

LA PAROLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADIAN MUSEUM

By Warren A. Perrin, Chairman

October 2025

Many Canadian Visitors Canceling U.S. Travel Plans

An article in *The Advocate* by Joanna Brown mentioned our museum and the fact that many of our Acadian cousins won't be visiting us this year:

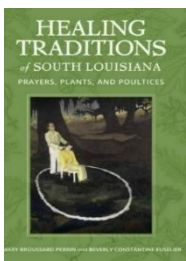


Historian and Acadian activist Warren Perrin knows a little something about asking for apologies. For years he petitioned Queen Elizabeth II to sign a proclamation apologizing for the mass Acadian deportation, which she did in 2003. Perrin has served as president of CODOFIL [and] runs the Acadian Museum in Erath, where he is accustomed to welcoming visitors from all over the world.”

He also regularly works with tour operators in the Maritimes, and said that one recent call with a guide in Nova Scotia exposed the emotions of the moment. "He's brought many tourists to Louisiana and France, and thought he'd have no trouble getting a group for Festivals Acadiens and Le Grand Réveil — but no takers," Perrin said. "He almost started crying on the phone with me. He said, 'Canadians look at America like the Statue of Liberty — a beautiful woman, representing everything good. Now it's a monster, a threat to us. And that's sad.'”

Subscribers to *The Advocate* can read the whole story [here](#).

Book: Healing Traditions of South Louisiana



A comprehensive history of the healing arts from the dawn of man to present times, including details on the mystical arts of the Cajun *traiteur* as well as the medicinal plants supporting their *traitement*. Call (337) 456-7729 or order [online here](#).

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MUSEUM HOURS

Tue.-Fri. 1-4 pm — Sat. 10-noon

Group tours, call 337 456-7729 (weekdays) or 337 501-3049 (weekends).

HELP PROMOTE CAJUN CULTURE!

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
- Support 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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EDITORS: Bruce Perrin, Mario Lagacé, Ryan Bernard, Evan Bernard.

SPONSORED BY: Francophone Section of the Louisiana State Bar Association

¹ *Acadian Museum is a La. 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All donations tax-deductible.*

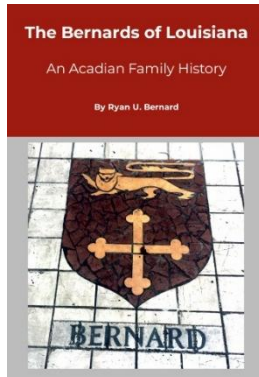
ACADIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE FOUNDATION, INC.

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

MUSEUM NEWS

New Book on “Bernards” and Others

Acadian Museum newsletter editor Ryan Bernard has published a [new book](#) called “The Bernards of Louisiana: An Acadian Family History.” He says:



I wrote this history for Louisiana families with Bernard ancestors who trace their Acadian roots back to Canada. But it could just as easily be a history of other families who came to Louisiana the same way, with names like Broussard, LeBlanc, Landry, Theriot, Boudreaux, Hebert, Cormier, Breaux, Doucet, and many others.

These people knew each other as neighbors. They escaped the deportations together, and sailed to Louisiana under the leadership of Joseph "Beausoleil" Broussard where they planted the seeds of a New Acadia in 1765. This is their story, told through the exploits of two young men named Michel and Pierre Bernard.

Acadian museum [Living Legend](#) Steven A. Cormier says:

This is a tight, tidy piece of our history, wonderfully readable, to be savored not only by your relations for generations to come, but also by all lovers of the thing called “Acadian.”

[Click here](#) for ordering information.

Historic Donation of Brown Cotton Textiles

Dr. Andy Reaux of New Iberia (shown here), who is a long-time supporter of the museum, has now donated 100 beautiful—and some very rare—Acadian hand-woven brown cotton and wool blankets, bedspreads, clothes,



and even a mosquito net for a four-poster bed! We now have the largest collection of brown cotton blankets in Louisiana: 140! To house this amazing collection, plus the textiles already housed in the Acadian Museum, we are diligently working to open a new freestanding Acadian textile museum in Erath.

Book Talks/Special Events

The following talks will be presented by Warren or Mary Perrin, unless otherwise noted. All times are US Central. To schedule a talk, just pick a [topic](#) and a date that isn't already taken.

- Oct. 13, 11am, at the G.R.A 2025 in Loreauville, LA, on the “Acadian Cattle Industry”
- Oct. 14, 1 pm, play “From Acadie to Louisiana in 1765 - The Birth of Cajun Culture” at Vermilionville in Lafayette, LA
- Oct. 22 at 6 pm for the Vermilion Historical Society on the New Acadia Project by Warren Perrin and Dr. Mark Rees in the Vermilion Parish Main Library, 405 E. St. Victor St, Abbeville, LA

Gov. Huey P. Long Portrait Donated



Recently, we were given a historic artifact: a framed photograph of former Governor Huey P. Long, which was donated by Long to his dear friend Arthur Sandoz of Erath, LA. The historical photo was donated by Sandoz's descendants including Troy (shown above) and

Kay Sandoz Brasseaux and Derek Sandoz. Kay and Derek are children of Charles "Monkey" Sandoz and grandchildren of Arthur Sandoz.

The Sandoz brothers, who were politically involved in Erath, built a saloon at 207 E. Lastie. They had substantial landholdings in Iberia and Vermilion Parishes. Amar Sandoz was a fur dealer, while his brother, Arthur, ran the business. They had a strong interest in game bird (cock or rooster) fights, a sport still practiced today by Arthur's son, Charles "Monkey" Sandoz.

In the 1930s, Arthur, with the help of his oldest son, "Buster," opened a dance club on Highway 14 in Erath. The Sandoz family was politically active, especially Arthur, who had a long association with the Huey P. Long faction that dominated state politics for many years. During this period, when there were no civil service laws to insulate government employees from inappropriate political pressures; the Louisiana governors' extensive powers of appointment allowed him to give jobs to his key supporters.

LOUISIANA/CAJUN NEWS

Grand Réveil Acadien Returns!



This month, Oct. 11–18 marks the return of *Le Grand Réveil Acadien* (The Great Acadian Awakening), a nine-day celebration of the language, music, history, and culture of the Acadian descendants who call South Louisiana their home.

The [complex festival calendar](#) is marked by events occurring in towns throughout South Louisiana. It starts on Opening Day, Oct. 11, in Abbeville, LA, then includes widespread music, arts, and cultural events in places like Lafayette, Loreauville, Carencro, Thibodaux, Broussard, and Church Point. A complete listing of events can be found [here](#).

Several other concurrent festivals are taking place in South Louisiana this month, including the [Festivals Acadiens et Créoles](#) Oct. 10–12 in Lafayette's Girard Park, the [Louisiana Gumbo Festival](#) Oct. 10–12 in Chackbay, LA, and the [Rougarou Festival](#) Oct. 17–19 in Houma, LA.

Do Cajuns Even Exist?

This seems like an absurd question, but one that historian Dr. Shane K. Bernard feels compelled to answer after some have claimed that “Cajun” is a meaningless term and that Cajuns do not represent a distinct ethnic group. Here’s part of what he wrote in a recent blog post:



Recently, someone asked me, “Why do Cajuns identify as Cajuns?” This implied other, related questions, namely “Why don’t Cajuns identify as Creoles? Aren’t they a type of Creole?”—as some, including myself, assert.

The short answer is: Like their Acadian ancestors, Cajuns have always viewed themselves as a distinct people. Even from other south Louisiana Creoles. Not only culturally distinct, but, as importantly, historically distinct.

In its broadest sense, the term “Creole” can mean a native-born Louisianian of French-speaking (less commonly Spanish-speaking) Roman-Catholic heritage—a definition without racial connotations. According to this definition, one can be Black, White, or multiracial and be Creole. “Cajun,” on the other hand, refers to descendants of Acadian exiles in south Louisiana and all the other ethnic groups with whom those exiles and their descendants intermarried.

Some understandably ask, “Wouldn’t Cajuns therefore qualify as Creoles?” ... A growing number of Cajuns, Creoles, scholars, and activists ... agree that Cajuns are indeed a kind of Creole. A kind of Creole—and yet, most would assert, still Cajun.

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

Cajun Music Hall of Famer Ellis Vanicor Dies at 96



Cajun musician Ellis Vanicor (American Press Archives)

An article by Doris Maricle appeared on the American Press website:

Legendary Cajun fiddler and Cajun Music Hall of Fame inductee, Ellis Vanicor, passed away Sunday, just two weeks after his 96th birthday.

Vanicor began his musical career in the mid-1940s, joining the original Lacassine Playboys with Iry and Asa Lejeune, Jimmy Aguiard and his brothers, Orsy, Milton and Ivy Vanicor.

The band was known for such hits as “Lacassine Special” and “The Calcasieu Waltz.” He also played with the Lake Charles Playboys and The Has-Been Band.

In the late 1990s, he and Orsy Vanicor revised Lacassine Playboys with Jimmy Aguiard, Robert LaPoint and Kaleb Trahan. He remained a constant presence of the Lacassine Playboys for over six decades, retiring in 2019 at the age of 90.

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

Festival Poster Marks 50 Years and When Zachary Richard Stuck His Fist in the Air

An article by Joanna Brown appeared in The Advocate:

This year, the poster for Festivals Acadiens et Créoles celebrates a moment of hope, optimism and awakening for Cajun and Creole music.

Fifty years ago, the "Hommage à la musique acadienne" concert, then held in Blackham Coliseum ... was only in its second year. Stars like Zachary Richard and Clifton Chenier were gathered, set to rock what was then an unusual paradigm in Louisiana music: a proto arena-style concert in front of a rapt audience. What followed was a night no one would ever forget.

“That was the night... that Clifton Chenier put a crown on his head and made a statement about being the King of Zydeco,” said Festivals Acadiens founder, Barry Ancelet.

“And this year is the 50th anniversary of Zachary Richard sticking his fist in the air, and waving a flag they had made the night before, and showing our community — especially the younger generation — that this music not only had a past, but it had a future too.”

The 2025 Festivals Acadiens et Créoles poster, revealed on Saturday, Sept. 13 during downtown Lafayette’s art walk at the Acadiana Center for the Arts, is a reference to that moment.

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



(Photo: The Advocate)

New Exhibition at the Hilliard Art Museum

Franco Fine Arts Exchange is a local nonprofit gathering of visual artists of Acadian descent. The organization connects long-lost cousins through a global directory of pen-pal art collaborations and provides group



exhibition opportunities. Their long-term goals are to provide immersive residencies in multiple countries and to create permanent galleries.

They have partnered with Festivals Acadiens et Créoles to present the CORRESPONDANCE: Rebel Song group exhibition at the Hilliard Museum, opening Oct. 9 at 5 pm. The reception is free to the public and will feature a harp ensemble.

Works from Acadian artists in Canada, across North America, and Acadiana will be on display until Nov. 9, including a portrait of Acadian musician, Lisa Leblanc, by Andrew Perrin (above).

Franco FAE facilitated the 2025 Festivals Acadiens et Créoles poster art by François Gaudet, of Nova Scotia. After returning to Louisiana from Québec in 1975—and having gained an in-depth understanding of the Acadian deportation for the first time—a young radicalized Zachary Richard stayed on the stage at Bayou des Mystères longer than the allotted time, raised two identical flags, and broke into a performance of the song “Réveille”—a protest song calling Acadians to revolt against their oppressors. That actual flag, featured on this year’s poster, will be part of the exhibition.

A New Program to Spread the Word About French-Speaking Businesses



We got this from Jonathan Olivier, who is a business and international specialist at CODOFIL:

I work for the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL). We're a state agency committed to the advancement of French in the state. I'm reaching out because we just launched a new website and with it an exciting, new marketing and business development program that's completely free. It's called "Exel Louisiane" and the idea is that we use our vast global network to promote businesses that support French in Louisiana, which includes having French-speaking employees or offering French materials (like a bilingual website).

Members of Exel Louisiane are featured on an interactive map called "Discover French Louisiana," which is a great way to spread the word to French-speaking tourists that you support French—and to visit your business!

To learn more about Exel Louisiane, you can visit this page: <https://codofil.org/exel-louisiane/>

To become a member, you can navigate to <https://codofil.org/exel-louisiane/membership/>

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. [email](#)
- **Broussard:** 2nd Fridays, 8:30 am, Valsin Broussard House, 408 W. Main St. (337) 445-3478
- **Dulac:** 3rd Wednesdays, Parish Library, call for hours (985) 563-2014
- **Erath:** Fridays, 10 am, Erath City Hall (337) 254-8522
- **Lafayette:** Wednesdays, 7 am, Dwyer's Cafe, [email](#); or 2nd Thurs, 5:30 pm at Petroleum Club, [email](#)
- **Lake Charles:** First Fridays, 4 pm, Central Library, 301 W. Claude St. [email](#)
- **Loreauville:** Tuesdays, 7 am, Main Cup Coffee Shop, 101 N. Main St. [email](#)
- **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. [details](#)
- **Rayne:** Thursdays, 9:30 am, Bernard-Bertrand House, 1023 The Blvd. [email](#)
- **St. Martinville:** Wednesdays, 10 am, Longfellow-Evangeline State Park, 1200 N. Main, 337-394-3754
- **Scott:** 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 1 pm, Begnaud House, 110 Benoit Patin Rd. [email](#)
- **Thibodaux:** Tuesdays, 5 pm, Jean Lafitte Center, 314 St. Mary St. [email](#)
- **Ville Platte:** Mondays, 2 pm, at the Hundred Fold Coffee Shop on Coreil St. [email](#)
- **Via Zoom:** Mondays, 9 am. To connect to the meeting, contact [email](#)

FRENCH/ACADIAN NEWS

For Filipinos in Shediac, Acadian Pride and Perseverance Are a Taste of Home



An article by Ranz Bontogon appeared on the Globe and Mail website:

Sure, it's a nickname the town gave itself, but "Lobster Capital of the World" has such a nice ring to it, a well-earned title that folks around here hold onto with pride.

Tucked along the southeastern shore of New Brunswick, Shediac is an Acadian town that sits on traditional Mi'kmaq territory.

Hearing the local chiac spoken around and seeing the Acadian flags hung from porches for Acadian Day celebrations, you can feel the strong cultural pride.

"It is a day to celebrate the strength, beauty, resiliency and joy of the Acadian people — and all who want to celebrate that are welcomed!" said participant Claire Kelly.

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

Arthur LeBlanc nommé chancelier de l'Université Sainte-Anne



Arthur LeBlanc (Photo Communications Nouvelle-Écosse)

An article by François Pierre Dufault appeared on the Radio Canada website:

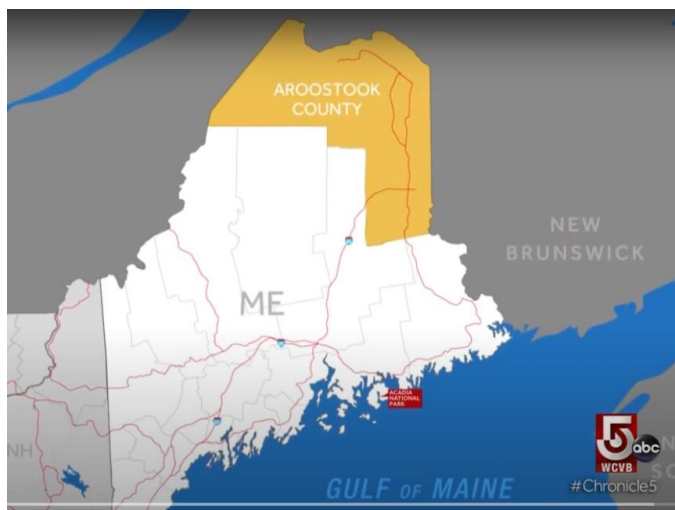
Le juge à la retraite et ancien lieutenant-gouverneur de la Nouvelle-Écosse Arthur LeBlanc est nommé chancelier de l'Université Sainte-Anne. Il succède à Noël Després, qui était en poste depuis 2019.

« Arthur J. LeBlanc est un grand Acadien dont le parcours inspire l'engagement et le leadership. Pilier de notre communauté, avocat et juge respecté, il incarne l'excellence, la sagesse et le dévouement qui guideront notre institution vers l'avenir », affirme Michel Samson, le président du conseil des gouverneurs de l'Université Sainte-Anne, dans un communiqué.

Originaire de la région acadienne de l'Isle Madame, au Cap-Breton, Arthur LeBlanc a pratiqué le droit pendant plus de 30 ans avant d'être nommé juge à la Cour suprême de la Nouvelle-Écosse en 1998. Deux ans plus tard, il a rendu un jugement favorable à la création d'écoles francophones homogènes dans la province.

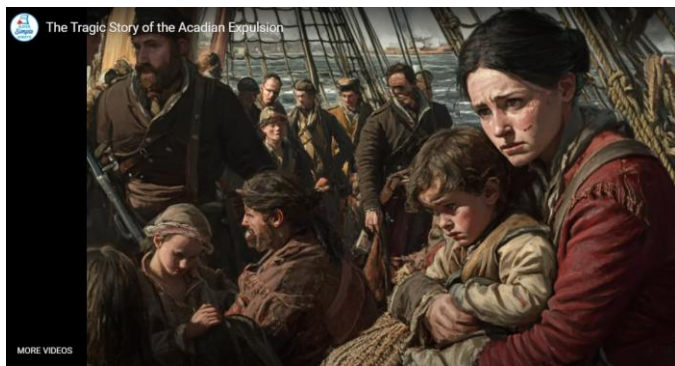
Pour en savoir plus, [cliquez ici](#).

Saving Acadian Culture in Northern Maine



[This video](#) discusses the prevalence of Acadian culture in the northernmost reaches of the U.S. state of Maine. You might be surprised by the similarities to your own experience. And here is [another video](#) on Acadian history in Maine.

A Quick Primer on the Acadian Expulsion



For those not familiar with how and why the Acadian Expulsion happened, [this five-minute video](#) provides a quick historical lesson.

LAGNIAPPE

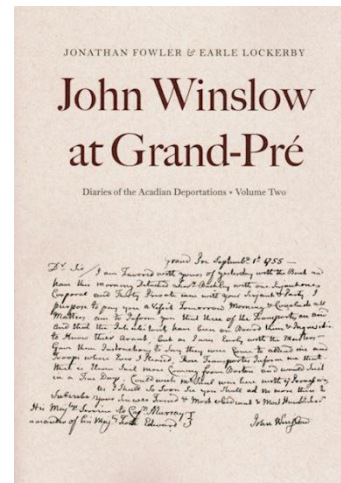
New Book on the Deportation at Grand Pré

Earle Lockerby sent this note:

Some good news in the world of Acadian and Cajun history! The book about John Winslow, his journal, and the Acadian deportation from Grand-Pré in 1755 that I've co-authored

with Dr. Jonathan Fowler is now available. As you well know, Winslow's operation at Grand-Pré was a seminal event in Acadian history and his journal has had an immense influence on the historiography of the Acadian deportation of 1755. This extends, even, to the whole Evangeline phenomenon, since Longfellow drew on Winslow's journal.

More information about the book, including a purchasing link, is available [here](#).



Franco-Fête 2025

This note was sent to us by Peggy Feehan, Executive Director of CODOFIL:

Je vous invite nombreux à venir à l'événement Franco-Fête 2025.

Où : Petroleum Club de Lafayette, 111 Heymann Boulevard



Quand : Dimanche le 12 octobre, à compter de 11h45 le matin

Pourquoi : pour financer les bourses CODOFIL

Combien : \$125 par personne

Cette année, l'invité d'honneur est Zachary Richard. Il recevra le prix Marquis de Lafayette. M. Richard n'a pas besoin de présentation. Auteur. Poète. Chanteur. Compositeur. Activiste culturel et environnemental. La Fondation Louisiane est ravie de présenter cet honneur à Zachary Richard cette année.

Également, Mathé Allain, ancienne directrice du CODOFIL, distinguished professor à USL (ULL), auteure et spécialiste de l'histoire louisianaise, sera intronisée dans le panthéon de La Fondation Louisiane.

Achetez vos billets en cliquant : [Franco-Fête 2025 Registration](#)

How Crawfish Act After They Build a Mound in Your Yard



©2025 Cajun Meme Factory

Breaux, Guidry, Hebert Reunion

The Breaux, Guidry, and Hebert families will have a joint reunion on Oct. 15 from 9 am to 4 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 123 Lions Club Rd., in Scott, LA. Anyone related to the Breaux, Guidry, or Hebert families and their friends are invited. And it is FREE to all!

The gathering will honor Acadian/Cajun culture with live Cajun music; genealogy and history discussions; family and history displays; award presentations; sales tables; and a Cajun meal of jambalaya, white beans, salad, cracklins, boudin, desserts, and drinks. There will be lots of free time to meet cousins, friends, and attendees during a social hour where you can sit around, talk, and enjoy chips and drinks.

Organizers say: "Don't be shy—come join us, meet folks from throughout North America and pass a good time. Pre-registration not required."

For more details, contact Martin Guidry at guidryRmartin@gmail.com or (225) 571-9726.

Broussard Family Gathering

This was sent in by Kim Viator:

BROUSSARD FAMILY GATHERING -
Maison Broussard Cottage,
October 14, 10 am–4 pm



Vermilionville Museum and Park,
300 Fisher Road, Lafayette, LA. Guest Speakers,
Cajun Culture, Food Demonstration/Tasting,
French Music, Exhibits, Genealogy (bring lawn
chairs). Entry \$5/person

For more information, contact lisareyne@icloud.com
or tinabroussard3304@gmail.com.

Stay At Our Guesthouse!

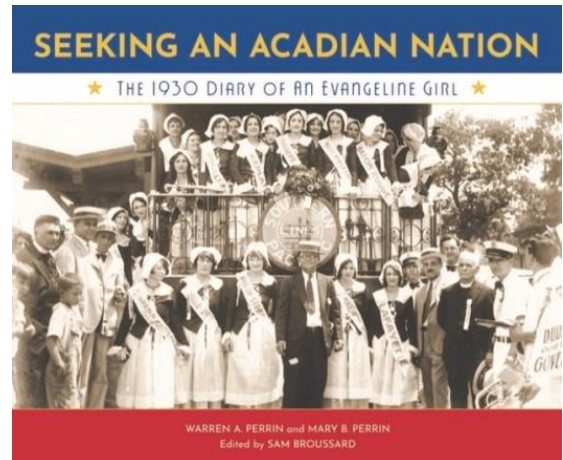


Vermilion Parish is a great place to visit during the winter months. It is known as a “birding paradise.” There are many fabulous Cajun places to visit where you can still experience French being spoken by the locals.

The Perrin Farm in Henry, LA, is only five miles from the Cajun food mecca of Abbeville, and an easy ride to the Acadian Museum in Erath. Situated in a bucolic setting, our Cajun family farmstead has been converted from a family retreat to a rural farm guesthouse. Our party barn accommodates up to 100 for parties, family reunions, crawfish boils, weddings, and more. To reserve, email perrinfarm18@gmail.com.



Visit the Boutique and 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
- 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