

LA PAROLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADIAN MUSEUM

By Warren A. Perrin, Chairman

June 2021

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SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!

If you know anyone who'd like to get this newsletter, send their name and email address to darylinb@plddo.com.

HELP PROMOTE THE CULTURE

Your tax-deductible contributions¹ can help fund these important projects:

- Finding the [lost location](#) of our first Acadian settlement.
- Transcribing and digitizing tapes of rare and valuable interviews.
- Developing videos and podcasts for distribution online.
- Promoting the French language and "immersion" programs.
- Expanding and categorizing our holdings of cultural treasures.

You can donate¹ [online](#) or by sending a check to The Acadian Museum, P.O. Box 53597, Lafayette, LA 70505.

UNSUBSCRIBE

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send your request to darylinb@plddo.com.

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

We're All Set to Reopen on June 25!

Good news! After a long closure (due to pandemic), the museum will reopen Friday, June 25, 2021.

Starting that day, the museum will be open on a regular basis Tue-Fri 1 to 4 pm and Sat 10-noon. As part of our opening, we will host a special *La Table Française* (French Table) 10:00 am at the Café Erath next door. This will be the first in a series of such meetings hosted by local resident Layla Melancon and others. Come join your coozans and practice your French.



Acadian brown cotton

During the closing, we added new exhibits, including one on Acadian footwear (p. 6), one on the American Legion (see [last issue](#)), and one showcasing ancient textiles spun by local weavers called "Acadian brown cotton" (p. 3). Come and see it all!

Visit and "Like" Us on the Web and Facebook

The Acadian Museum will be re-opening on a regular schedule starting June 25 (see above), but you can visit us online anytime. Group tours can be arranged by calling 337 456-7729.

Website: www.acadianmuseum.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/AcadianMuseum

Museum Store: www.acadianmuseum.com/boutique.html

ACADIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE FOUNDATION, INC.

203 S. Broadway, Erath, Louisiana 70533 | (337) 233-5832 or (337) 456-7729 | acadianmuseum.com

LOUISIANA/CAJUN NEWS

Erath Native Drafted by NFL

Three-time All-Sun Belt Conference running back Elijah Mitchell, a native of Erath, was drafted into the National Football League (NFL) after he was selected by the San Francisco 49ers with the 194th overall pick in the Sixth Round of the 2021 NFL Draft. He is the first athlete from Erath to play professional football and we are very proud of his accomplishments and his stellar representation of our town.



Please go to www.athleticnetwork.net for stories about Elijah and other local sports heroes.

Great Acadian Awakening Is Postponed



The *Grand Réveil Acadiens* (Great Acadian Awakening) has been postponed again until 2022. The Louisiane-

Acadie board met and decided to postpone GRA until 2022 because of ongoing concerns about Covid-19. However, a Mass in French is tentatively planned for a Sunday in October, 2021. There will be an announcement in a future newsletter.

“Best Books” Website Includes Acadians

Shepherd.com is an American website that invites acknowledged experts in various fields to choose the five best books in that field and explain why each was chosen. One category is the Acadian deportation, and the contributor is A.J.B. Johnston, a professional historian who spent much of his career with Parks Canada at Fortress of Louisburg National Historic Site in Nova Scotia. Five books chosen by Johnston are:

A Great and Noble Scheme by John Mack Faragher (2005)

From Migrant to Acadian: A North American Border People by N.E.S. Griffiths (2005)

Deportation of the Prince Edward Island Acadians by Earle Lockerby (2008)

Acadian Driftwood: One Family and the Acadian Expulsion by Tyler LeBlanc (2020)

Acadian to Cajun: Transformation of a People by Louisiana’s own Carl A. Brasseaux (1992)

The first two books were published on the 250th anniversary of the deportation of 1755 in Nova Scotia, while the third book was published on the 250th anniversary of the deportation of the Acadians from Île Saint-Jean (Prince Edward Island) in 1758. Lots of good reading here! For more about Johnston’s picks, [click here](#).

Museum Receives Brown Cotton Donation



Mary Alice Hale, Jerry Hale and Mavis Frugé of Acadian Brown Cotton donated to the museum this contemporary brown cotton blanket made from locally grown cotton in Arnaudville, Louisiana. Mary Perrin is shown displaying the beautiful blanket. The item will be

incorporated into our growing display of brown cotton textiles.

Google Helps Preserve Creole Language

Google – the multinational tech company with headquarters in Mountain View, Calif. – wants to help preserve Louisiana Creole and other critically endangered languages with its new online tool [Woolaroo](#), created in collaboration with language organizations from five continents.

Woolaroo users will be able to take a photo of a common object and receive a translated label of the object in a chosen endangered language, as well as listen to the correct pronunciation.

Woolaroo can recognize common objects such as cups, plants, glasses, bicycles, etc. If a translation hasn't yet been provided, users can provide the information through the app. The feedback will then be reviewed and approved by language partners. Google hopes Woolaroo will help language communities expand their word lists and add audio to help with pronunciation.

The History of Crop Dusting

Aviation pilot Ted Campbell, a native of Vermilion Parish (pictured below), will give a talk and PowerPoint presentation on Monday, June 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon on the history of crop dusting at the outstanding oral history series hosted by William Thibodeaux. The talk will be presented in the conference room at the Hospice of Acadiana located at 2600 Johnston Street, Lafayette, Louisiana 70503. The public is invited to attend.



LSU Student Helps Archive Museum Items

We are delighted to learn that Angela Baudoin will undertake a project for her LSU course work to archive some of our museum materials. She will be starting with our textile exhibit and then may progress to other categories.

Celebrating the Huval-Fuselier Cajun Band



Pictured, left to right, are Zack Fuselier, Luke Huval and Chris Stafford

Zach Fuselier and Luke Huval are founding members of the Huval-Fuselier Cajun Band and have been playing together for ten years

now. Chris Stafford is a musician, producer, and recording engineer who was a founding member of the progressive Cajun band *Feufollet*. All three learned the French language through the Lafayette Parish French Immersion program. These young men are keeping Cajun music alive and are continuing to work towards its preservation for generations to come!

Imahara Honored as Outstanding Alumni

Walter Imahara and Dr. Steven Conrad were recently honored at the UL Alumni Center as the Outstanding Alumni of 2020.

The announcement is posted at www.athleticnetwork.net and has links to two other significant pieces of information: Walter's Army photo and his Athletic Network profile, which contains the wonderful story done by Bruce Brown when he put Walter in the Spotlight on Former Athlete.

Is James Carville Really Cajun?

Many people wonder: is James Carville really a Cajun? The Advocate recently published an article about him titled "[Carpetbaggin' Cajun.](#)" The piece by Tyler Bridges starts out like this:

James Carville is known near and wide as the Ragin' Cajun. But is he really a Cajun?

His mother was Lucille Normand, but everybody called her Nippy because, according to Carville, she regularly gave handouts to a hobo named Nip during the Great Depression.

Her side of the family came from both Canada and France, and she was raised in Avoyelles Parish in central Louisiana, just like Edwin Edwards. So, yes, her son has a Cajun lineage.

LeBlanc Elementary School's Fiddle Club Passes Down the French Culture

[This story](#) by Leigh Guidry appeared in the *Daily Advertiser* on May 12, 2021:

LeBlanc Elementary teachers expanded its French immersion experience beyond learning the language to include another integral part of the culture — the music.

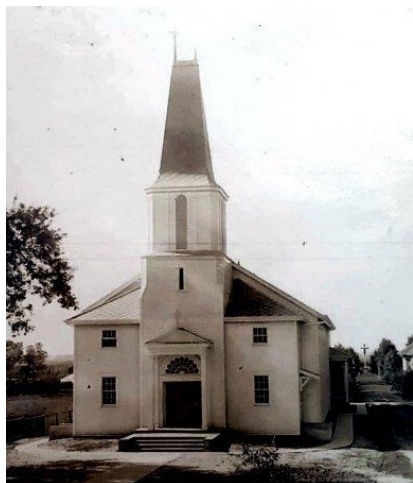
More than 30 fourth- and fifth-graders have been learning to play the violin, rub board and triangle over the past year as part of the school's Fiddle Club. "I joined because I wanted to learn to play the fiddle, and I know it's a big part of our culture," said Clayton Broussard, a fifth-grader in the club. "Way back, music was just big; people gathered around and played, and it was just fun."

Jason Harrington, Gifted/Talented music teacher for Vermilion Parish schools, makes it a point to incorporate lessons on history and culture while

also teaching them to read music and play violin. He also gets help from the school's music teacher and fellow musicians.

You can read the rest of the story [here](#).

Possible Bancker Church Photo Discovered



In 1895, a Roman Catholic Church named Our Lady of Prompt Succor was established on lands donated by William Cade to the west in nearby Bancker, which was the center of four

plantations on the Vermilion River. Its first pastor was Fr. F.C. Elast. The first church was built in 1895 but destroyed by a storm in September, 1909. Due to successive bad crops, it took three years for the church building to be completed.

Today, the site is a four-acre memorial park with a restored grotto, picnic area, and an elevated boardwalk leading to Bancker Cemetery. In 1939, the church and rectory were dismantled board by board and then rebuilt in Henry on land acquired from Thomas B. Delino and renamed St. John the Evangelist.

The above photo, circa 1930, was taken by Miss Lillian Cade, who was a long-time first grade teacher at Henry High School. The photo, which has not been verified, was shared with us by Yvonne Broussard Simon.

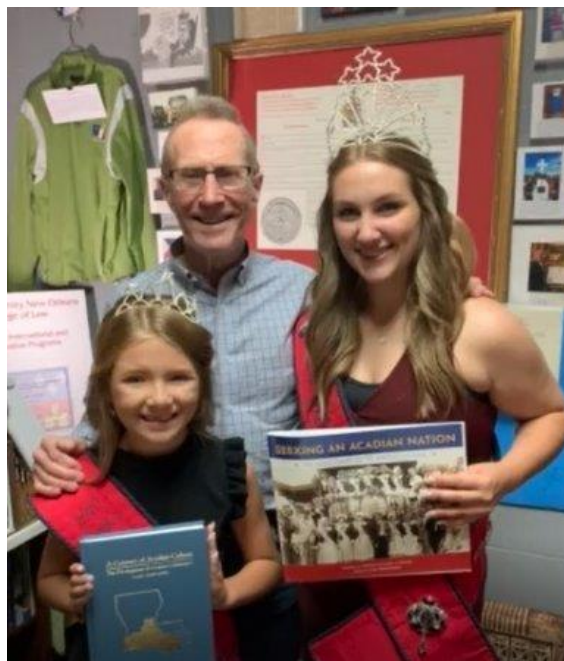
Forty Queens Visit the Museum

On June 5, the Acadian Museum hosted 40 visiting queens who are participating in the Erath Fourth of July pageant. Volunteers Boni Suire and Douglas and Jackie Vincent helped to explain the various exhibits to them.



Pictured above are Warren Perrin and Sarah Sommers of Lake Charles, who is studying French at McNeese State University. She is the Queen representing the Cajun French Music Association.

Pictured below is Warren with Little Miss 4th of July Bailey Morgan and Teen Miss 4th of July Lily Davis – both from Erath. Fittingly, they are seen standing in front of the Queen's Royal Proclamation of 2003.



Honoring Cajun Music Legend Joe Bonsall



Joe Bonsall (right) and his legendary band, The Orange Playboys

Joe Bonsall was a local Cajun music legend in East Texas. He and his band, "The Orange Playboys" recorded countless albums before his death at age 75 in 1996. They were inducted into the Cajun Music Hall of Fame in 1981.

Bonsall was one of 11 children born in Lake Arthur, LA, where he learned to play music at his mother's knee. Theresia Theriot Bonsall was an accordion player. Bobsall never passed up an opportunity to promote the Cajun traditions by giving talks in schools, providing accordion accompaniment to Catholic masses in French, playing at music festivals and "always supporting each and every young Cajun musician."

The 100th anniversary of Joe Bonsall's birth was marked by during the recent Cajun Heritage Fest on June 5 in Port Arthur, TX. *Wayne Toups and ZydeCajun* were the event's headliners.

Our New Exhibit: Acadian/Cajun Footwear



Footwear is specifically designed to be worn on the feet for the purpose of preventing injuries from objects on the ground and/or extreme temperatures. Shoes make walking easier and safer. Cultures have different customs regarding footwear. These include not using any in some situations, like Cajuns walking in water bare-footed to capture crawfish.

Other examples of adaptation are the wooden *sabot* (clog), which allowed a worker to easily traverse wet marshlands, and the knee-length boots used to protect Cowboys from briars. Later, oil field workers required steel-toed boots to protect their feet from being crushed by falling objects. Footwear may also be used to make a fashion statement. Interestingly, the white rubber boot used by Delcambre shrimpers have become known as the "Delcambre Reeboks."

Friendly Helpers Install New Sign



On June 9, thanks to the support of Mayor Taylor Mencacci the Town of Erath Utilities Department personnel installed a banner prepared by Andrepont Printing to announce the reopening of the Acadian Museum on June 25. Shown are, left to right, Jessie Frederick and Richard Bigot. Not shown at the upper right in the forklift bucket is Heath Meaux , who completed the installation.

France Honors NOLA's David Spielman

On May 19, 2021, the Consul General of France in Louisiana, Mr. Vincent Sciamia, bestowed the *Ordre des Arts et des Lettres*, with the rank of Chevalier, upon New Orleans photographer and UL Press author David Spielman.

Local Artist Does Good



Melissa Bonin (by Lauren Burke Photography)

This article recently appeared in *Acadiana Lifestyle*:

It's evident in Melissa Bonin's ethereal paintings of moss-draped oaks and winding bayous just how much she loves the land and waterways of Acadiana. The professional artist has studied and exhibited her work throughout the U.S. and abroad. She taught art to the underprivileged and mentored the gifted and talented. She was the first woman to exhibit art and present poetry at the 2019 Acadian World Congress in Canada. And she was the official mansion artist for Governor Kathleen Blanco.

You can read all about her [here](#).

FRENCH & ACADIAN NEWS

Author Tyler LeBlanc Receives Two Atlantic Book Awards

A family history dating to the Expulsion of 1755, a posthumous book by one of Nova Scotia's best-known writers and a novel detailing the complex relationship between a white reporter and an imprisoned Nigerian woman are among winners of the 2021 Atlantic Book Awards.

Presented during the virtual Atlantic Book Festival at www.atlanticbookawards.ca, the list of recipients saw Tyler LeBlanc named twice for a well-researched examination of his own family's heritage, *Acadian Driftwood: One Family and the Great Expulsion* (Goose Lane Editions).

Mass Grave of Lost Children Discovered

Since our own ancestors were subject to a form of ethnic cleansing, many of us are sensitive to mistreatment of other populations, especially our First Nation brothers. An investigation in far Western Canada may have uncovered a particularly ghastly example of this, according to an article recently published by CBC News:

Indigenous leaders and experts in British Columbia are calling for the protection of sites of former residential schools after the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation said the remains of 215 children were found at one such site in Kamloops, B.C.

They warn that this represents just a small portion of the thousands who died while the schools were in operation.

An associate professor at the University of British Columbia's Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies, said it's only a matter of time before the technology reveals more physical evidence of the horrors of residential schools across Canada.

You can read more about this disturbing discovery [here](#).

Acadian Park Expands English Services

Le Pays de la Sagouine is an Acadian "theatrical village" founded by Antonine Maillet in Bouctouche, NB, that includes historical reenactments of the Acadian culture. After COVID-19 brought a larger influx of Anglophone visitors, the park found it necessary to expand its English offerings to accommodate the new crowd. The Bouctouche attraction previously offered English guided tours but will now present four English performances every day. Read about it [here](#) (story) or [here](#) (TripAdvisor).

World Acadian Congress Planned for 2024

Congrès mondial acadien 2024 will be held in southern Nova Scotia August 10-18, 2024 around the municipalities of Clare and Argyle. The theme will be "Come Live Your Acadie." For details visit: <https://www.cma2024.ca/>.

Nova Scotia Asks to Join Francophonie

Nova Scotia's first ever "bilingual" Premier Iain Rankin, asked the *Organisation internationale de la francophonie* (OIF) to allow the province to become an Observer (as Louisiana succeeded in doing last year). More details [here](#).

Mi'kmaq Student Creates Lab to Share Traditional Knowledge

This article appeared in the CBC News:



All first-year biology students at Acadia University in Wolfville, N.S., now learn about Mi'kmaq traditional knowledge thanks to the efforts of one student who

was tired of seeing Indigenous perspectives ignored in science.

Leah Creaser (right), a member of the Acadia First Nation, said she often felt out of place and uncomfortable in her university biology classes. She remembers taking a first-year lab about plant identification and waiting for her professor to talk about how the Mi'kmaq have been using those same plants for thousands of years. It never happened. "I don't want to say I got mad, but I was definitely really frustrated to not even see any acknowledgements of any Indigenous peoples at all," said Creaser, 26, who is now in her fourth year and president of the university's Indigenous Students Society. "The fact that the school flies the flag, puts their acknowledgements at the end of their emails, like that's not enough."

When her professor Juan Carlos López suggested she create her own lab based on Mi'kmaq traditional knowledge as part of a research topic in her third year, she said yes right away and then took it a step further.

You can read more about it [here](#).

The Story Behind That Coast Guard Ship

In our last issue, we ran this note from Dr. Daniel N. Paul, a Mi'kmaq elder, author, columnist, human rights activist, and author of the book *We Were Not the Savages*:

I'm happy to announce that I've been informed that the [Canadian] Coast Guard Ship Cornwallis has been officially renamed Kopit/Hopson 1752.

We already knew that Edward Cornwallis was one of the hated governors of Nova Scotia in the years leading up to the Acadian Deportation, but he was particularly infamous among the Mi'kmaq for his 1749 proclamation encouraging genocide against the tribe. Hopson was the Nova Scotia Governor who succeeded Cornwallis. Dr. Paul has since clarified why the renaming is significant:

The [new] name is derived from the 1752 Peace and Friendship Treaty negotiated between Chief Kopit of the Sipekne'katik Band of Mi'kmaq and British Governor Hopson. The story of how long the peace lasted and what caused it to be aborted is quite long and can be found at page 125 of my book, *We Were Not the Savages*.

The ship renaming was part of a larger effort by Mi'kmaq to eradicate Cornwallis's name and image from public places, including a statue, a park, and a street in Halifax. This is somewhat ironic, since Cornwallis was the governor who founded Halifax, but also fitting, since he violated several previous treaties with the Mi'kmaq while issuing the genocidal proclamation against them. Acadians and Mi'kmaq in Canada are closely related by blood, and there is a little Mi'kmaq in all of us, even those descendants of Acadians who ended up in Louisiana.

Beads Found at 18th-Century Acadian Site



Photo by Claude Arsenault in Beads Journal

A recent article written by Helen Kristmanson, Erin Montgomery, Karlis Karklins and Adelphine Bonneau describes a recent find on Prince Edward Island, excerpted here:

Excavation of the Pointe aux Vieux site, an 18th-century Acadian house located on western Prince Edward Island, Canada, yielded a significant assortment of beads. Among the glass and bone specimens are ten black beads decorated with undulating yellow lines around the middle. Commonly called “rattlesnake” beads by collectors, this stylistic form has been found at many sites in North America as well as elsewhere in the world.

Unlike the other beads, however, the ones from Pointe aux Vieux are not glass but formed by melting an igneous rock called “proterobas” to form a totally opaque black glass. The only known source of beads made from this material is the Fichtelgebirge region of northeastern Bavaria. While black ball buttons made of proterobas have been encountered at various sites in the eastern United States and Western Europe, this is the first recorded instance of proterobas beads in North America. It is hoped that this article will lead to more such beads being identified in archaeological collections so that their distribution and temporal range may be determined.

The entire article can be viewed by purchasing a copy of the *Beads Journal* [here](#).

Grand-Pré Heritage Site Gets Consultants

This email came from Claude Degrâce, Executive Director of Landscape of Grand Pré, Inc.:

In February 2021, Landscape of Grand Pré Incorporated (LGPI) issued a request for proposals (RFP) seeking proposals for the development of a visitor experience concept and feasibility study (VECFS) for the Landscape of Grand Pré World Heritage Site. We are pleased to inform you that the RFP process was successful and that LGPI has awarded a contract to EVOQ Strategies for this project.

The development of the VECFS requires that EVOQ Strategies engage with key stakeholders and with the public to seek ideas on how we should proceed with communicating the Outstanding Universal Value of the Landscape. As part of this project, the consultant will undertake interviews and consultations (either in-person or virtually) with key stakeholders to define their expectations and obtain their input into the development of a VECFS for the Landscape of Grand Pré World Heritage Site.

EVOQ has created an engagement portal which we encourage you to share with your membership. To view the portal, [click here](#).

(Keep reading! There's more on the next page...)

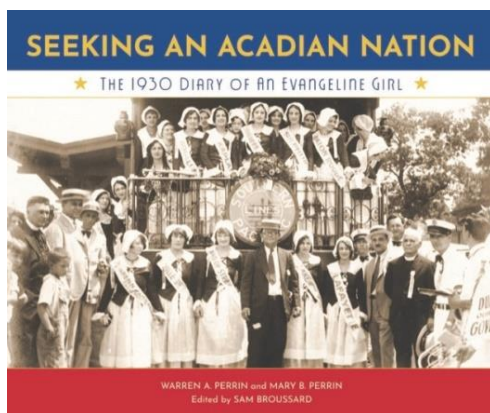
LAGNIAPPE

Historic Winslow House Reopens

Col. John Winslow of Massachusetts was the leader behind the deportation of Acadians from Grand Pré in the mid-1700s. Even so, the [Winslow House](#), which houses his artifacts, has tried to tell our ancestors' story and the best account of the deportation is still contained in [Winslow's diary](#).

Acadian Museum chairman Warren Perrin was invited to speak there 15 years ago—the first Acadian descendant to be invited to do so— and we have maintained good relations with that organization for years. If you're ever in Marshfield, MA, you might stop by, or for more information visit their [website](#) or contact info@winslowhouse.org.

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. Our latest book, [Seeking an Acadian Nation](#), traces the movement toward Acadian reunification starting in the

1800s and continuing to the 1930s. Other titles and available souvenirs include:

- [Acadie Then and Now: A People's History](#) filled with articles about the Acadian experience by Cajun and Acadian authors from around the world. This book won the prestigious *Prix France-Acadie* in 2015.
- [Acadian Redemption](#) - *From Beausoleil Broussard to the Queen's Royal Proclamation* by Warren Perrin.
- *A Century of Acadian Culture, Erath (1899-1999)* by General Curney Dronet.
- *The Foundations of Acadia* by Richard Armstrong and Sara Beanlands.
- Historical "picture books" on Vermilion, Iberia, and St. Landry parishes.
- T-shirts, posters, and reproductions.

Coming Soon: Acadian Museum TV!



D.L. Menard at Lake Peigneur

Later this summer, we hope to release our own YouTube channel of Cajun and Acadian video treasures. If you value Acadian/Cajun culture and

heritage and want to help preserve it, there is no better way than to help with our latest project! The Acadian Museum has a collection of 250 VHS video tapes of our local heroes, dating back half a century to our founding. [Your donations](#) can help make it happen. Here is just one of the videos that we are queuing up for your enjoyment: D.L. Menard playing outdoors at Lake Peigneur with the Rees Family Band.

<https://youtu.be/9EHP2TV8Y4A>

Once we have a critical mass of these videos ready for viewing, we will launch the Acadian Museum TV Channel. Stay tuned and meanwhile [click here](#) to help.