

LA PAROLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADIAN MUSEUM

By Warren A. Perrin, Chairman

July 2024

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MUSEUM HOURS

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

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EDITORS: Bruce Perrin, Mario Lagacé, Ryan Bernard.

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Museum Fundraiser to Honor Lieutenant Governor

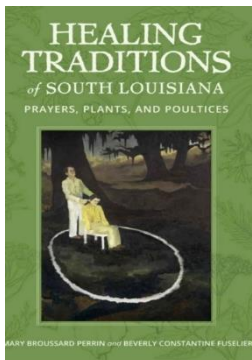


Louisiana Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser

The Acadian Museum of Erath is planning a fundraiser that will feature the induction of Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser into the Order of Living Legends. The event is now tentatively scheduled to take place on Friday, November 15, 2024, at 6 pm at the Community Center in Erath’s City Park.

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 of tables seating up to eight people are available. Contact me via email info@acadianmuseum.com or at 337-501-3049.

Book on Traiteurs: Healing Traditions of South Louisiana



Our bestseller, [Healing Traditions of South Louisiana](#) is the most comprehensive history available of 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 ([details](#)). 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

Book Talks/Special Events

Would you like a presentation for your group? [Here are some suggested topics.](#) To submit a request, email us info@acadianmuseum.com.

- August 13, 10am, Warren Perrin at Plumes et Paroles, *Revisiting the Queen's Royal Proclamation on its 21st Anniversary*; 4111 Hwy 308, Tusket, NS.
- August 13, 1:30pm, Mary Perrin, *Healing Traditions of South Louisiana: Prayers, Plants and Poultices*; Lion's Club, 87 Parade St, Yarmouth, NS.
- August 13, 4:30pm, Warren Perrin, *The New Acadia Project: Seeking the Lost Acadian Settlement in the Attakapas Territory of Colonial Louisiana*; Lion's Club, 87 Parade St, Yarmouth, NS.
- November 21, 6pm, Warren and Mary Perrin, CENLA Author's Club Meeting, Westside Regional, 5416 Provine Place, Alexandria, LA.

Museum Visitors



Shown visiting the museum are Kristine Adams, Leigh Anne Salathe, and Gary Salathe, who is leading the effort to save the Abbeville Red Iris from the threat of salt water intrusion. Gary wrote after the visit: "Our granddaughter

Kristine was reeling after we got into the car about how much she didn't know about Acadians and now does."

Book Authors Visit the Museum



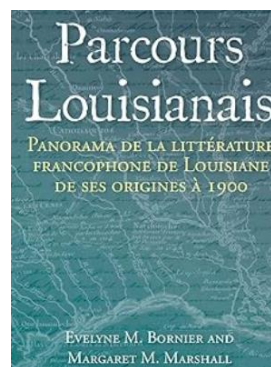
Margaret Marshall



Evelyne Bornier

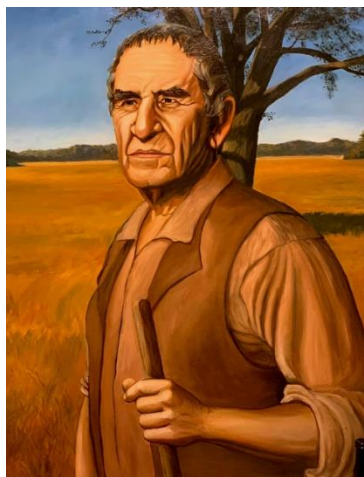
Recently, the Acadian Museum hosted authors Margaret Marshall and Evelyne Bornier, who have co-authored a new book, *Parcours Louisianais*—a remarkable collection of writings from French Louisiana including biography, history, and literature over several centuries.

Evelyne is a Professor of French at Auburn University and holds a PhD from LSU. Margaret has a PhD in French from Pennsylvania State and is one of the co-authors of the [Dictionary of Louisiana Creole](#). Both have served as past presidents of the CODOFIL Consortium.



I was honored when they asked me to contribute in a small way by writing the foreword (*avant-propos*) of Volume 1. The book can be purchased for \$34.95 on the UL Press website [here](#).

Our Beausoleil Portrait Will Be Used for Classrooms in Canada



Portrait of Beausoleil Broussard by the artist Robert Dafford

Earlier this year, I received a request—which was granted—to use the Acadian Museum’s portrait of Beausoleil by Robert Dafford. The request came from

Rose Lenescart of the *Centre franco-ontarien de ressources pédagogiques*, in Ottawa, ON. The plans are to teach Ontarian children about Acadian history. This is positive news because generally Franco-Ontarians know very little about Acadia and Louisiana. The museum also has this document on display next to the painting:

“Colonel Frye, Fort Cumberland, to His Excellency Gov. Charles Lawrence Dec. 10th, 1759. 'On the 16th of Novr. past, Alexander Brusard [Broussard], Simon Martin, Jean Bass, and Joseph Beausoleil Brusard, arrived here under a Flag of Truce, as Deputies for about 190 French Men, Women and Children, residing in the Departments of Pitcouidiack and Memoramcook - at the same time informed me they were in a miserable Condition for want of Provisions...”

These Acadians—and others captured by the British—were imprisoned in Halifax for four years until the 1763 Treaty of Paris freed them and allowed their departure for Louisiana where they transplanted their culture and created a New Acadia.

LOUISIANA/CAJUN NEWS

La Table Française – Come Speak French

South Louisiana locals meet regularly to talk French—a great way to meet others and improve your *patois*. CODOFIL provides a [list](#) of these events, but here are some of our favorites:

- **Arnaudville:** Last Saturdays, 9:30 am, Arnaudville Community Center. navisfruge@aol.com
- **Broussard:** 2nd Fridays, 8:30 am, Valsin Broussard House, 408 W. Main St. (337) 445-3478
- **Erath:** Fridays (except July 5), 10 am, Erath City Hall
- **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
- **Opelousas:** Last Wednesdays, 8:30 am, Orphan Train Museum, 828 E. Landry, [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/337-948-6263) 337-948-6263
- **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. withibodeaux@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

Bernard F. Duhon Receives Award for French Heritage



Shown is Attorney Warren A. Perrin (right), chairman of the Francophone Section of the La. State Bar Association, presenting the award to Attorney Bernard F. Duhon.

On June 20, 2024, the Francophone Section of the La. State Bar Association presented the John A. "T-Jean" Hernandez III Memorial Award to Attorney Bernard F. Duhon. The award is given for outstanding service in promotion of French heritage and culture. The Francophone Section's mission is to encourage and foster discussions in the field of francophone issues; to contribute to and provide opportunities for the continuing education of attorneys who deal with francophone issues; to promote interest in and study of the existing statutes and jurisprudence which govern this field of civil law in Louisiana.

Mondo Duplantis 'Born to Fly' Hits TV, Streaming Online



Lafayette born Duplantis has Cajun roots.

This article by Megan Wyatt appeared on the *Acadiana Advocate* website:

A documentary about Armand "Mondo" Duplantis, the world champion pole vaulter from Lafayette, [started] airing May 31 on the Olympic Channel and streaming online at olympics.com.

The film's North American premiere happened in 2023 at the Austin Film Festival. Soon after, the film had its Louisiana debut at the New Orleans Film Festival and hometown premiere at the Southern Screen Film Festival. This month's TV release marks the first time "Born to Fly" is available to American viewers on a wide scale.

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

Dustin Poirier Ethnicity: Explaining UFC Star's French Connection



This article by Krushna Prasad Pattnaik appeared on the *Essentially Sports* website:

Dustin Poirier is all set to land against Islam Makhachev and try to claim the UFC lightweight championship belt at UFC 302. The 'Diamond' won his last bout with an impressive knockout in the second round, and is expecting to get a winning streak back on his resume. With 30 victories and just 8 losses to his name, Poirier is indeed a mixed martial artist holding the skills to be reckoned with.

But this time, Poirier has claimed that it will probably be his last chance to try and win the lightweight championship belt. He would surely do everything that he could to win. However, the Dagestani fighter is not someone he can take lightly. Makhachev has the backing of Khabib Nurmagomedov, the former LW champ who once defeated Poirier. Many have assumed that it's the Dagestani lineage that ensured Nurmagomedov's win. But have you ever thought if Poirier's lineage was what made him such a strong opponent? Let's take a look at the mixed martial artist's ethnicity.

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

Bastille Day Fête Planned in New Orleans



We got this note from *Alliance Française de la Nouvelle-Orléans*:

It's that time of year again, when I am very proud to invite you to our Bastille Day Fête on July 12 from 6 to 10 pm at the Alliance Française, 1519 Jackson Ave. Programming will include a costume contest, "silent disco," and live music by the New Orleans band Pardon my French. The Consul General of France in Louisiana, Rodolphe Sambou, will be giving a speech and toast to France during the event.

Join us in celebrating a more ecofriendly festival this year! We are committed to reducing our environmental impact by using ecofriendly practices throughout the event. Enjoy your drinks in reusable cups (*verres consignés*) and help us limit nonbiodegradable and unrecyclable waste. Together, we can make this Bastille Day a celebration of not only French culture but also our commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility. Let's enjoy the festivities while caring for our planet!

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

Special Mass Planned for Bastille Day

We got this note from Lillie Petit Gallagher:

Our paths have not crossed in years but despite getting old, at 87, I'm still kicking (albeit not quite as high as I once did). Each year I organize a mass in observance of Bastille Day. This year on Sunday July 14, the mass will be televised (Cox Channel 15) and celebrated at 10:30am at St. Joseph Cathedral in downtown Baton Rouge. Father Carey Bani will be the celebrant and Father Michael David will deliver the homily.

Prior to the mass, there will be a half-hour French organ music concert featuring David Summers and John Paul Chauvin performing the works of Eugene Gigout, César Franck, and Louis Vierne. Cantor Andy Plaisance will present the beautiful *Cantique de Jean Racine* by Gabriel Fauré. A reception will follow in the Parish hall and all are invited. More information is available on [this Facebook page](#).

Speakers Planned for 46th Annual Lafourche Heritage Society Seminar

The annual Lafourche Heritage Society seminar will be held on Saturday, August 3, in Thibodaux, LA at the Thibodaux Hospital Wellness Center on N. Acadia Road. Speakers will include Martha Aubert from the Orphan Train Museum in Opelousas, along with authors J'rai Honora (*Tracing Genealogy through DNA*), Brian Costello (*Ethnic Groups of Pointe Coupee Parish*), Will Theriot (*Veterans of the Lafourche/Terrebonne Region*), and Alan Gauthreaux (*Italian Louisiana: History, Heritage, and Tradition*).

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

Cajun Musician Known as 'Chere Alice Man' in Recovery after Severe Accident



Johnny Sonnier

This article by Joanna Brown appeared on the *Acadiana Advocate* website:

Since retiring as an active musician about three years ago, Johnny Sonnier says he's been spending his days building accordions, working on his vehicles, and every now and then jumping in to play when a friend needs help. But after a recent accident in his driveway in Scott, LA that damaged his right arm, shoulder and lungs, one of Cajun music's most well-known players is looking at a long road to recovery.

Sonnier was working on a car when the accident happened. While he was underneath the vehicle, it moved off the ramp, pinning him underneath and breaking his ribs, nose and cheekbone. Right now he has almost no use of his right arm, hand and shoulder, making the future uncertain for this right-handed musician and accordion builder.

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

CODOFIL Day at the Louisiana Capitol



CODOFIL delegation displaying the resolution with supportive legislators.

May 8 was CODOFIL Day at the Louisiana State Capitol. I was proud to be there along with our Director Peggy Feehan, President Bernel Lemoine, staff, UL professors and board member Michael Vincent. Our group was recognized by the House of Representatives with a concurrent resolution designating Wednesday, May 8, as CODOFIL Day. The resolution stated that:

The Louisiana brand is greatly enhanced by its French and Creole culture, heritage, and languages. To sustain this brand and promote future economic growth, Louisiana should maintain a robust bilingual system and should continue to cultivate relationships with its international partners, a list that includes France, Belgium, Quebec, and New Brunswick.

Louisiana is the first state in the union to be accepted into the *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie*, which [includes] 88 French countries from around the world representing 300 million French speakers. As Louisiana's state agency for francophone affairs, CODOFIL continues to nurture and grow international

partnerships, and these partnerships result in economic growth for the state.

The Legislature of Louisiana does hereby ... commend the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana for its manifold contributions to the culture and economy of Louisiana.

SAVE THE DATE! Acadiana Brew HaHa



This came to us from Vermilionville:

It's brewing! Come enjoy the best brews from local breweries (Including this year, Vermilionville BrewHouse!) as well as workshops on home brewing, presentations on the history of brewing (Ancient Egypt loved their beer!) information from the pros and see who takes the top spot in our Best Brew contests, voted on by the public and our esteemed judges. It's all about the Brew, coming July 20 -- tickets on sale soon!

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

Bastille Day Celebration in Baton Rouge

The Friends of French Studies of LSU are presenting a Bastille Day Celebration, Sunday, July 14th, 2-4pm at Magnolia Mound Plantation 2161 Nicholson Dr., Baton Rouge, LA. Wine, music, light hors d'oeuvres will be served and the keynote speaker will be Magnolia Mound Museum Executive Director John Sykes. For more, contact friendsoffrench@lsu.edu.

Acadian Music Legend Corey Ledet Inducted into Louisiana Music Hall of Fame

This article appeared on the KADN website:

A local music legend has received statewide recognition. Corey Ledet, a popular singer, songwriter, and accordion virtuoso, was inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame on Thursday, June 20.



[Click here](#) to read the rest of the story.

National Veteran Wheelchair Games Roll into New Orleans



The SE Louisiana Veterans Health Care System and Bayou Gulf

States Paralyzed Veterans of America Chapter will host the 43rd National Veterans Wheelchair Games in New Orleans from July 25–30. The games need volunteers to serve as escorts, timekeepers, scorekeepers, and much more. To volunteer, visit wheelchairgames.org.

FRENCH/ACADIAN NEWS

Acadian Groups Say Chignecto Isthmus Should Be Designated National Park



Chignecto isthmus—on the border between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick—is where the Acadian deportations started in 1755.

This article by Keith Doucette appeared on the CTV News website:

Acadians in Atlantic Canada are proposing that the Chignecto Isthmus, which links New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, be turned into a national park. The proposal is contained in a brief submitted this month to the Senate committee currently considering a bill that ... would make Ottawa responsible for work to protect the narrow low-lying land corridor.

The *Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse* and the *Société nationale de l'Acadie* were also part of the brief submitted to the standing committee on transport and communications. Nicole Arseneau-Sluyter, acting president of the *Société de l'Acadie du NB*, said the national park designation would help protect an area of cultural significance to Acadians.

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

'My Trademark Is My Accent': Acadians Embrace Their Brand of French



Jacques Alphonse Doucet, an Acadian originally from Grosses Coques, NS, says he grew up being told by some teachers that he spoke poor French.

This article by Richard Woodbury appeared on the CBC website:

Jacques Alphonse Doucet was in high school when he was at a Burger King in Quebec and ran into a language problem. Doucet, who is originally from the Clare, N.S., area, was trying to order in French. But there was a problem. With Doucet's Acadian accent, the employee requested he speak English instead.

"I couldn't understand a word she was saying in English and she couldn't understand anything in French, so it was just a weird situation," said the 41-year-old.

It wasn't the only time during the trip that people asked him to speak English. "But by ... the end of the week, I was kind of insecure," said Doucet. "Then I was really insecure about my French because I was told it was so bad for so long and I was a bit frustrated."

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

A 700-Pound Tuna Netted in NB!!



A native fisherman found a 700-pound tuna in his salmon net in northern NB—an unusual catch in this area. The fisherman will not make any money with this tuna because native

traditions dictate that the fish must be shared with the rest of the community. This article by Serge Bouchard appeared on the Radio-Canada website:

Un pêcheur autochtone a eu la surprise de sa vie lorsqu'il a découvert un thon dans l'un de ses filets de pêche au saumon au fond de la baie des Chaleurs, au Nouveau-Brunswick. Les filets de pêche au saumon de Earl LaBillois sont situés près de la rivière Charlo, dans un secteur connu sous le nom de Pointe-à-Goulette.

Lorsqu'il est allé les vérifier avec son assistant Ethan Hogan, vendredi matin, un thon de plus de 700 livres (320 kg) les y attendait.

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

A Canadian Perspective on Louisiana



Our friend Marlene Toups from Houma alerted us to a recent article providing a Canadian perspective on Cajun country published by *The Globe and Mail*, one of the country's major newspapers based in Toronto:

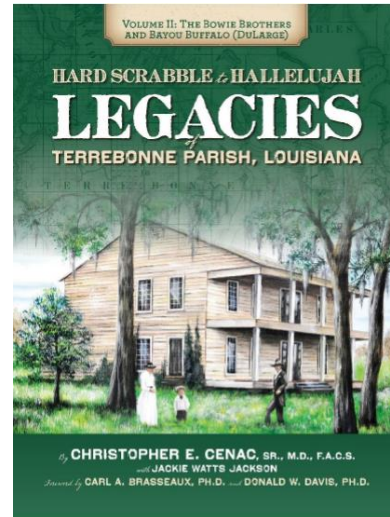
Last December at Cercle Francophone, we hosted a journalist from *The Globe and Mail*. (As Claude Boudreau in New Brunswick says, "That's like your *NY Times*!")

The resulting story appeared in Canada at the end of May, and I just got around to reading it. I think she did a good job of highlighting the parish's Cajun culture. She really did eat her way up and down the bayou and seemed really interested in the culture. I think she passed a good time!

To read the story, [click here](#).

LAGNIAPPE

Hard Scrabble to Hallelujah: Legacies of Terrebonne Parish

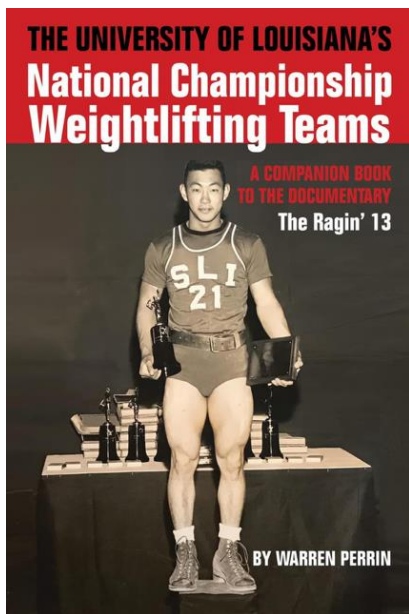


This note by Dr. Christopher E. Cenac describes his new book, *Hard Scrabble to Hallelujah: Legacies of Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana*:

From the early Spanish Land Grants followed by the influx of frontiersmen and land speculators, the book addresses Bayou DuLarge's rich history, unique cultures, and diverse populations of Native Americans, Protestants, Foreign-French (les français étrangers), Acadians, Europeans, and African-Americans (some who were descendants of former slaves), all of whom contributed to the distinct and vibrant communities located throughout the bayou's 37-mile length. The book documents the enterprises that helped create Terrebonne Parish: sugar plantations, cypress and syrup mills, rice farms, shrimp-drying platforms, fur trapping, boat building, soft-shell crab, shrimp, oyster, and turtle harvesting, raising livestock, and the burgeoning oilfield and marine transportation industries.

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

O.J. Simpson Coach and USL Teammate Inducted into Buffalo Hall of Fame



[Click here](#) to read about the USL Championship Team..

Joe Murry, my former teammate on the [USL National Collegiate Weightlifting Team \(1966-69\)](#), got a call from a former colleague in Buffalo who told him that he was being inducted into the Buffalo Weightlifting Hall of Fame because

of his work with the NFL Buffalo Bills football during the 1970s. Joe was the Bills' strength coach. Their most acclaimed player was O. J. Simpson. In 1972, O. J. broke the record for rushing and was voted MVP. In appreciation for his help, O. J. gave Joe an engraved watch.

Congratulations to my "brother" who was recognized for his past accomplishments on June 22. He and his wife Jane will be making a wonderful trip down memory lane.

500th Anniversary of New France

Giovanni da Verrazzano

My old friend Jean-Marie Nadeau has proposed that we recognize the 500th anniversary of the French claiming possession of French North



American—called New France—because without this discovery there would never have been the settlement of Acadia—and no Cajun culture.

Giovanni da Verrazzano (shown above) was chosen in 1524 by the King of France to search for a "Northwest Passage" to Asia through North America. He left in January 1524 and reached Cape Fear (North Carolina) on March 1. He then sailed north to explore the coastline of what is now Nova Scotia. Shockingly, he died four years later after rowing ashore, probably on the island of Guadeloupe, where he was allegedly killed and eaten by the native Caribs.

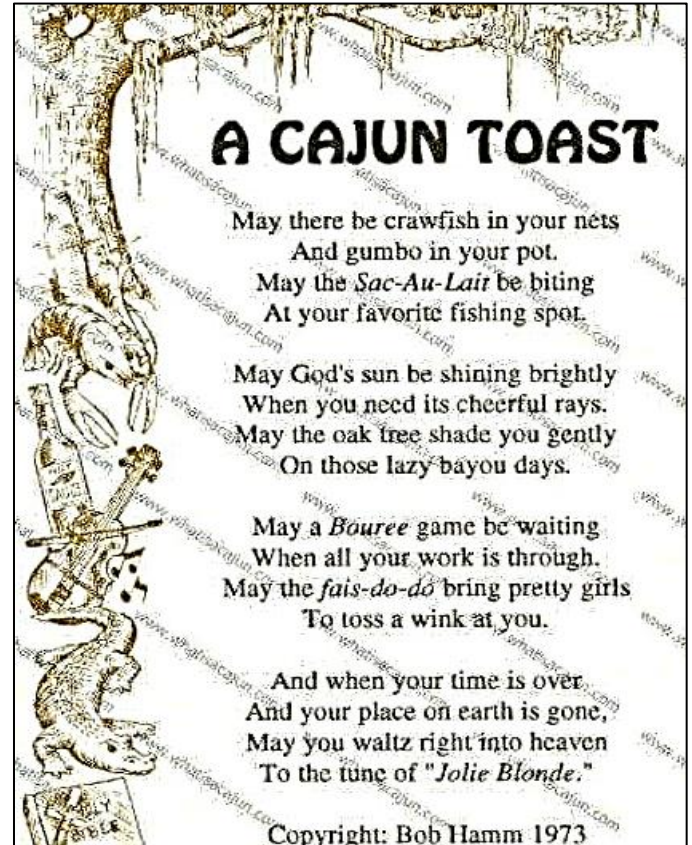
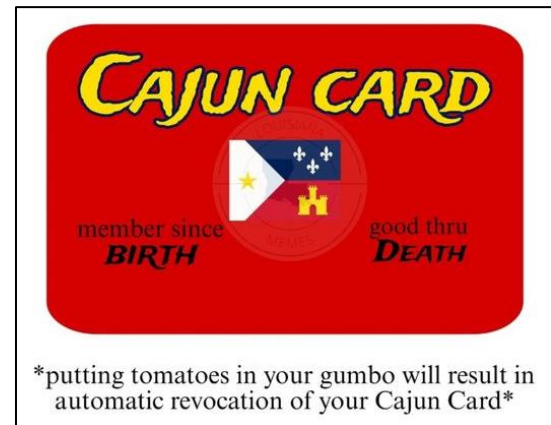
Watch: Amazing Grace in Cajun French



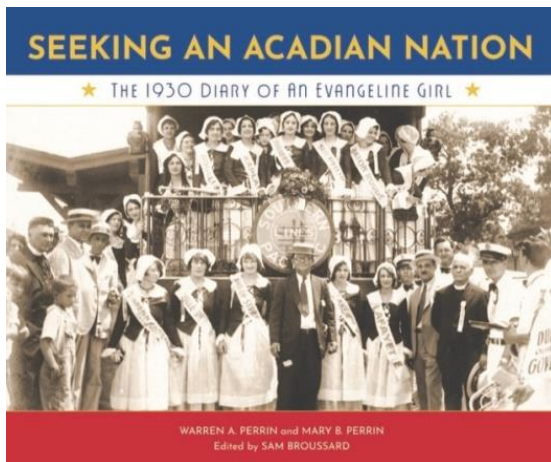
Here's an amazing video of the hymn *Amazing Grace* being sung in French. [Watch it here](#).

Best of the Internet

Thanks again to our meme-lord Mario Lagacé (and others) for this month's best memes. Send your picks to info@acadianmuseum.com



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, Phl 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 acadianmuseum.com/museum.html or stop by the Museum at 203 S. Broadway St. in Erath, LA. We're open Tuesday-Friday 1-4 pm and Saturday from 10am to noon.



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



The late D.L. Menard playing at Lake Peigneur near New Iberia, LA