

LA PAROLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADIAN MUSEUM

By Warren A. Perrin, Chairman

June 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).

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Your tax-deductible donations¹ 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.

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

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Gala Will Celebrate Bicentennial of Louisiana Civil Code



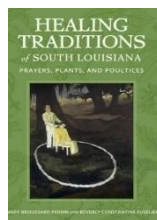
I am happy to share this good news with friends and family: The LSU Law Schools’s Center of

Civil Law Studies and International Programs has accepted for inclusion in its upcoming book my article “Revisiting the Genesis of French Louisiana: It’s No Coincidence the Civil Code Was Adopted—We Ain’t Anglos!”

I presented my paper on March 20 at an LSU international conference that was part of the statewide commemoration of the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Civil Code of 1825, coordinated by the Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society. My paper was submitted as part of the academic activities of the Francophone Section of the Louisiana Bar Association. Many thanks to my colleagues who assisted me with this work.

As part of the bicentennial, the public is invited to a special Gala Celebration on Friday, June 20, 7:00 pm. Enter at the old red firehouse, 1043 Magazine Street, one block south of the National WWII Museum in downtown New Orleans. I invite all friends and interested parties to join us there. [Tickets here](#).

Book: Healing Traditions of South Louisiana



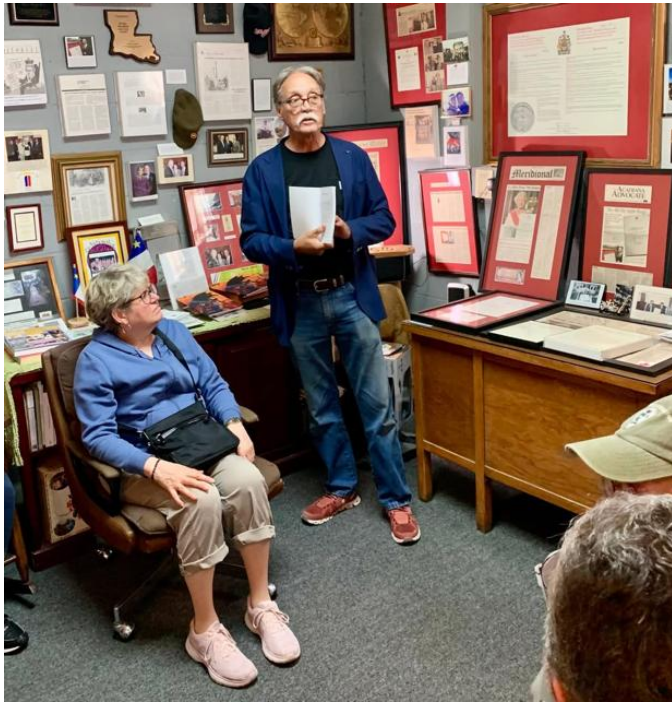
Healing Traditions of South Louisiana covers healing arts from the dawn of civilization to present times, including details on Cajun *traiteurs* and the plants supporting their magic (order [online](#)).

ACADIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE FOUNDATION, INC.

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

MUSEUM NEWS

Museum Mobbed by (Fascinated) Tourists



Dr. Barry Ancelet talks to a group of visitors.

In one day this past month, the Acadian Museum played host to two buses transporting 75 Francophone tourists, delivered by Go West Tours of San Francisco. To cope with this unprecedented influx, we staggered them in groups of 12 per room for 15-minute talks by Allen Simon and Dr. Barry Ancelet (pictured above). Others toured the exhibits led by our excellent crew of volunteers including Earlene Broussard, Gwen Mergist, John Francois, Ron Bodin, and Larry Savoie.

Queens for a Day



The assembled queens with Warren Perrin and museum volunteer Jackie Labauve Vincent (center).

On May 23, Jackie Vincent and I had the pleasure of hosting a gorgeous group of young “queens” representing area festivals and fairs, including both past and present queens in full regalia—crowns and all... Let me say, they were just delightful! As part of the visit, we related their Acadian history and gave them several keepsakes including an Acadian flag pin. Our docent Bill Comeaux’s granddaughter Caylee LeBlanc, who is this year’s Erath 4th of July Queen, was among the crowd.

New Item: “The Expulsion of the Acadians”



The above photo shows the new installation in our Acadian Room of a very interesting work “The Expulsion of the Acadians” by Acadian artist Nelson Surette of Nova Scotia, which was donated by Anne B. Skipton. The most fascinating feature is that the painter doesn’t use a brush—he uses his fingers!

You Need a Good Talking To!

Would you like a group presentation? The Acadian Museum gives regular presentations to groups around the region, and we would be happy to speak to your group at your location. We can bring the projector or use your own A/V setup.

What would you like to talk about? [Click here](#) for a complete list of suggested topics and you’re your request to info@acadianmuseum.com.

LOUISIANA/CAJUN NEWS

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
- **Broussard:** 2nd Fridays, 8:30 am, Valsin Broussard House, 408 W. Main St. (337) 445-3478
- **Dulac:** 3rd Weds, Parish Library, (985) 563-2014
- **Erath:** Fridays, 10 am, Erath City Hall (337) 254-8522
- **Lafayette:** Weds, 7 am, Dwyer’s, 323 Jefferson, [email](#); or 2nd Thurs, 5:30 pm at Petroleum Club [email](#)
- **Lake Charles:** First Fridays, 4 pm, Central Library, 301 W. Claude St. jerrie_abshire@hotmail.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
- **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.
- **Scott:** 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 1 pm, Begnaud House, 110 Benoit Patin Rd, Maison@cityofscott.org
- **Thibodaux:** Tuesdays, 5 pm, Jean Lafitte Center, 314 St. Mary St. mbreauxtoups@yahoo.com.
- **Ville Platte:** Mondays, 2pm, at the Hundred Fold Coffee Shop on Coreil St. jfsoileau@gmail.com
- **Via Zoom:** Mondays, 9 am. To connect to the meeting, contact mbreauxtoups@yahoo.com

New Pope Has Creole Roots in New Orleans



Image of a grave marker in Chicago for members of the Martinez family, including the new pope's grandparents. (via Jari C. Honora)

For those who haven't seen it yet, this article provides all the details around the discovery of our new pope's Creole roots, by Richard Fausset and Robert Chiarito of *The New York Times*:

Robert Francis Prevost, the Chicago-born cardinal selected on Thursday as the new pope, is descended from Creole people of color from New Orleans. The pope's maternal grandparents, both of whom are described as Black or "mulatto" in various historical records, lived in the city's Seventh Ward, an area that is traditionally Catholic and a melting pot of people with African, Caribbean and European roots.

The grandparents, Joseph Martinez and Louise Baquié, eventually moved to Chicago in the early 20th century and had a daughter: Mildred Martinez, the pope's mother.

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

Louisiana Just Lost a Great Artist



Ceci Neustrom (photo: *The Advocate*)

Sadly, our good friend and generous museum

donor, CeCi Neustrom, passed away the last week of May. Ceci, who is the wife of former Sheriff Mike Neustrom, painted the beautiful Acadian Heritage series of portraits using descendants of Acadians as models. She was the official artist of the Acadian Museum, and donated her last portrait of Charlene Richard to the museum (below). Please keep the family in your prayers.



Portrait of Charlene Richard, by Cici Neustrom.

Pundit Blasted for Calling Our New Pope That Offensive Cajun Name



Newly elected Pope Leo XIV, the former Cardinal Prevost (Reuters photo)

This article by Jennifer Bowers Bahney appeared on the Raw Story website:

Writer Rod Dreher, Louisiana native and editor-at-large with *The American Conservative*, felt the heat on social media after calling the new pope by a controversial Cajun name that some consider offensive. The post came after a report in *The New York Times* described Pope Leo XIV's roots as "Black Cajun" from New Orleans.

Dreher posted to his 120,000 followers on X Friday, "With a name like 'Prevost' and New Orleans roots, I thought the new pope might be a coona**. Turns out his mama has New Orleans roots -- and he's part black (Creole)! From da 7th Ward."

One person remarked, "Coona--...? wtf..," to which Dreher replied, "Tell me that you're not from Louisiana without saying you're not from Louisiana." Another posted, "You might be the world's foremost authority at using obscure racial slurs and I don't mean that as a compliment."

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

'Swamp People' Isn't Just About Gators — It's Fighting to Keep Cajun Culture Alive



Image via Facebook, Brandon Hotard.

The creators of the *Swamp People* reality show had visited our museum to learn about Cajun culture when they were researching the project. This article about the show by Safwan Azeem appeared on the *Collider* website:

Swamp People is more than just a reality show about the world of alligator hunting, the series is a true portrayal of the Cajun way of life and features families that have called the Atchafalaya Basin their home for generations.

While the show takes place during Louisiana's hunting season, it doesn't just focus on the spectacle of chasing gators, serpents, and other wild beasts. The Landry family serves as the biggest example of this sustained lifestyle that's rooted in tradition. Troy Landry, who is one of the most experienced hunters on the show, is often seen taking his sons, Jacob and Chase Landry, on his swamp adventures to ensure that his family's legacy stays alive.

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

Nicholls State Cultivates the Next Generation of Artists



This article by Morgan Lentes appeared on the WDSU website:

The bayou parishes are known for Cajun cuisine, first-rate fishing and scenic swamps, but there is another, untold culture flourishing on the campus of Nicholls State University.

The art department is producing the next generation of artists with a proven track record of connecting them to careers after college.

According to university data compiled between 2019 and 2024, 93% of program graduates are employed, with 75% working in art-related fields or attending graduate school.

Of those graduates, almost 60% remain in the bayou region, primarily in Houma and Thibodaux. Another 25% work in the Baton Rouge or New Orleans Metro area.

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

Russel Honoré to Speak at Levee Gala



On August 9, 2025, at the 20th anniversary of the levee breaches in New Orleans, Levees.org will host a Gala. Save the Date!

WHERE: The Cannery at 3803 Toulouse St in Mid-City

WHEN: Aug 9, 2025 from 7:00 - 10:00 pm.

WHY: To celebrate the devotees of Levees.org

Lt Gen Russel Honore will be keynote speaker. The presentation will include Levees.org "Ten Greatest Hits." And all night long, we'll show news coverage, videos and highlights from the past 20 years.

Tickets include dinner and local music. And each guest will receive a signed dated copy of founder Sandy Rosenthal's first edition book *Words Whispered in Water*.

And there is tons of free secure parking directly across the street.

To keep the cost of tickets low, please consider being a sponsor. You can sponsor anonymously if preferred.

For more information, contact sandy@levees.org.

Savoie's Sausage Celebrates 70 Years of Teamwork and Cajun Traditions



This article by Aaron Gonsoulin appeared on the *Daily Advertiser* website:

Savoie's Sausage & Food Products, a household name in South Louisiana and beyond, celebrated its 70th anniversary on Thursday, May 15, dedicating the milestone to the people who helped build it: its employees.

Held at the company's headquarters in Opelousas, the celebration focused on honoring current and former workers who have contributed to the family-run business for the past seven decades.

For Savoie's, which has grown from a small grocery store into a leading producer of Cajun food products, the milestone was about recognizing the people behind the success.

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

Francophone Supporter Gets Special Honor

As co-chair of the Francophone Section of the Louisiana Bar Association, I nominated Georgia Chadwick for the annual John "T Jean" Hernandez II Award which will be announced at the Bar Association Convention in June in Destin. Georgia served as



Georgia Chadwick

director of the Law Library of Louisiana from 2007 to 2016, capping a distinguished legal information career spanning nearly 40 years. She began her tenure at the Law Library in 1978 and held various leadership roles, including associate director and head of technical services.

A longtime advocate for historical scholarship and access to legal information, Chadwick serves on the Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society's Steering Committee to commemorate the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Civil Code of 1825. She helped coordinate a series of lectures highlighting the Code's development and the influential role of jurists of French heritage in its creation. In recognition of this work, she is being honored with an award for Francophone excellence.

Her many honors include the Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service from AALL; the Lucy B. Foote Award from the Louisiana Library Association; a service award from the SE Chapter of AALL; and an Award of Excellence presented by then-Chief Justice Catherine D. Kimball of the La. Supreme Court.

FRENCH/ACADIAN NEWS

La Baie-des-Chaleurs accueillera le Congrès mondial acadien en 2029



La Baie-des-Chaleurs sera la région hôte du Congrès mondial acadien en 2029. Photo : Gracieuseté : CMA / Brandon Dugas

Cet article par Marie-Emma Parenteau a été publié sur le site de Radio-Canada:

C'est finalement la région de la Baie-des-Chaleurs qui accueillera le Congrès mondial acadien (CMA) en 2029. La région hôte, composée de municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick et du Québec, était la seule candidate en lice.

La Société nationale de l'Acadie en a fait l'annonce officielle mardi à Atholville, dans la Communauté régionale de Campbellton.

Ainsi, cet événement quinquennal qui rassemble des milliers d'Acadiens se déroulera dans le Restigouche et la région Chaleur au Nouveau-Brunswick, ainsi que dans les MRC d'Avignon et de Bonaventure au Québec.

Pour continuer la lecture, [cliquez ici](#).

Acadian Fashion at U. of Moncton Museum



L'exposition illustre l'évolution sociohistorique de l'habillement des Acadiennes de la colonisation. (Radio-Canada / Jérémie Tessier-Vigneault)

Cet article par Jérémie Tessier-Vigneault a été publié sur le site de *Radio-Canada*:

Les vêtements des Acadiennes font l'objet d'une exposition au Musée acadien de l'Université de Moncton. L'exposition illustre l'évolution des modes vestimentaires féminines sur plus de 300 ans et elle déconstruit quelques clichés.

Faisant suite à l'ouvrage *L'Habillement des Acadiennes : Du mythe à la réalité* publié chez les éditions Septentrion en 2024, cette nouvelle exposition entre dans les couches complexes, historiques et sociales, des textiles qui ont façonné l'Acadie.

L'auteure du livre, Annette Léger White, qui a également conçu l'exposition, a effectué plus de 40 ans de recherche sur les costumes et les vêtements. Elle montre maintenant le fruit de son travail.

Pour continuer la lecture, [cliquez ici](#).

Les Hay Babies ont gagné un prix sur la côte est



Les Hay Babies lors d'un lancement de leur album *Tintamarre* à Montréal le 3 octobre 2024. Photo : Élise Jetté

Cet article par Pierre Philippe LeBlanc Vigneault a été publié sur le site de *Radio-Canada*:

Les groupes acadiens Vishtën, de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, et les Hay Babies, du Nouveau-Brunswick, ont remporté un prix chacun au 37e gala de l'Association de la musique de la côte est.

Une première remise de prix a eu lieu jeudi soir dans le cadre de l'événement qui se déroule à Saint-Jean, à Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador, jusqu'à dimanche.

Les Hays Babies, soit Julie Aubé, Katrine Noël et Vivianne Roy, ont décroché le prix de l'artiste acadienne ou francophone de l'année. Elles ont réagi dans une vidéo présentée au public durant le gala.

Pour continuer la lecture, [cliquez ici](#).

Pays de la Sagouine to Honor Acadian Writer Antonine Maillet in 33rd Season



Le Pays de la Sagouine will be paying tribute to Acadian writer Antonine Maillet with its 2025 programming. Maillet died on Feb. 17 and her writing inspired the creation of the Bouctouche attraction. Mathieu Lewis

This article by Sarah Seeley appeared on the *Telegraph-Journal* website:

The prolific Acadian writer died on Feb. 17 at the age of 95. Her funeral was held in Moncton last month. She wrote 20 novels and a dozen plays that celebrate the Acadian culture, including one of her most famous works, the 1971 play *La Sagouine*. Her writing gave life to the Bouctouche attraction *Pays de la Sagouine*.

Monique Poirier, executive and artistic director of *Le Pays de la Sagouine*, said it will be paying homage to Maillet this summer, though details have yet to be announced. "We're going to keep her legacy alive," said Poirier.

Maillet had not been part of the creative process for several years but continued to call regularly to see how things were going at the attraction, said Poirier.

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

Congrès mondial acadien (CMA) a été sacré événement de l'année aux ECMA.



Un spectacle au Congrès mondial acadien, le 15 août 2024 à Yarmouth, en Nouvelle-Écosse. Photo : Radio-Canada / Michèle Brideau

This article by Pascale Savoie-Brideau appeared on the *Radio-Canada* website:

L'événement de grande envergure a rassemblé la diaspora acadienne des quatre coins du monde du 10 au 18 août 2024 dans le sud-ouest de la Nouvelle-Écosse.

Organisé par les régions de Clare et d'Argyle, le CMA 2024 était le premier en 20 ans dans cette province de l'est du pays. Une forte affluence a été remarquée dans la région pendant toute la semaine.

Les retombées économiques sont estimées à plus de 20 millions de dollars.

Pour continuer la lecture, [cliquez ici](#).

La Fédération acadienne du Québec

The latest news from Yvon Godin, who likes to keep us up-to-date on activities in Québec.



Bonjour La Parole,

I am sending two photos to publish in your newsletter.

A few members of *La Fédération acadienne du Québec* had a feast of lobsters on May 10 in Montréal. They were originally from Bathurst, Cap-Pelé, Grand Sault, Petit-Rocher, Saint-Joseph-du Moine, Saint-Sauveur in Acadie, from Québec, from France and Costa Rica.

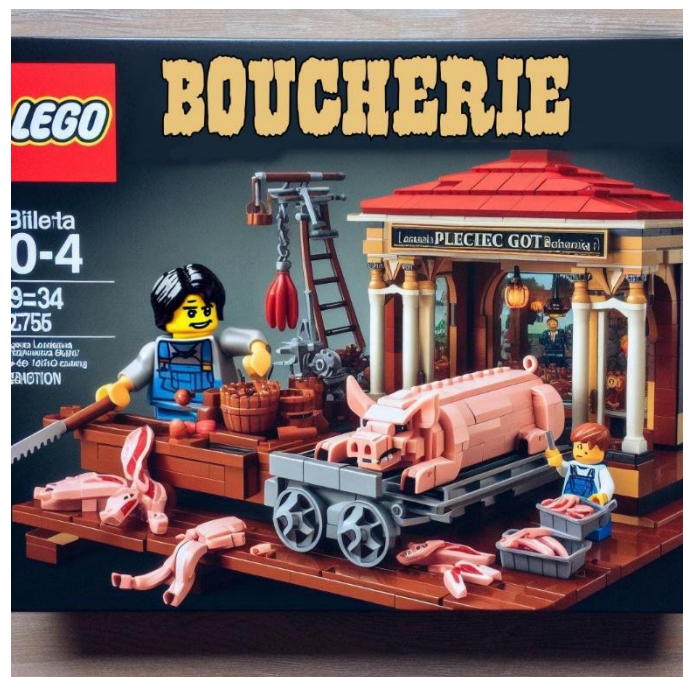
-Yvon Godin

LAGNIAPPE

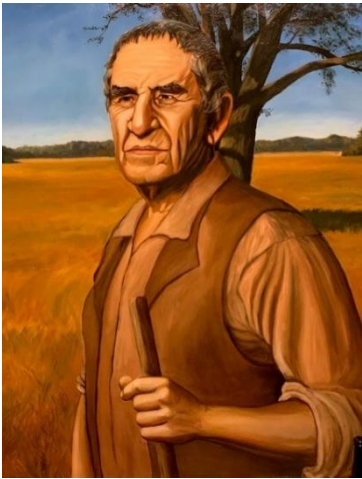
Best of the Internet



It took New Orleans less than a day to claim the new Pope as all of our cousin!



A Letter from the First Acadians in the Attakapas Territory near St. Martinville



Contemporary depiction of Joseph "Beausoleil" Broussard by Herb Roe

As I was working in our garden enjoying the beautiful May weather, I began thinking about how our Acadian

ancestors spent their first May in 1765 in their first Attakapas settlement on Bayou Teche near what is now Loreauville, LA. For those who want to read about this remarkable pioneer story I have reproduced excerpts of an article by Prof. Mouhot from our book [Acadie: Then and Now](#) which is believed to be the only written account of the settlement of the Acadians in the Attakapas Territory.

Letter from Jean-Baptiste Semer from New Orleans to his father in Le Havre, April 20, 1766.

By Jean-Francois Mouhot, PhD.

Translation: Bey Grieve

Introduction: In a recent issue of the Canadian journal *Acadiensis*, several letters exchanged between Acadians just after the "Great Deportation" were published. I had the good fortune recently to discover a copy of a letter— to my knowledge previously unpublished—whose existence was well-known to historians, but which was thought to be lost. This letter was written in April 1766 by Jean-Baptiste Semer, an Acadian

recently settled in Louisiana, to his father Germain Semer, a refugee at Le Havre, France. Given its importance for our knowledge of the Acadian settlement in Louisiana, it seemed appropriate to publish the complete transcript here. A number of indications in the letter suggest that it was probably not the first exchange between father and son. Indeed, Jean-Baptiste had already received a letter from his father just before his departure from New Orleans for Attakapas in April 1765.

Excerpt from the Semer letter: "We went to Attakapas with guns, powder and shot, but as it was already ... May, the heat being so intense, we started the work in too harsh conditions. There were six plows that worked; we had to break in the oxen, go 15 leagues to get horses.

Finally, we had the finest harvest and everybody caught fevers at the same time and nobody being in a state to help anyone else, 33 or 34 died, counting the children. Those who started again wanted to go and work in their wilderness and they fell ill again, but we came down in the month of February 1766 of this year and here we all are, thank God, very well and hoping for a very fine harvest this year, with God's help, having cleared a great deal. We have only to sow and we already have oxen, cows, sheep, horses and the finest hunting in the world, deer, such fat turkey, bears and ducks and all kinds of game. We saw it on the end of our gun.

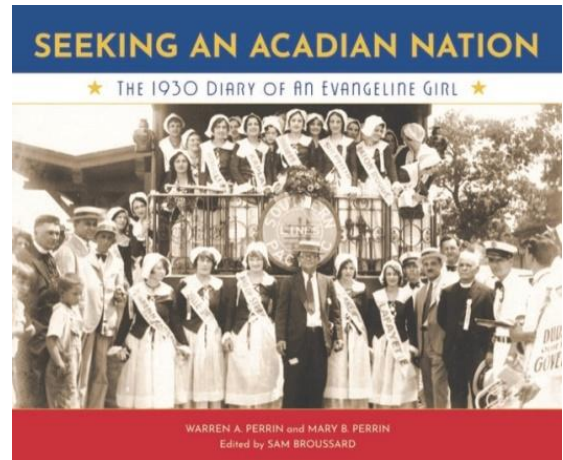
There are several since the death of Beausoleil who came down from Attakapas, among others those of the Rivière de Saint-Jean, and went to settle along the Mississippi river on the German side where the latter have already started a settlement."

Cattle King and Queen



Congratulations to my first cousin of Henry, LA Randall Perrin for being named King of the 75th Cattle Festival in Abbeville, LA. He is so deserving of this honor for all of his hard work in promoting the cattle industry in general and his outstanding herd in particular...he is shown here with the Queen Isabelle Douet.

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*, a history by Warren Perrin
- Histories of Vermilion, Iberia, and St. Landry parishes by Warren Perrin
- T-shirts, posters, and reproductions.