will alert you so that more fulsome coverage could be undertaken. This is a book that I believe will be of major interest to Acadians and Cajuns, particularly those with an interest in history.

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### Acadian History Lecture Series Returns

The Acadian Archives located at the University of Maine, Fort Kent will start its annual [Acadian History Lecture Series](#) on Feb. 13, continuing each subsequent Thursday at 6 pm (EST) for five weeks.



The entire series will be available virtually through Zoom. The talks will cover 400 years of Acadian history, from the beginnings of French communities to women's experiences of displacement to the cultural aftermath of the *Congrès mondial acadien*.

The upcoming edition will feature experts who study various aspects of Acadian history and culture, including Andrew Beaupré, curator of archeological collections at the Maine State Museum; André-Carl Vachon, author of many works of Acadian history; Anne Marie Lane Jonah, a Nova Scotia-based historian for Parks Canada; Colby Gaudet, cultural historian and recent graduate of Concordia University; and Christina Keppie, director of the Center for Canadian-American Studies at Western Washington University.

To attend the lectures online, you must register [here](#) by Feb. 12.

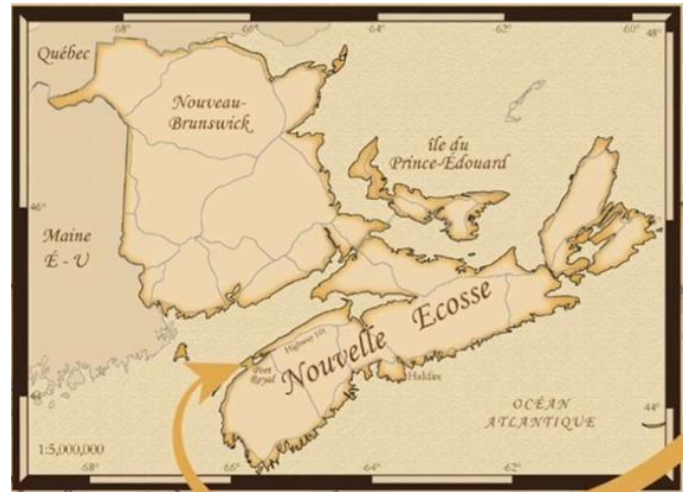
## Quebec Winter Carnival



In the weeks leading up to Mardi Gras, Quebec City has its own [Winter Carnival](#), one of the world's largest. This year from Feb. 7 to 16, thousands of visitors will flock to the Winter Carnival to enjoy a host of activities for all ages, including night parades, snow sculptures, and musical performances. A snowman named Bonhomme Carnaval symbolizes the spirit of fun that is synonymous with this great winter celebration. Every year, an Ice Palace (pictured below) is built for him that serves as a focal point for several Carnival activities. Other attractions include colorful night parades, ice canoe races, and musical performances.



## New Videos on Acadian Heritage



Robert Surette of L'Association des Familles Acadiennes de Port-Royal 1632-1755 ([AFAP](#)) alerted us about [five new Acadian heritage videos](#) that his association produced representing “a small part of the Acadian heritage of the former Port-Royal region as well as Baie Sainte-Marie.” You can see them here.

### [LeBlanc Family Monument \(Bilingual\)](#)



Belle Isle Monument LeBlanc |  
Add description

### [Beausejour - Français](#)



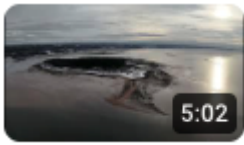
Beauséjour 2025 F 2  
Add description

### [Beausejour \(English\)](#)



Beauséjour 2025 E 2  
Add description

## [Îles aux Chèvres \(Français\)](#)



Iles aux Chevres  
Add description

## [Pointe à Major \(Français\)](#)



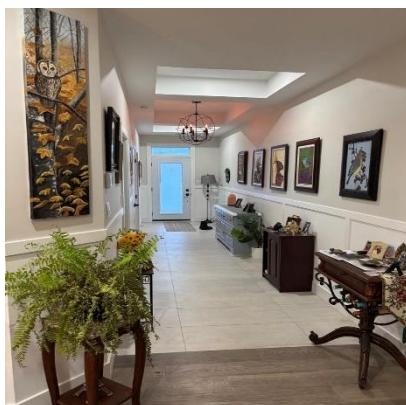
2024 Pointe à Major Belliveau Cove  
Add description

## Vacation Rental Near Shediac / Moncton



Dr. Neil Boucher tells us of a condo to rent in Shediac, near Moncton:

I have a 2-year-old condo for rent in Shediac, New Brunswick, a small hop to Parlee Beach, 20-minute drive to Moncton (many tourist attractions), and 1 hour to Prince-Edward-Island. The unit is fully furnished with all the necessities of daily life (pots, dishes, cutlery, furniture, clothes washer/dryer with electricity and heat/air conditioning included in the price. This is a 2BR/2 bath with parking in front renting from mid-May to September for \$3,800/mo. CAD (currently \$2,600 US). The currency exchange is very much in favor of people from the USA.



For inquiries, email [neil.boucher@umoncton.ca](mailto:neil.boucher@umoncton.ca).

## LAGNIAPPE

### Classic D.L. Menard Film Unearthed



Fans of Cajun musical phenomenon D. L. Menard will love this vintage film from 1979 of D. L. playing his hits and talking about his life.

Long-time museum associate Kermit Bouillion, who is primarily responsible for curating our [YouTube video channel](#), recently ran across the film in his search for Cajun-oriented YouTube gems.

According to J. M. Duplantier, who posted the video, this was originally a 16mm color film made with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, produced and directed by Stephen Duplantier and Marc Porter, and shot in Erath, LA. <https://youtu.be/ovm6C8gi6FE>

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## New Zachary Richard Album Supports the Handicapped



*Zachary Richard with his grandson Émile Cullin*

Zachary Richard has announced a new album, *Handicap Bonheur*. This is how [he describes it](#), in English and *en français*:

### ENGLISH:

*Handicap Bonheur* is a love project of songs co-written with my grandson, Émile Cullin. Émile is neuro-motor disabled, but as he says it, “only a little.” With this project, we hope to raise awareness among the general public about the challenges of the disabled and to encourage them in their journey.

We are very proud to collaborate with the [Centre Philou](#) [in Montreal], which has supported the multi-disabled and their families for 20 years. The artistic royalties from the songs will be dedicated to the Centre Philou. Thank you for helping us spread *Handicap Bonheur*.

### FRANÇAIS:

*HANDICAP BONHEUR* est un projet d’amour de chansons co-écrites avec mon petit fils, Émile Cullin. Émile est handicapé neuro-moteur, mais comme il le dit “un peu seulement.” Avec ce projet, nous espérons sensibiliser le grand public

aux défis des handicapés et de les encourager dans leurs parcours.

Nous sommes très fier de collaborer avec le [Centre Philou](#) [à Montréal] qui soutient les polyhandicapés ainsi que leurs familles depuis 20 ans. Les redevances artistiques des chansons seront consacrées au Centre Philou. Merci de nous aider à répandre le Handicap Bonheur.

To view the announcement (in French) on YouTube, click [here](#). The album is available on all major music streaming platforms.

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## Skiing on Bourbon Street

Louisiana got hit by a major snowstorm last month, leading to some unusual sights.



*Sent in by Mario Lagacé*

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## Sneaux Day at Oak Alley Plantation



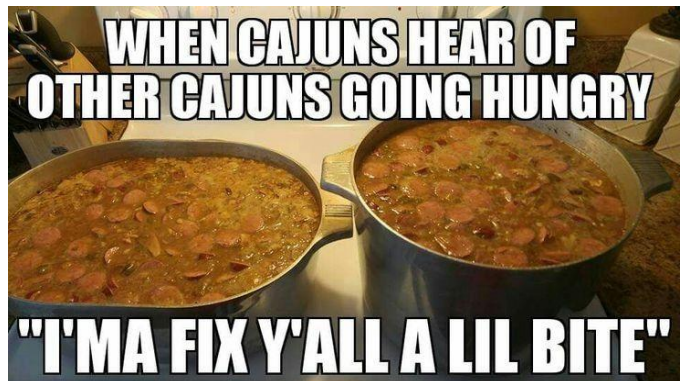
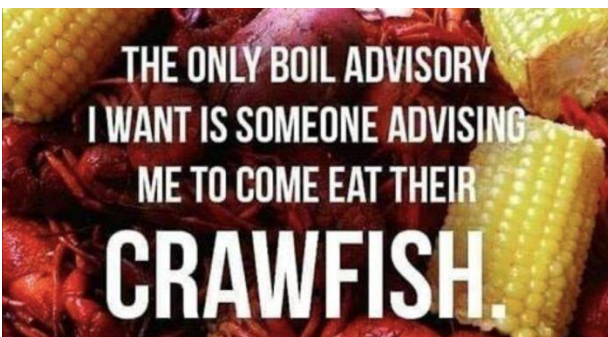
*Sent in by Mario Lagacé*

## Best of the Internet

Each month, we bring you the best internet memes courtesy of our co-editor Mario Lagacé.

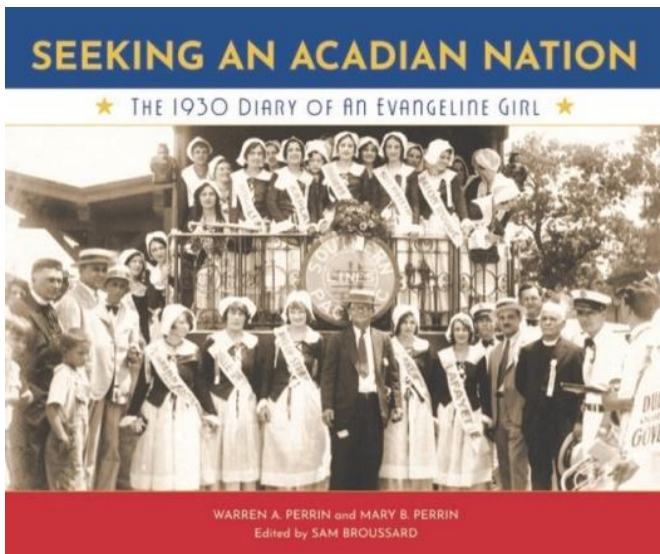


People in Louisiana preparing for winter weather



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## 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.

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## 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](mailto: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
- 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

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## Come and Visit—In Person or Online

You can read more about us on our website at [www.acadianmuseum.com](http://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](http://www.youtube.com/@acadianmuseum)