

**LA PAROLE**  
**Newsletter of the Acadian Museum**  
**By: Chairman Warren A. Perrin**  
**Acadian Heritage and Culture Foundation, Inc.**  
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[www.acadianmuseum.com](http://www.acadianmuseum.com)

August 30, 2018

- You are on the museum's email list to receive *La Parole*. If you know of anyone who would like to receive it, please forward their name and email address to my secretary Darylin at: [darylinb@plddo.com](mailto:darylinb@plddo.com). If you no longer want to receive future issues, please advise at the email noted above.

- *Acadie Then and Now* was named the 2015 winner of the prestigious *Prix France-Acadie*. In Canada, the books in French or English editions may be ordered from Jacques Ouellet of *La Grande Marée* at email: [jouellet@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:jouellet@nbnet.nb.ca), or on the web at [www.amazon.ca](http://www.amazon.ca). In the U. S., call (337) 233-5832, or email [perrin@plddo.com](mailto:perrin@plddo.com)



- **Upcoming Presentations by Warren and Mary Perrin**

September 19, The Special Collections Department at Edith Garland Dupré Library, “Revitalizing Acadian Culture in South Louisiana,” third floor of Dupré Library, UL Lafayette at 5:00 p.m.

October 10, New Acadia Project at Our Friends of the Library, Parkview Branch Library, 500 Grand Pre Blvd., New Iberia, LA at 5:30 p.m.

November 3, New Acadia Project at ACQS (America Council for Quebec Studies) international conference in New Orleans a panel chaired by Dr. Barry Ancelet from 10:45 -12 at Intercontinental Hotel.

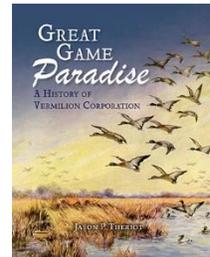
January 19, 2019, Algiers Historical Society (AHS) at 10 – 12 a.m., Algiers Regional Library, Algiers, LA

- Let **Acadian Museum Editing Services** polish up your written word. We provide proofreading and editing services for all forms of written documents, from brochures to school papers to



full-length book manuscripts. We work for international students and faculty, business and government officials, high school and college students, or anyone who needs a perfect written document. All profits go to the Acadian Museum. Call 337-501-3053 or email [mlbperrin@gmail.com](mailto:mlbperrin@gmail.com). Ask for Mary Perrin for more information.

- We recommend this book by historian Jason Theriot, a native of New Iberia: *Game Paradise* is an in-depth history of a vast, bountiful marshland under private land management during a century of enormous change along Louisiana's now threatened coast. As stewards of a 125,000-acre tract of prime marsh habitat, Vermilion Corporation and its predecessors have since the 1920s perpetuated the sport of duck hunting through a relentless pursuit of land conservation, sustainable development, and environmental restoration. As one of the largest privately managed wetlands in the state, this story represents a microcosm of the history of the Louisiana Gulf Coast—its resources, its culture, and its lure and its peril.
- One of Canada's newest historical sites had a special visitor July 16. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made a brief stop at the Beaubassin National Historic Site to tour the former Acadian village and learn a little about his family connection to the community that was destroyed by fire in 1750. Cumberland-Colchester MP Bill Casey (centre) talks to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and genealogist Stephen White from the University of Moncton at Beaubassin on Monday. White presented the prime minister a copy of the baptismal record of a Trudeau ancestor.
- *Réunion Acadienne* held its Cajun Reunion celebrating the Feast of the Assumption on August 12. For more information, call Edwin Fleischmann at (504) 982-0800. The event is sponsored by *Les Amis du CODOFIL Westbank, Inc.* and was held at The Four Columns, 3711 West Bank Expressway, Harvey, Louisiana.
- August 15, The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is the Feast of the Acadians. The Acadians originally sailed to *Nouvelle-Écosse* under the star of Our Lady of the Assumption and again during the *Grand Derangement*. The Acadian Flag, both Canadian and Louisiana Acadian, highlights the centrality of Our Lady of the Assumption for the Acadian people. In order to serve the Acadian settlers in the



Attakapas district, in 1765 Fr. Jean-Louis de Civrey accompanied the Acadians from New Orleans in their journey down the Bayou Teche. Fr. Civrey became the first resident priest. In his records, Fr. Civrey refers to his new home as “*la Nouvelle Acadie*” and his new parish “*l’Élise des Attakapas* (Attakapas Church)” and later “*l’Élise St-Martin de Tours* (St. Martine de Tours Church).” Since 2015 they have been hosting an all-day “Holy Day” on Bayou Teche for the Feast of the Assumption. In order to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Diocese of Lafayette, the Assumption Eucharistic Boat Procession this year was held on Bayou Vermilion.

- Robert B. Vincent, a member of the museum’s executive committee for 22 years, issued the following statement in announcing that he will be a candidate for the Erath City Council in the upcoming election. The election will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2018. “It is with great excitement that I announce my candidacy for the Erath City Council. I want to serve as your independent voice on the city council.”



- We received this photo taken on July 17<sup>th</sup> at the monument *Odyssée acadienne* in Dieppe.



- The Quilters' Guild Acadienne is exhibiting 32 quilts through Aug. 31 at its third annual show at the Acadiana Center for the Arts, 101 W. Vermilion St. In Lafayette. The Quilters' Guild Acadienne, in existence for 25 years, is known for its exquisite work, with two of its quilts on permanent display. The *Marquis de Lafayette* quilt was made to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Lafayette and is on permanent display at the Lafayette Consolidated Government City Hall Atrium. The Acadian Odyssey quilt

chronicles the history of Acadian people and was presented to the city of St. Martinville in 1999 on the occasion of *Congr s mondial acadien* and hangs in the Acadian Memorial Museum in St. Martinville.

- Acadian Culture Day was celebrated at Vermilionville Historic Village. Every year Vermilionville hosts this free event for the public to explore how the Acadian community maintains its heritage. This year’s Acadian Culture Day focused on "What’s Happening Now." Visit their web site for details: <http://www.vermilionville.org/>.
- The Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge has a special exhibit *CODOFIL: 50 Years Of Activism* celebrating the 50 years of the Council for Development of French in Louisiana – CODOFIL. The exhibit will be available for viewing until December 15, 2018. <http://www.louisianaoldstatecapitol.org/programs-exhibits/codofil-50-years-of-activism/>  
A listing of French tables is provided at this link: <https://www.crt.state.la.us/cultural-development/codofil/events/tables-franaises/index>
- On July 28, the Day of Commemoration of the Acadian Deportation as set forth in the Queen’s Royal Proclamation, Gregory Wood of Maryland was inducted as a Living Legend. He has documented the French and Acadian experience in Maryland since 1973. Of Acadian and Qu becois heritage on his maternal side, Wood spent 40 years in foreign language instruction and is the author of two books, numerous articles and a family history. He is now preparing a second supplement to his *Guide to Acadians in Maryland in the 18th and 19th Centuries*. Wood has given many presentations worldwide and enjoys sharing his historical insights with others on the Mid-Atlantic, Louisiana and the Canadian Maritimes. Over the last several years he has greatly contributed to the mission of our Acadian Museum such as attending the presentation I made in Washington DC, participating in many Acadian festivals and contributing an excellent article for our book *Acadie Then and Now*.
- Prince Edward Island historian Earle Lockerby lectured at the Acadian Museum in Miscouche. His talk was entitled “Island Acadians of the 1760s and The Oath of Allegiance” and took place July 24. It was determined that Acadians treated the oath of allegiance with more ambivalence and flexibility than they did during the several decades leading up to 1755. Lockerby is the researcher and author of *Deportation of Prince Edward Island Acadians*.

- One of the most interesting things new UL Ragin' Cajuns football coach Billy Napier said during his first Sun Belt Conference football Media Day about our Cajun culture is what Napier is calling the culture he's trying to get his new team to buy into:  
 "When we talk about culture at the University of Louisiana, we're talking about it in two different ways...The first culture we're trying to establish at our place is how we go about our business inside the building...The second part of the culture is our area, our region, is so unique. It's special. You can't drive through that community and not recognize that. And it's all about the people. It's about their beliefs. It's about their belief in hard work, their belief in doing things with class, their want to be associated with a winner. That's why our staff is at the University of Louisiana — to do those two things, establish our culture inside the building and embrace the culture in the community."
- Holly Arsenault is a Seattle-based playwright. She wrote to me: "My new play *The Great Inconvenience* will open at Annex Theatre here in Seattle recently for a four-weekend run. The play, which is set in the future, touches on a number of deportations and forced migrations in North American history, including the expulsion of the Acadians from maritime Canada. (Not incidentally, my great-great-great-great-great-grandparents, Joseph and Marguerite Arsenault, were among the Prince Edward Islanders who evaded the deportation by hiding in the woods, where they stayed for nine years)." You can find more information about the show here: <http://www.annextheatre.org/2018-season/main-stage/the-great-inconvenience/> You can learn more about her on her website: [www.holly-arsenault.com](http://www.holly-arsenault.com).
- The St. John Valley Chamber of Commerce recently hosted the 3rd annual Poutine Palooza, which centers on one of the most notable, and delicious, icons of Acadian culture. The event — an homage to the traditional Quebecois delicacy of french-fried potatoes covered in gravy and cheese curds — coincides with the beginning of the Acadian Festival during the Party du Main Street. "The Poutine Palooza is separate from, but designed to boost numbers for the Acadian Festival," according to chamber director, Brian Bouley.
- According to an article by Herman Fuselier in *The Daily Advertiser*, Gracie Babineaux needs no lectures on Cajun culture. Gracie and her sister, Julie, have played Cajun music across the United States and Europe as leaders of the Babineaux Sisters band. Gracie has taught the music to college students at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. But for Babineaux, Cajun goes beyond the standard checklist of music, food, language and a

French last name. "Being Cajun to me is something that should be easy," said Babineaux, a 20-year-old junior majoring in environmental geology at UL. "You help out the people you love and the people you don't. You learn everything you can about old traditions, but you always try to make new ones. You are grateful for what you have and work hard for what you want." The Babineaux Sisters paid tribute to their exiled ancestors from Nova Scotia at the annual Acadian Culture Day at Vermilionville. NAP had an exhibition at the event. This event coincided with National Acadian Day, which is held every year on Aug. 15 in Canada. Vermilionville chose CODOFIL to be the recipient of their annual Acadian Culture Award this year.

- This is an interesting article on the singer Beyoncé's Acadian ancestry sent to me by Phil Comeau. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-6040983/Beyonces-family-tree-reveals-great-great-great-grandmother-slave-married-owner.html>
- On August 9, I hosted a meeting in Lafayette with State Representative Julie Stokes, now a candidate for Louisiana Secretary of State, and her assistant, Rachel Archey, to discuss her role in the French Renaissance movement. She is a Francophile and has studied in France. Stokes' father-in-law is a Cajun from Avoyelles Parish and she has been very supportive of CODOFIL's work.
- To change, or to not change the flag of Acadiana? All across Acadiana, you can see the flag flying high, but UL Political Science professor Rick Swanson says the Acadiana flag should be more inclusive. "I'm not replacing the Cajun flag. I want to replace the Acadiana flag, and that's the problem. The Louisiana legislature in 1974 created this confusion by taking the ethnic flag of the Cajuns and saying it will also be for the region of Acadiana," Swanson explained. He wants it to represent not only the region's French and Spanish history but also its West African heritage. After much push-back, Dr. Swanson told me the proposal was misunderstood and he felt the flag issues needed further consideration. I told him I was willing to explore with him a new flag to represent all cultures in a designated area, but the present Acadian flag should remain the representative of all Louisiana Acadians. We have made plans to meet and discuss further.



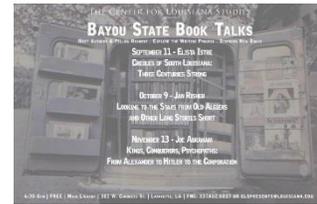
- A copy of the Mitchel 1753 Plan of the River of Annapolis Royal map is displayed in the Nova Scotia Premier's office in Middleton, Nova Scotia. This plan was prepared by George Mitchell in 1733 and updated in 1753. The map shows where Acadian villages and houses (in what is called today Digby, Annapolis Royal, Belleisle, Bridgetown, Paradise areas) were located prior to 1755. Many thanks to the premier's office staff for displaying this map that contains historical Acadian information.
- Ottawa, Aug. 15, 2018 /CNW/ - The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today issued the following statement on National Acadian Day: "On National Acadian Day, we celebrate the culture and heritage of the Acadian people and the important role Acadians have played in shaping Canada. Acadians hold a special place in our country's history and in our Canadian identity. Among the first French settlers in North America, the Acadians were the victims of persecution for centuries. But in the face of deportation, exile, and oppression, they showed resilience, courage, and determination. Against great odds, Acadians worked together to defend their culture, promote their language, and build prosperous communities. Today, Acadians remain proud of their heritage and deeply rooted in their culture. Forward-looking and strong in their heritage, Acadians continue to make our country a better place to live. Today, we honor this proud people and celebrate their important contributions to Canada. On behalf of the Government of Canada, Sophie and I wish all Acadians – from coast to coast to coast and around the world – a happy National Acadian Day."
- There is no doubt, Vermilion Parish is a Roman Catholic Community based on the amount of people who took part in the *Centennial Fete-Dieu du Vermilion* Eucharistic Procession. It began with a French Mass at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church in Abbeville. The procession left the church and walked across the downtown bridge and then turned into the old Riverfront Restaurant where it stopped along the river. The rosary was said in four different languages. The event honors the arrival of the French-speaking Catholics, the Acadians, who came to the area 252 years ago after being exiled by the British from present-day Nova Scotia. The *Feté-Dieu du Vermilion* procession left downtown and headed north towards Lafayette, where it ended later in the day. There were over 60 boats in the procession. Since that first event in 2015,



the procession-by-boat has been repeated each year on August 15, becoming an annual part of Acadiana's observance of the Assumption of Mary. "To be Cajun is to be Catholic," says Father Michael Champagne in a pleasant baritone that gives evidence of his own Acadian roots.

- The book *A Cajun Girl's Sharecropping Year* by Viola Fontenot was published by University Press of Mississippi, and is in the process of being translated into French. This book is about the realities of life as a sharecropper's daughter in rural Church Point. *A Cajun Girl's Sharecropping Years* is available online at the University Press of Mississippi.com, Amazon.com, and local bookstores. Next book signing: Books Along the Teche, Saturday, September 29 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., 106 Main Street, New Iberia, LA. The Center for Louisiana Studies at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette launches its fifth season of Bayou State Book Talks [on Tuesday, September 11, beginning at 6:30pm](#) in the Main Library second floor meeting room. Admission is free and open to the public. I have read the book and recommend it to all of my friends.

- *Bayou State Book Talks* is a monthly discussion series led by authors from Louisiana who have written books that are of interest to Louisianans. The series is co-sponsored by the Center for Louisiana Studies, UL Lafayette now headed by Josh Caffery,, and the Lafayette Public Library System. Talks are held at the Main Library in Downtown Lafayette, 301 W. Congress Street, on the second Tuesday of the month during the school year, from 6:30-8pm.



The Fall 2018 season features:

September 11 - Elista Istre

*Creoles of South Louisiana: Three Centuries Strong*

October 9 - Jan Risher

*Looking to the Stars from Old Algiers and Other Long Stories Short*

November 13 - Joe Abraham

*Kings, Conquerors, Psychopaths: From Alexander to Hitler to the Corporation*

- On September 1 and 2, Christ the King Mission Church will host its annual bazaar as its primary fundraising event. It is a mission church of St. Charles Borromeo of Grand Coteau, serving a largely rural, Creole community. Going by on one of those days to get a supply of some of their sweet dough pies makes the trip worthwhile all by itself. They will even have an old-time raffle of a cafe. There are also dinners as well and music and dancing on Saturday night with Wayne Singleton and the Same Ol 2 Step. The event takes place on the church grounds on Christ the King Road in South St. Landry Parish. between Shuteston and Lewisburg.
- In his documentary filmmaker Fabien Melanson turns the camera on his own family to explore the challenges facing minority French speakers in Halifax, where only four per cent of the population identifies as francophone. In French, *S'il Vous Plaît* follows Fabien, his wife Christine and their two young sons Matéo and Malec who are most comfortable speaking English or "chiac," a combination of both languages. Both Fabien and Christine are from Acadian families, but he grew up speaking French at home in Cap-Pelé, N.B., while she grew up speaking mostly English in Riverview, N.B.
- In approximately 11 months we will gather again for another *Congrès mondial acadien 2019*. It should be a great time for all of our family and friends to gather again. The *Congrès mondial acadien 2019* will occur between 10 - 24 August and encompass Prince Edward Island (PEI) and southeastern New Brunswick (NB). This will be the first CMA at Prince Edward Island. The CMA 2019 planning committee anticipates having formal activities at PEI from 10 – 14 August and the remainder of the formal activities in the Moncton, NB area. The formal CMA ceremonies include:
  - \* 10 August – Opening Ceremony (Abram-Village, PEI)
  - \* 14 August – Commemoration Day (Miscouche, PEI)
  - \* 15 August – National Acadian Day (Dieppe, NB)
  - \* 16-23 August – Community Space (Moncton, NB)
  - \* 24 August – Closing Ceremony (Shediac, NB)

To keep up with the latest information on the *Congrès mondial acadien 2019*, visit their website at <https://www.cma2019.ca/en/>

- To all judges and lawyers, please mark your calendars: The Francophone Section of the Louisiana State Bar Association is once again offering to co-host a CLE seminar, as part of the Judge Allen M. Babineaux International Civil Law Symposium series, with the faculté de droit Université de Moncton for Canadian, French and Louisiana attorneys to be held at the University of Moncton during next year's Congrès mondial acadien 2019. We have formed an organizing committee, are looking at possible dates (Monday, August 19, 2019 looks promising) and developing a theme for the program which we hope will attract a large international audience. We welcome and invite comments from the international legal community, including offers to make presentations at the symposium.
- For the CMA 2019, the Broussard family will have a reunion August 16 in New Brunswick at Solomon Gardens. See the photo on right showing the new sign—naming the amphitheater after our progenitor Beausoleil. I received this email from the owner of Solomon Gardens: “We are moving ahead to make the historical site Village Beausoleil a memorable place during the Acadian World Congress next year. Our dream is to continue the site in a historical fashion as it was created in the 1740's by the family of Joseph and Alexander Brossard, who occupied the location for approximately 11 years. We have found much history in the area including the location of a sawmill, a grist mill and three residential sites, the first at the beginning of the village; and a site where Victor possibly lived, at the other end of the village. There is also a site in the middle where his children and their families lived. We look forward to your reply.”
- There will again be a French Mass in Port Neches, TX on Sunday, October 14, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at Beausoleil Broussard House Although Reverend Gary Schexnayder has been ill and is retired, he has committed to say Mass again this year. Following the Mass, listen and dance to music and tour the museum complex free of charge. There will also be food booths (chicken gumbo, boudin, and hot links), drinks and a sweets shop. Seating for 250 will be available; however, bring your lawn chairs. In case of inclement weather, a sign will be posted at the museum with directions to a nearby location, probably the Port Neches K.C. Hall. The event is sponsored by *Les Acadiens du Texas* Port Neches, Texas, The links below will provide more information about *La Maison Beausoleil* and the Port Neches Park: [http://www.ci.port-neches.tx.us/?page\\_id=632](http://www.ci.port-neches.tx.us/?page_id=632).



- The following is some great news from CODOFIL: <https://france-amerique.com/en/louisiana-admittance-to-la-francophonie-to-be-determined-in-october/> Louisiana is now one step closer to being named an *Observateur* in the *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie*. The selection committee is recommending that Louisiana become an *Observateur* and the headquarters in Paris is also giving Louisiana a favorable recommendation. The next—and last step—the vote from the members (heads of state of 52 countries) during the summit in Yerevan, Armenia. There should be no reason why they would vote against both the recommendations of the selection committee and the headquarters’ recommendation. The Francophone summit will be held in October.



Front row, Jim Reinhardt, Joe Murry, Warren Perrin and Jay Trahan; back row, E. Gerald “T Boy” Hebert, Bill LeBlanc, Randy Peloquin and Paul Muffoletto.

- I am proud to be part of a group of former University of Louisiana student athletes that gathered at UL on July 24 for socializing and filming of a unique documentary. Plans are

moving forward for a documentary film with the working title, *The Ragin' 13* by Nicholas Campbell. When this documentary is completed, it will tell the inspiring story of these athletes from the 1950s, 60s and 70s—from many diverse backgrounds—who came together without a coach to organize an olympic weightlifting team that won an amazing eight national collegiate championships. This utter dominance of NCAA olympic weightlifting in America has yet to be duplicated. While our success as NCAA champions was in large part due to our upbringing and culture, it was a shared passion for the sport—man against iron—that forged the team and its successes, all the while, preparing us for life's challenges. I was inspired by many Francophone strongmen and wrestlers from Quebec.

- Lucius Fontenot sent this wonderful food-related news from Acadiana:  
“Hi Warren,

Jolie and I's food blog *Porch, Wine & Gravy* is up the *Saveur Magazine's* 2018 Blog Awards.

Tastemaker magazine *Saveur* has named Lafayette, La. food blog *Porch, Wine & Gravy* a finalist in its *2018 Saveur Magazine Blog Awards* in the category of “Most Inspired Weeknight Dinners.” *Saveur* is a globally distributed publication covering the best in food, wine and travel. *Porch, Wine and Gravy* is the work of Acadiana natives Jolie Meaux and Lucius A. Fontenot. Both recently appeared on the Anthony Bourdain's *Parts Unknown* “Cajun Mardi Gras” episode.

*Porch, Wine & Gravy* was selected by the editors of *Saveur* out of 20,000 submissions to be one of 66 finalists in more than 11 categories, each of which have six finalists. Each category with have two winners: Editors Choice and People's Choice. *Porch, Wine & Gravy* is the only finalist from South Louisiana and the South at large. Voting for People's Choice Award begins Tuesday, August 28th at 5 PM at <https://www.saveur.com/vote-2018-saveur-blog-awards>. Or you can go to <http://www.porchwineandgravy.com> which has a link at the top of the blog. Voters may vote as many times as they wish.

If you would like more information about *Porch, Wine & Gravy* and *Saveur* 2018 Blog Awards, contact Lucius A. Fontenot by phone at 337-280-3798 or email [porchwineandgravy@gmail.com](mailto:porchwineandgravy@gmail.com).”