

LA PAROLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADIAN MUSEUM

By Warren A. Perrin, Chairman

OCTOBER 2024

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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).

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Your tax-deductible donations¹ help:

- Find the [lost location](#) of the first Acadian settlement
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- Fund French “immersion” and other cultural programs
- Expand the museum collection.

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

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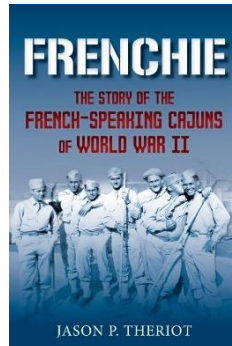
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EDITORS: Bruce Perrin, Mario Lagacé, Ryan Bernard.

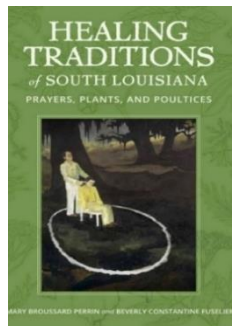
SPONSORED BY: Francophone Section of the Louisiana State Bar Association

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

Join Our Fundraiser for Signed Copies of WWII Book “Frenchie” and “Healing Traditions of South Louisiana”



The fabulous new book [“Frenchie: The Story of the French-Speaking Cajuns of WWII”](#) will be available for purchase and signing by author Jason P. Theriot Ph.D. at our [Acadian museum fundraiser](#), Nov. 15, 6 pm in the Erath Community Center in City Park. Also available will be book signings for our best-selling [Healing Traditions of South Louisiana](#).



When U.S. forces landed on the beaches of Normandy in June 1944, military commanders had “Frenchie” serve as interpreters with the local population. These young Cajun soldiers, like their Acadian ancestors, grew up speaking French and this book tells their full story for the first time.

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, visit our [museum boutique](#).

Please plan to attend our fundraiser and support our nonprofit museum which has been free to the public since 1990. We are the largest Acadian museum in the U.S. Our building is over 100 years old and needs renovation. Sponsorships for tables that seat up to eight people are available. Individual tickets are \$40. For tables, please contact me directly [by email](#) or 337-501-3049. You can learn more and buy tickets or sponsorships [here](#).

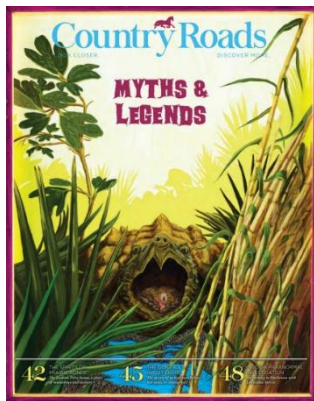
ACADIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE FOUNDATION, INC.

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

MUSEUM NEWS

Acadian Museum Featured in October Issue of *Country Roads* Magazine

This article by Jordan Fontenot appeared in *Country Roads*:



Since 1997, the Acadian Museum in Erath has recognized giants of Louisiana culture in all of its facets— from art, to music, to cuisine, to literature, to education, to sports. This year, the museum will add two new individuals to its distinguished list of Living Legends.

The Museum’s first new inductee into the Order of Living Legends is Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser, who has been a passionate advocate for Louisiana on the international stage. “Billy attended the *Congres Mondial Acadien* with us [in August],” said Warren Perrin, the Acadian Museum Chairman of the Board. “His presence was certainly important, to have a leader of the cultural movement of the state there with us.”

The second inductee this year is none other than Lafayette’s own hometown hero Armand “Mondo” Duplantis who, in August, captured the world’s attention by winning the Olympic Gold Medal for pole vaulting—breaking his own world record in the process.

To view the entire article, [click here](#) and go to the bottom of page 8.

Local Family Donates Museum Artifacts



Pictured (L-R): Myrtle and Morris LeBlanc, Liz Hanes, Warren Perrin, and Mona LeBlanc Hanes.

This family from Bayou Tigre (the rural area southeast of Erath, LA) donated two wonderful artifacts: a 125-year-old chair and a carbine gun used to scare birds away from eating the seeds of newly planted crops (both of which are shown in the photo above). They will also donate a unique mechanical “sheller” used in olden days to shell corn while sailing to Morgan City to trade corn and other goods.

Explore Your Genealogy with This Free Web Seminar

Mark your calendars: On Nov. 2 at 9:15 am (CT), the Acadian Museum will offer a free webinar (online seminar) to those interested in researching their Louisiana and Acadian ancestry. Led by avid genealogist and museum webmaster Mike Hebert, this event will introduce you to WikiTree and its dedicated Acadia and Louisiana Projects.



Mike Hebert

WikiTree (no relation to Wikipedia) is a global genealogy community. By using it, Mike learned that he is a descendant of 175 people currently categorized as “Acadian First Families”—now he can help you find your own ancestors and connect with distant cousins.

“WikiTree members appreciate the emphasis on accuracy and its collaborative nature,” Mike says. “There’s a very active forum where you can ask for help, participate in challenges, or just chat about all things genealogy-related.” Once your profile is connected to the global tree, you can easily find connections to others in the tree or profiles in a particular category—like “Louisiana Notables” or “Acadian First Families.”

The November session is just the basics. Later, in January, Mike will offer a “next level” webinar for those who are ready to learn more advanced features of the site. To sign up for the webinars, use [this link](#).

LOUISIANA/CAJUN NEWS

La Table Française – Come Speak French

Locals meet to chat in French and improve language skills. CODOFIL provides a complete [list](#) of these events, but here’s 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 Thursdays, 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.
- **Ville Platte:** Mondays, 2pm, Hundred Fold Coffee shop (near Ace Hardware). jfsoileau@gmail.com
- **Via Zoom:** Mondays, 9 am. To connect to the meeting, contact mbreauxtoups@yahoo.com

Student Brought His French to Normandy



9Branden "Jude" Villavaso, a student at St. Augustine High School in New Orleans

We got this from the office of our Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser about an outstanding French student:

The Bayou Culture Collaborative's French Languages Working Group recognized Branden "Jude" Villavaso, a student at St. Augustine High School in New Orleans, for a recent remarkable achievement. Jude, who has predominately taught himself French since the 4th grade, took the international stage on June 6 in Normandy, France, honoring war heroes in the French language. In preparation, Jude practiced with flash cards and tutor assistance.

Jude says he wants to emphasize the importance of speaking French and integrating it more fully into our daily lives. He believes French is historical, repressed, and needs a resurgence.

Save the Date for French Book Fest 2024



We received this from the office of the Consulate General of France in New Orleans:

The Youth Literature Festival "My French Book Fest" is returning to Louisiana this year for an even more ambitious third edition! This event is organized by the Consulate General of France in partnership with the Alliance Française of New Orleans. The festival will take place Nov. 2 to 16 in several cities across Louisiana.

The program includes book fairs, children's performances (including one by Etienne Sibille), authors' visits in schools, exhibitions, and drawing workshops. The events are aimed at the 5,500 students in French immersion schools in Louisiana learning French as a foreign language as well as teachers and everyone interested in the French language in Louisiana.

For the first time this year, book fairs and workshops will be held at the Center for Louisiana Studies in Lafayette from November 11 to 13 and at the West Baton Rouge Museum from November 14 to 16. Additionally, from November 6 to 9, the Alliance Française will host school field trips and families for an entertaining program focused on literature.

You can find more details [here](#).

"Boo! Bash" Promises Spooky Fun



This article appeared on the Humanitix website:

Be part of the "Cool the Culture" campaign for the "NUNU Boo! Bash" on Saturday, Oct. 26. This Halloween-themed event kicks off fundraising in a spooktacular way!

Dance the night away with the renowned Bonsoir Catin Band featuring Christine Balfa and friends! Show off your creativity in the "Best Costume" contest! Dress up as your favorite artist, musician, or writer. Enjoy festive activities hosted by a charismatic Master of Ceremonies.

Every Ticket helps us to raise \$50,000 for essential air conditioning and attic insulation upgrades. Want to become an official sponsor? You may do so by visiting [Givebutter](#).

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

Lt. Gov. Nungesser Renewed Cultural Pact with Our Cousins in New Brunswick



Lt. Gov. William "Billy" Nungesser.

This article by Brittany LeJeune on KLFY.com talked about events in Canada this past summer:

Representatives from Louisiana [attended] the [Congrès mondial acadien](#) in southwest Nova Scotia, where people from all over the world celebrate the Acadian culture. Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser, the Council for the Development of French Louisiana (CODOFIL), and a Louisiana delegation traveled to the region to partake in the celebration.

Nungesser attended the event five years ago and understands the importance of the Acadian heritage to Louisiana. "We re-signed accords with New Brunswick, which were originally signed in 2022," Nungesser said. "This is important because it is an agreement to share cultural, artistic, and heritage ties between the two regions. One of the many things that makes us unique in Louisiana is the strong French influence," said Nungesser.

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

People from Around the World Are Teaching French in Louisiana This Year



Peggy Feehan, CODOFIL's executive director, spoke with Jan Swift of the Discover Lafayette podcast.

This article by Adam Daigle appeared on the Acadiana Advocate website:

The Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, or CODOFIL, placed 144 internationally recruited teachers across the state in 17 school districts despite a worldwide shortage of teachers.

Peggy Feehan, CODOFIL's executive director, said the year was a banner one for the program as teachers were recruited out of France, Belgium, Canada, Cameroon, Senegal, and the Ivory Coast.

She talked about that and other topics with Jan Swift of the Discover Lafayette podcast. You can listen to [their conversation here](#).

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

Zachary Richard Traces His Roots



While searching Facebook, co-editor Mario Lagacé saw this interesting photo of Zachary Richard with records he found in the Nantes (France) municipal archives. These included the name of his triple-great grandmother (Marie-Josèphe Dugast) who, at 22 years of age, on May 10, 1785, boarded the boat La Bergère for a trip to Louisiana. Her trip to reunite with her exiled Acadian relatives came 20 years after the first boatloads of Acadian settlers arrived from Nova Scotia in 1764-65. By 1785, many thousands of Acadian refugees had already migrated to the Louisiana Territory, which was still decades away from becoming part of the United States.

Louisiana Delegation Will Be Attending Francophone Summit in Paris, France



The “*Dictionary of Louisiana French: As Spoken in Cajun, Creole, and American Indian Communities*” serves as a valuable resource (Jonathan Olivier/Télé-Louisiane)

This article by Rob LaPerle appeared on the KALB website:

On October 4-5, a Louisiana delegation alongside State Senator Jeremy Stine and the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development will be taking part in the 19th Francophone Summit, based in Villers-Cotterêts and Paris, France. While in attendance, Louisiana representatives are expected to reaffirm the France-Louisiana Cooperation Accords, a cooperative agreement between the Pelican State and France to promote the expansion and enrollment of French immersion education throughout the state.

“French immersion” is referred to by the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) as a second language learning program intended to grant mastery in both the French and English languages, foster increased awareness towards diverse cultures, and develop skills necessary to operate on a multilingual and/or cultural scale.

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

FRENCH/ACADIAN NEWS

Hay Babies New Album Set to Release



Cover art for the new Hay Babies album by Mario Doucette.

Our friends the Hay Babies are releasing their latest album with this [video and message](#):

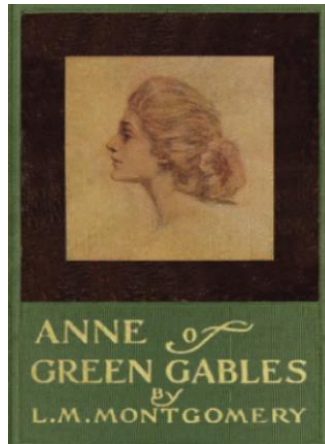
Vous allez tomber en amour avec notre nouvel album, Tintamarre!! Les lancements d'album se passent jeudi 26 septembre au Centre culturel Aberdeen portes à 5 pm ET le 3 octobre à Montréal à La Sala Rossa. C'est gratuit, v'nez célébrer avec nous autres!

You will fall in love with our new album, Tintamarre!!, launched Sept. 26 at the Aberdeen Cultural Centre in Moncton, NB and Oct. 3 at La Sala Rossa in Montréal. It's free, so come celebrate with us.

Subscribers to the news journal *Acadie Nouvelle* can read how staying at our farm in Louisiana served as inspiration for their new album, [here](#).

Evangeline vs. Ann of Green Gables?

We read with great interest the serialized [memoirs](#) of Megan St. Marie, appearing on the [Modern Memoirs](#) website, where she writes:



While I trace most of my ancestry to Québec, I also descend from French-speaking people called the Acadians. known as “the neutral French.”

She then explains how her eyes were opened after reading John Mack Faragher’s book, [A Great and Noble Scheme](#):

Connecting it to my genealogical record made that remote history feel closer. It also forced a reckoning with not just Evangeline’s romanticization of history, but with the anti-French sentiment in another beloved book set in the Maritimes, L.M. Montgomery’s *Anne of Green Gables*.

Anne captured my heart as a child because I saw myself reflected in and validated by her loquacious, ambitious, sentimental, sensitive, bookish self. It wasn’t until I was an adult teaching the novel in courses at Simmons University that I recognized how her story marginalizes and disparages the francophone population of Prince Edward Island (PEI), descendants of those very Acadians who actually brought me into being.

To follow up on this idea, I asked Joseph Yvon Thériault, a well-known Acadian sociologist and expert on the epic poem *Evangeline*:

According to the French translator of *Ann of Green Gables* (Henri Dominique Paratte) there are indeed discriminatory remarks about Acadians in the book, and Montgomery is said to have made them publicly. I've never read, however, that the novel was explicitly intended as a reaction to the poem *Evangeline*. At the end of the nineteenth century, beginning of the twentieth, *Evangeline* was rather well-regarded among English-speaking Maritimers (which had not been the case at the time of its reception in 1847) because of American Romantic tourism. This was the period of the construction of Grand Pré Park, which was not originally an Acadian project.

Interpretive Sign Installed for Beausoleil



This photo shows Charlie and Jennifer Thibodeau, of Whale Cove on Digby Neck, who worked with the Municipality and the County of Annapolis to have an interpretive sign for Joseph Broussard *dit* Beausoleil installed in Upper Granville, near the location of his original family homestead.

La Nouvelle-Écosse met à jour sa Loi sur les services en français



Le ministre des Affaires acadiennes et de la Francophonie de la Nouvelle-Écosse, Colton LeBlanc, présente les changements que son gouvernement compte apporter à la Loi sur les services en français lors d'un point de presse à l'Assemblée législative à Halifax, le 10 septembre 2024

Cet article de François Pierre Dufault est paru sur le site de Radio-Canada:

Le gouvernement de la Nouvelle-Écosse propose des changements à la Loi sur les services en français de la province. La nouvelle mouture du texte adopté en 2004 confère plus de pouvoirs au ministre responsable des Affaires acadiennes et de la Francophonie et reconnaît le rôle de son comité consultatif.

Le ministre acadien Colton LeBlanc a présenté les modifications à l'Assemblée législative, mardi après-midi. L'élu de la région d'Argyle voit cette modernisation comme un legs du Congrès mondial acadien (CMA) qui a eu lieu le mois dernier dans le sud-ouest de la province.

Pour lire plus, [cliquez ici](#)

Un nouveau centre culturel voit le jour à Chéticamp



La communauté de Chéticamp était au rendez-vous jeudi soir à l'occasion de l'ouverture officielle du Canton Culturel.

Cet article de Stéphanie Blanchet est paru sur le site de Radio-Canada:

Des centaines de personnes se sont rassemblées jeudi soir à Chéticamp pour célébrer l'ouverture tant attendue d'un nouvel espace de rassemblement artistique et culturel, un projet qui aura mis près de dix ans à voir le jour.

Le Canton Culturel a finalement ouvert ses portes jeudi soir, un bâtiment neuf rattaché à l'École NDA qui servira de lieu de rassemblement culturel.

Le projet a vu de nombreuses embûches ralentir les travaux au fil des ans, notamment la pandémie.

Pour lire plus, [cliquez ici](#).

Lancement du livre TA LANGUE! à Montréal



TA LANGUE! Manifeste critique et festif, dirigé par David Goudreault.

L'événement suivant a été partagé sur Facebook:

Interforum Canada et Le Robert Québec sont fiers de vous inviter au lancement du collectif Ta langue ! Manifeste joyeux et festif le 9 octobre prochain dès 17h !

Dans cet ouvrage polyphonique, le romancier, poète et chroniqueur David Goudreault réunit douze amoureux de la langue québécoise, qui viennent chacun chanter et célébrer leur langue : Frédéric Lacroix, Marie-France Bazzo, Francis Ouellette, Michel Tremblay, Jean-François Létourneau, Maya Cousineau Mollen, Mélissa François, Edith Butler, Rachida Azdouz, Normand Baillargeon, Mélanie Béliveau et Stéphan Bureau.

Le Robert Québec : Une nouvelle maison d'édition québécoise, avec comme colonne vertébrale, le français au Québec, s'adresse à tous les amoureux, défenseurs, ou militants de la langue.

Rendez-vous le 9 octobre prochain dès 17h au Théâtre Plaza, 6505 Rue St-Hubert, Montréal, QC H2S 2M5.

Le livre sera disponible partout dès le 4 octobre et il sera en vente sur place!

Pour plus d'info, [cliquez ici](#).

LAGNIAPPE

YouTube: Acadian Brown Cotton Preservationists of Breaux Bridge



This short [two-minute video](#) explains how our area's unique Acadian brown cotton is produced and converted into beautiful blankets and other textiles.

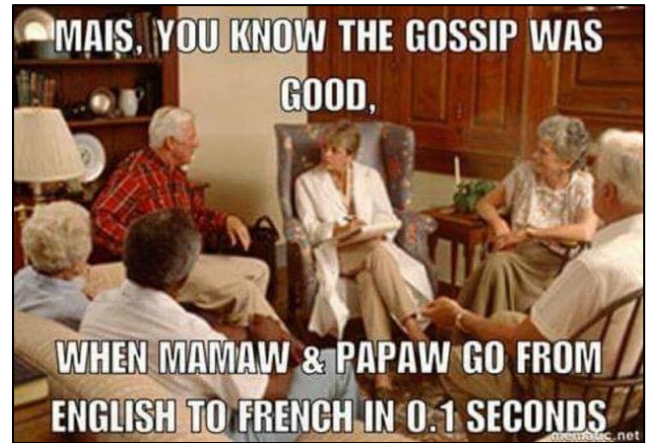
Tout le monde veut être un Cadien asteur



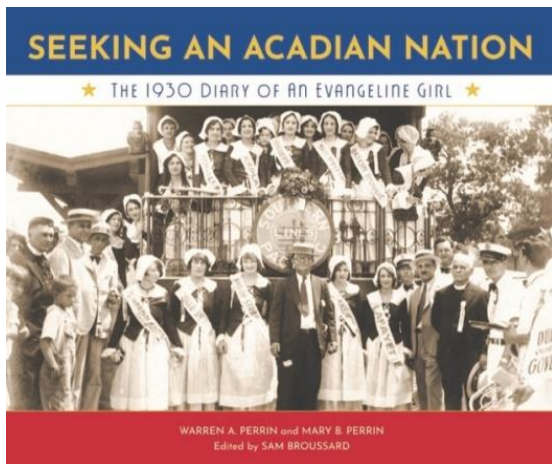
This *vieux bougre* has some funny things to say about being Cajun in this short [Youtube video](#) (in French).

Best of the Internet

Once again, our friend and editor Mario Lagacé provides us with some of the best Internet memes.



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



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