

August 2021

Louisiana Department of Revenue

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Elaine Larcade-Bourque. I was awarded the Louisiana Tradition Bearer Award in the year 2019. I was born in Acadia Parish to a French speaking Cajun family. I am very proud of my Cajun culture and background. This was not so for my parents, so it is very important to me that I pay tribute to my ancestors and all Acadian ancestors who survived the Grand Derangement.

I have been documenting old Acadian textiles made with brown cotton (coton jaune). This tradition was done only in Southwest Louisiana by the Acadian families that survived the Grand Derangement.

Only in the Erath Museum have I found a permanent display of some of the beautiful work done by the Acadian women with the white and brown cotton. Most museums have the beautiful blankets stored in a closet or vault. There are many blankets on display by several prominent weavers who were responsible for carrying this tradition of over 250 years old, into the present century. Also housed in the museum are tools used by the weavers.

In working on my documentation, I have often visited the Erath Museum to seek information about weavers and to document textiles that were made over 100 years ago. With the help of volunteers and Warren Perrin I have been able to acquire a wealth of knowledge about one of the most prominent weavers in the United States. The Erath Museum has a real treasure, Mrs. Therese Dronet, who was born and raised in their community. Mrs. Dronet wove 2 blankets that were given to 2 presidents, Herbert Hoover in 1929 and Dwight Eisenhower in the late 1950's.

The Erath Museum features many prominent weavers not only from the Erath, Vermilion parish area, but also focuses on other weavers in surrounding parishes.

I have referred several people to the Erath Museum when they were researching the Acadian tradition of weaving and two of these people have gone on to publish a book that included information derived from Warren Perrin. I have taken friends on a day that Warren Perrin was available to give them a tour and they were certainly impressed with the wealth of knowledge and artifacts in that small museum.

The Acadian weaving tradition collection is just one of many, many impressive collections housed in the Erath Museum.

Warren Perrin has always been so very helpful and cooperative in assisting me and my apprentice in my research.

As descendants of Southwest Louisiana, we are very fortunate to have the Erath Museum and to know that this museum works at giving visitors a better understanding of the Acadians and our Cajun history, culture and traditions. Louisiana needs to support the Erath Museum!

Elaine Larcade-Bourque