

LA PAROLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADIAN MUSEUM

By Warren A. Perrin, Chairman

July 2026

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MUSEUM HOURS

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or 337 501-3049 on weekends or no
answer.

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

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Remembering the French and Acadian Roles in America’s Struggle for Independence



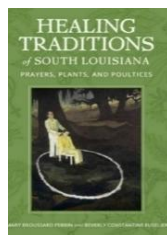
Museum chair Warren Perrin with Comte Gilbert (Photo: K. Bouillion)

During the 250th anniversary of America’s birth, it’s important to remember French contributions, including those of both France and our own Acadian ancestors. We all know the story of the Marquis de La Fayette who came from France to command troops in the decisive 1781 siege of Yorktown that helped win

the American Revolution. Lesser known is the fact that, in 2007, we hosted the Marquis’s descendant, Comte Gilbert de Pusy La Fayette, during his visit to our region, and [inducted him as a Living Legend](#). That year marked the Marquis de La Fayette’s 250th birthday and the U.S. Senate approved a resolution honoring the City of Lafayette for its year-long celebration of the heroic French nobleman’s life and our own rich French/Acadian heritage.

Earlier in the Revolutionary War, our own Acadian ancestors—who emigrated to Louisiana in the 1760s—had served in the army of Louisiana Governor Bernardo de Galvez, capturing British forts from Baton Rouge to Pensacola, thwarting the British military, and making many of us Sons and Daughters of the Revolution.

Book: *Healing Traditions of South Louisiana*



A comprehensive history of healing arts from the dawn of man to present times, including the mystical arts of Cajun *traiteurs* and the medicinal plants supporting their *traitement*. To place an order, call (337) 483-0910 or go [online](#).

ACADIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE FOUNDATION

203 S. Broadway, Erath, Louisiana 70533 | 337-483-0910 | [acadianmuseum.com](#)

MUSEUM NEWS

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.

- July 1, 10 am, Acadian Memorial Geneological Society, 201 Porter St., St. Martinville, LA.
- July 28, 6 pm, Living Legend Induction, Madeline DeHart, Acadian Memorial, St. Martinville, LA
- Aug 10, 5 pm, Living Legend induction, Shirley Guidry, SW LA Veterans Home, 1610 Evangeline Rd, Jennings, LA

The museum will keep regular hours over the July 4 holiday, opening from 10 am to noon.

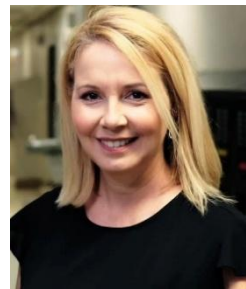
Loss of a Legend: James Trahan



Sadly, Living Legend [James Trahan](#) died on June 21. Inducted to the Living Legends in 2009, Trahan was a regular guest on KLFY-TV's *Passe Partout* program where he and host Jim Olivier delivered agricultural news in French.

Jim also wrote a weekly news column for the *Daily Advertiser* for 35 years. His knowledge of the French language allowed him to explain USDA programs to farmers in the French language that many of them better understood. He also volunteered to speak to agricultural students and French visitors touring Acadiana.

New Legend to Be Inducted This Month



Mark your calendars for July 28, when Madeline DeHart will be the latest recipient in our ongoing "[Living Legends](#)" award series. Madeline is the founder of [Lâche Pas](#), a groundbreaking program to

educate young Louisianans in our unique culture, language, music, history, traditions, and folkways. Previously serving as Supervisor of Fine Arts and World Languages for the Vermilion Parish School System, she is an active grant writer whose proposals have earned nearly \$1,000,000 in funding for community and educational programs. She currently serves in organizational roles at [Louisiane-Acadie](#) and [CODOFIL](#). The induction will be held July 28, 6 pm at the Acadian Memorial in St. Martinville, LA.

Vermilion Parish "Patriot 250"



Warren Perrin with Erath LA's "Miss Fourth of July" Kathryn Grace Touchet

We recently took part in the Vermilion Parish "Patriot 250" celebrations with actors portraying famous people in US history. During this reenactment, I played the role of my ancestor, Amand Broussard, Beausoleil's youngest son, an Acadian who fought with Gov. Galvez's Spanish army in support of the American Revolution.

Work Progresses on Museum Annex



One of the historical buildings at Rip Van Winkle Gardens

Several months ago, we announced our plan to create a special museum annex housing our textile exhibit at [Rip Van Winkle Gardens](#) on Jefferson Island, LA. President Mike Richard, Sr. recently reported on progress in refurbishing one of their older buildings for this purpose:

The floor once exposed turned out to have been repaired earlier so it's not all hardwood. I'll have to overlay with a durable material with less maintenance, [as] I had done recently in the cafe' with in-house workers. The floor was not level and had a ridge down the center, resulting from settlement after having been moved 30 years ago. That's been corrected.

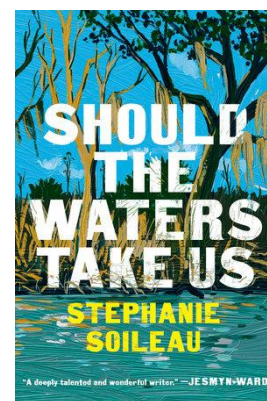
There turned out to be rot and damage on some of the window sashes from almost a century and the birds that were kept too close. After lots of searching I finally found a company in New Orleans that can repair or rebuild new window sashes. Our employees will do all the carpentry necessary. I'm blessed to have competent workers on staff, so no additional labor expense is incurred. Once the repairs are done the room can be painted. This space once held an exhibit of Louisiana carved duck decoys so there is good directional tract lighting in place.

LOUISIANA/CAJUN NEWS

Author's Debut Novel Delivers Full Gamut of Cajun Life, Past and Present

An article by Jonathan Miles appeared on Garden & Gun website:

For their small number and swampy isolation, the Cajun people of SW Louisiana have exerted an extraordinary impact on American culture. Their cuisine has infiltrated home and restaurant kitchens from



Spokane to Sheboygan, with supermarkets nationwide stocking Cajun seasoning alongside salt and pepper. Zydeco and Cajun music flowed into and shaped broader American forms such as blues-rock and country. Even the word Cajun has become a kind of cultural shorthand, signaling spice, rhythm, and a defiant rootedness. But if Cajun culture is so embedded in American life, why does it feel so faint in American fiction?

More interesting than the answer to that question ... is what feels like its antidote: *Should the Waters Take Us*, the debut novel by Lake Charles, LA native Stephanie Soileau [who] stuffs her novel, like a boudin close to bursting, with the full gamut of Cajun life, past and present. That doesn't mean pirogues and sauce piquante, though those make cameos. What it means, rather, is the deeper textures of Cajun life: land, water, memory, kin. *Should the Waters Take Us* is awash in vivid color, but not local color. Its accent is thick, but its drama is expansive.

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

New Acadian Family Committee Seeks Members



The Acadian Families Committee includes (L-R standing): Melba Lormand, Floyd Boudreaux, Cheryl Broussard Perret, Sue Leger Neveaux, Brenda Comeaux Trahan, Kenneth Neveaux, Debra Broussard Taghehchian, Martin Guidry, Dudley E. LaBauve, Michelle Mouton Constantin, Daniel Blanchard, Dale A. Savoie, Billy Hebert, Marie Bourgeois McClain, Louise (Arceneaux) Begneaud Ganucheau, Mrs. Dale Savoie, and Nelwyn Hebert. (L-R sitting) Ray Trahan, Randy Menard, Calvin Leger, Karen Arceneaux, Gayle Breaux Smith. (Not pictured) Kenneth Granger, Benjamin Richard, Calvin Leger,

A newly established Acadian Families Committee has been formed to represent and maintain contact among descendants of each of the Acadian families who were exiled and settled in Louisiana during the late 1700s and early 1800s. While many French family names in Louisiana are considered Cajun—such as Vidrine, Toups, Fuselier, Touchet, and Fontenot—their families actually came to Louisiana from places other than the historical colony called “[Acadia](#).” A comprehensive list of true Acadian family names can be found [here](#).

For more details, and if you would like to represent any Acadian family that was exiled and settled in Louisiana, please contact perret.cheryl@gmail.com.

Bruce Daigrepoint's Legacy After 40 Years at Tipitina's



Cajun bandleader Bruce Daigrepoint performing at Tipitina's in New Orleans (Photo: Sophia Germer)

An article by Keith Spera on NOLA.com notes that our good friend Bruce Daigrepoint recently celebrated his 40th anniversary playing 1,400 shows at Tipitina's nightclub in New Orleans:

Over the decades, Bruce Daigrepoint has fostered an extended family of fans. He's that rare Cajun bandleader who has lived his entire life in Orleans and Jefferson parishes rather than southwest Louisiana, the genre's natural habitat.

Geography aside, Daigrepoint is one of Cajun music's most vital voices. He's an especially expressive singer and accordionist backed by an equally nimble band.

Drawing on his family's Avoyelles Parish roots, he's written dozens of original Cajun French compositions. Some are now standards for French-speaking bands around the world. And no one else has done more to sustain Cajun music's presence in New Orleans.

In 1986, Daigrepoint moved his weekly *fais do-do* from the Maple Leaf to Tipitina's. Four decades later, it's still going strong, even though it's now once a month instead of once a week.

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

Fast-Growing Broussard Offers Many Charms



(Photo: cityofbroussard.com)

An article by Marta Benigni appeared on the Islands website:

While many small towns across the American South are still struggling with economic stagnation and low wages, a historic enclave just about 8 miles SE of Lafayette is experiencing a major renaissance. This place is Broussard, LA.

Despite still being relatively small, the city is expanding at an impressive rate, jumping from around 13,500 residents in 2020 to over 16,200 in 2026 — a surge of just over 20% in six years, or about 3% annually. Today, there are over 1,700 commercial ventures in and around town, and local institutions are actively fostering a dynamic and sustainable business environment. The rating platform Niche has even ranked it as the best place to live in the Lafayette area.

The downtown corridor centered on Main Street includes buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is becoming more bike- and pedestrian-friendly. Couple that with a wide array of traditional culinary spots, and you have a destination that appeals to many types of visitors.

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

Prairie Acadian Cultural Center Announces Full July Schedule of Free Programs



The Prairie Acadian Cultural Center in Eunice, LA offers a full schedule of free July programs, including music, cooking demonstrations, and interactive cultural crafts. All events are free, open to the public, and held at 250 W. Park Ave.

- **July 7:** Intro to Camping Class (2–3 pm)
- **July 9:** Throwback Thursday Photo Archive (5–5:30 pm) & *Rendezvous in the Prairie* (5:30–6:30 pm)
- **July 10:** Stress Relief Coloring Hour (10–11 am)
- **July 11:** Sounds Explorer Junior Ranger (10–11 am), Cajun Cooking Demonstration (1:30–2:30 pm), *Rendezvous in the Prairie* w/Cajun Accent Duo (3–4 pm)
- **July 14:** Butter Making Class (2 pm–3 pm)
- **July 15:** Christmas Ornament Making (11 am–12 pm)
- **July 16:** Family Game Night (5–7 pm), *Rendezvous in the Prairie* w/ Louis Michot (5:30–6:30 pm)
- **July 17:** Louisiana Tea and Coffee (10–11 am)
- **July 18:** Kid's Cooking Class (10 am–12 pm)

For full details and schedules, refer to the [Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve](#) official site.

Valcour Records Celebrates Two Decades Promoting Cajun Artists and Grammys



Joel Savoy plays fiddle with Jessie Lege & the Bayou Acres
(Photo: Robin May)

An article by Joanna Brown appeared on The Acadiana Advocate website:

When Valcour Records was founded in 2006, the Acadiana music scene felt charged with a youthful energy. Bands like the Pine Leaf Boys were introducing a new generation of Lafayette students to traditional Cajun and Creole sounds, paving the way for acts like Bonsoir Catin, T'Monde and Cedric Watson to emerge onto the scene with high-energy, contemporary versions of the south Louisiana playbook.

Today, these groups and others tour the world, draw crowds at local events like Jazz Fest, *Festival International* and *Festivals Acadiens et Créoles*, and get featured on 60 Minutes. Valcour Records, founded in Eunice by Joel Savoy, Phillip LaFargue and Lucius Fontenot, has been at the center of this musical synergy for the past 20 years — recording artists, producing albums and picking up a couple of Grammys along the way.

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

FRENCH/ACADIAN NEWS

Aroostook Immersion Tour Will Bring Acadian History to Life



THE CHAPEL OF VAN BUREN'S ACADIAN VILLAGE COURTESY: MORGAN MITCHELL

The chapel at Van Buren's Acadian Village
(Photo: Morgan Mitchell)

An article by Christopher Bouchard appeared on the Bangor Daily News website:

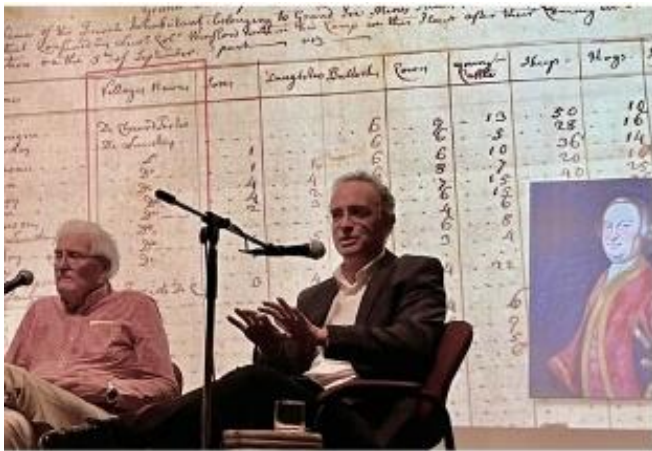
VAN BUREN, Maine - An Aroostook teacher will bring Acadian culture to life with a weeklong immersion experience next month.

“Living Acadia” (or “Acadie Vivante”) workshop will draw educators from across Maine to northern Maine’s St. John Valley, culminating in a public daylong reenactment of early Acadian life on June 27.

It’s the first large-scale immersion event of its kind in the St. John Valley, to which many of Maine’s French Acadian descendants can trace their roots. It will coincide with the upcoming 50th anniversary of Van Buren’s Acadian Village, the second-largest such settlement in the U.S.

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

New Book Provides Window into Acadian Deportation



(L-R) Jonathan Fowler and Earle Lockerby discuss John Winslow's journal at Grand-Pré. (Photo: Wendy Elliott)

An article by Wendy Elliott appeared on the SaltWire website:

A book examining the 1755 deportation of the Acadians day by day through American military leader John Winslow's journal is now available.

[John Winslow at Grand-Pré](#) was one of two books recently launched at Grand-Pré National Historic Site. Yves Cormier gave a presentation on the release of a new edition of his book, *Dictionnaire du français acadien*.

"The 1755 deportations of the Acadians forever altered the social and political landscape of Atlantic Canada and contributed to the unique character of the Acadian and Cajun communities that developed in their aftermath," says a description of John Winslow at Grand-Pré. "Jonathan Fowler and Earle Lockerby have faithfully transcribed and extensively annotated Winslow's eyewitness account of this seminal event of 18th-century North American history."

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

Supreme Court Says N.B. Lieutenant-Governors Must Be Bilingual



The Supreme Court of Canada

An article about bilingualism in the Canadian government appeared on the MSN website:

In a 6-3 decision, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the lieutenant-governor of New Brunswick must be able to perform official duties in both English and French. The majority found that Section 16(2) of the Charter requires substantive equality for both languages in New Brunswick's institutions, and that in a unipersonal, symbolic role like the lieutenant-governor, this equality cannot be achieved without personal bilingualism. The ruling overturns the New Brunswick Court of Appeal's 2024 decision, which had concluded that institutional bilingualism was sufficient.

The court's interpretation extends the reach of constitutional language protections by linking them to the personal abilities of certain officeholders, not just the institutions they serve. Chief Justice Richard Wagner noted that the lieutenant-governor's functions cannot be delegated, making the role 'constitutionally inseparable' from its holder. This sets a precedent that in some cases, personal bilingualism is necessary to preserve the equality of official languages...

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

Aroostook Team Wraps Up Massive Acadian Star Sculpture



Students at the St. John Valley Technology Center pose with a massive Acadian Star sculpture. Photo by Chris Bouchard / The County

An article by Chris Bouchard appeared on The County website:

Students at the St. John Valley Technology Center just finished a project unlike any other: a 20-foot metalwork Acadian star made out of the former international bridge.

Artist [Dan Cayer](#) of Grand Isle, NB, who was the designer, said it resembles an open-armed symbol from the United States that welcomes Acadians to the country.

The sculpture holds significant meaning. The star symbolizes the region's Acadian culture and connection to France, and the piece is built from portions of the bridge that connected the United States and Canada for more than a century. And, once in place, it will welcome visitors to Madawaska just in time for the town's Acadian Festival this summer.

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

Nova Scotia's Senator Allister Surette Recognizes *La Société nationale de l'Acadie*



The Senate of Canada recently published remarks by Senator Allister Surette on *La Société nationale de l'Acadie*:

Honourable senators, I am very proud to rise today to draw your attention to the presence of the president of the Société nationale de l'Acadie, or SNA, Émile Gallant, its executive director, Émilie Caissie-Richard, and all of the other organization delegates who are here with us today.

For over a century, the SNA has been bringing together Acadians from the four Atlantic provinces and acting, both at home and internationally, as an inspiring and steadfast voice for a resilient people with a rich history and culture.

The SNA was founded in 1890 at the third Acadian National Convention, which took place near my home in Pointe-de-l'Église, Nova Scotia, and it has been helping to promote the Acadian community ever since. The fact that the organization has been around for so long, 136 years, is a testament to its ability to always adapt in order to properly represent the changing interests and needs of the Acadian community.

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

Meet the Makers: NS Woman Sends Love Letter To Acadian Community Through Art



Amy Paradis creates Acadian-inspired artwork and products. (Photo contributed)

An article by Laura Churchill Duke appeared on the SaltWire website:

Amy Paradis of Clare, NS doesn't see what she does as a business. Rather, for her, it's a means of expression and a love letter to her community. As with many creative entrepreneurs, Paradis got started creating as a hobby during the pandemic. From there, it just grew, she says.

Today, she focuses her creative energy on making works that celebrate the local Acadian dialect in Clare. She has now lived there for 10 years and says she loves and respects the history and culture of this Acadian community. Going back in her family tree, she does have Acadian roots. "It's fun to be able to connect with those roots, even if I'm a little late to the party," says Paradis.

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

Un groupe de réflexion se demande qui porte la voix de la société acadienne



Joseph Yvon Thériault (Photo: Hamza Abouelouafaa)

Un article de Pascale Savoie-Brideau est paru sur le site de Radio-Canada:

La société acadienne n'a actuellement « aucun grand porte-parole crédible » pour défendre ses dossiers. C'est du moins ce qu'avance un groupe de réflexion sur l'identité acadienne, qui vient de dévoiler son rapport final intitulé L'urgence d'agir.

Un groupe de réflexion sur l'identité acadienne affirme qu'il est urgent d'agir pour contrer l'« éparpillement » du milieu associatif.

La société acadienne n'a pas de grand porte-parole crédible actuellement pour mettre de l'avant ses dossiers. Quand on parle de faire pression sur les partis politiques ou même sur les organismes, c'est compliqué parce qu'on le fait en ordre dispersé, affirme Joseph Yvon Thériault, porte-parole du groupe et professeur émérite à l'Université d'Ottawa, basé à Caraquet.

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

LAGNIAPPE

Researcher Wants to Talk to Vermilion Parish Residents



Dr. Shana Walton, who is Professor Emeritus of English, Modern Languages, and Cultural Studies at Nicholls State University, is involved in an ongoing ULL cultural documentation project as

the contract ethnographer for Vermilion Parish. The project is funded by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and directed by the Department of Anthropology, with the goal to perform basic documentation of coastal cultures in Louisiana and to conduct more focused conversations about changes people have seen.

Dr. Walton recently took the opportunity to talk with our museum volunteers to see if there are particular people or places we would want to make sure were included. The research focuses specifically on coastal change, but is also interested in recording general life histories and changes over time. Anyone interested in being interviewed about their life in Vermilion Parish can contact shana.walton@nicholls.edu or phone/text 504-232-1441.

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 (985) 563-2014

Erath: Fridays, 10 am, Erath Library. [email](#)

Lafayette: Wednesdays, 7 am, Dwyer's Cafe, [email](#); or 2nd Thurs, 5:30 pm, 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 Co., 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, Hundred Fold Coffee Shop on Coreil St. [email](#)

Via Zoom: Mondays, 9 am. To connect to the meeting, contact [email](#).

Stay At Our Guesthouse!

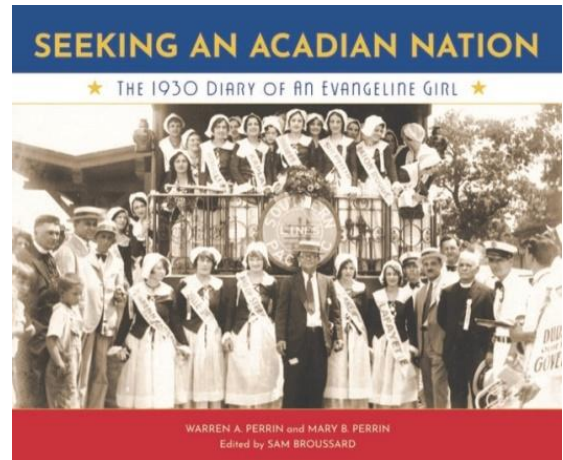


Vermilion Parish is known as a “birding paradise” and there are many fabulous Cajun places to visit where you can experience French being spoken by the locals as well as authentic Cajun cuisine. The Perrin Farm in Henry, LA, is only five miles from the Cajun food mecca of Abbeville, and an easy ride to the Acadian Museum in Erath.

Situated in a bucolic setting on the edge of rice fields and crawfish ponds, 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