



Écoutez



April - June, 2018

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A PUBLICATION OF THE WEST BATON ROUGE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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"The purpose of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association shall be to foster interest in history, particularly that of West Baton Rouge Parish, and to encourage and pursue research, collection and preservation of materials illustrating past or present activities of the parish."

50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA Set for August 18

The West Baton Rouge Historical Association and West Baton Rouge Museum will celebrate 50 years of preserving West Baton Rouge history on Saturday, August 18, 2018 with a golden anniversary gala at the museum from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, announced Drew Maciasz, president of the WBR Historical Association and Angelique Bergeron, museum director.

The event will feature the grand opening of the exhibit: **Golden Anniversary: Treasures from the Collection**. Many items from the WBRHA's extensive collection will be on display during the event. Invitations will be mailed to current members and reservations are required.



The West Baton Rouge Historical Association 2018 Card Party Committee includes from left: Alice LeBlanc, Evva Wilson, Food Chairman, Babs Babin, Kim Callegan, Ruth Stanley, Lorry Trotter, General Chairman, Ida Pierre, and Joyce Barbier. Not pictured is Janet Simoneaux.

WBR Historical Association to Host 13th Annual Christmas in July Card Party

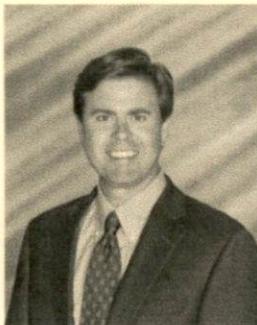
Plans are underway for the 13th annual Christmas in July Card Party fundraiser set for Monday, July 30, 2018. The event is hosted by the WBR Historical Association and runs from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the West Baton Rouge Community Center in Port Allen. A donation of \$30 per person includes snacks, lunch, and door prizes.

Chairperson Lorry Trotter invites card players to try their luck at bridge, hand and foot canasta, Shanghi rummy, canasta, sequence, pokeno, bouree, and other parlor games. Bring your entire group or register individually to play. Evva Wilson is food chairman for the event and guarantees a delicious lunch.

Other committee members include Babs Babin, Joyce Barbier, Kim Callegan, Alice LeBlanc, Ida Pierre, and Ruth Stanley. Reservations are required and the registration deadline is July 23, 2018. For additional information contact Alice LeBlanc at 336-2422, ext. 203.



WBR Historical Association and WBR Museum Board Celebrate 50 Years of Preserving WBR History: 50th Anniversary committee members are planning an outstanding event on Saturday, August 18, from 6-9 pm at the West Baton Rouge Museum. Shown above from left are Drew Maciasz, Andrea Normand, Ellis Gauthier, Angelique Bergeron, Evva Wilson, Babs Babin, Alice LeBlanc, Elizabeth Brantley, Ruth Stanley, and Lorry Trotter.



Drew Maciasz
WBR Historical Association
Board President

FROM OUR PRESIDENT AROUND OUR ASSOCIATION

Wow, this year is moving so fast! As I said last quarter, it's an honor to be serving as the 2018 President of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association. As I write this letter, I'm so amazed at the awesome work the volunteers of our association are doing.



Over the last few months, the Historical Association has been working hard to plan a fantastic Gala to celebrate its

Golden Anniversary. The highlight of our association year will be the celebration of our Golden Anniversary...50 years! There is so much excitement around this upcoming event; I know it will be a huge success. On August 18, 2018, the museum opens the exhibit, *Golden Anniversary: Treasures from the Collection*. In honor of the Museum's 50th Anniversary, the Historical Association is opening the vault to display objects from its collection, some never seen before.

In addition to the wonderful gala, there is a publication being planned to catalog all of the wonderful items that will be on exhibit for the Golden Anniversary. This catalog is going to be a first-class documentation of all items on display and will certainly

serve as a keepsake for years to come.

Also on the busy summer slate hosted by the Historical Association will be the always exciting Christmas in July Card Party. Please plan on joining us for the fun and always popular gift exchange.

In my short time being involved with the West Baton Rouge Historical Association, it's quite evident the Association is led by a fantastic slate of board members that work tirelessly to raise money and awareness for West Baton Rouge's historical treasures. Not to mention, it would not be what it is today without the passion and leadership from the staff of the West Baton Rouge Museum.

Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join us in the Historical Association. We want everyone to come see the excitement, experience the wonders of the Museum, and participate in our events. If you know someone interested in becoming a member or volunteering with us, please have them call Alice Leblanc at the West Baton Rouge Museum, (225) 336-2422 or email leblanc@wbrmuseum.org. We look forward to welcoming you!

Sincerely,

Drew

Drew Maciasz

Where history has a name.



WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM



Angelique Bergeron, PhD
West Baton Rouge
Museum Director

From Our Director



There is nothing like a near tragedy to make you appreciate what you have in life... family, friends, coworkers, community. For those who haven't heard, I had a little accident on May 9th. I was struck by a car while crossing Main Street in New Roads (Yes, as a pedestrian). I ended up with a fractured lateral tibia plateau and a new metal plate and screws. I will have to stay off of my foot for a total of twelve weeks... no fun. A sincere thank you to everyone who visited, wrote, called, sent flowers and food, and even moved a

couch into my office.

While I may be slowed down a bit, the West Baton Rouge Museum didn't miss a beat. Our Education Team debuted the long anticipated *Running on STEAM* tour and executed it thanks to a new generous volunteer who stepped up to fill my station. Our Curatorial Team pulled off another successful, in-house exhibition, *Rural Ingenuity*, highlighting the numerous local innovations to the sugar industry. You don't want to miss this exhibit which will be up through August 5th. Our *Blast From the Past Summer Camp* is currently underway and the museum is a buzz with excited children and smiling faces. We are also gearing up for our annual Teachers' Institute in July, not to mention our regular monthly Enrichment Mondays and le Café Français which continue to draw new visitors and volunteers. Shout out to Jeannie, Alice, Gwenn, Elizabeth, Kathe, Linda, Mr. Kirby and the entire WBRM staff for getting it all done!

Despite the crutches, Kathe Hambrick and I just made an enlighten-

ing trip to Mexico to consult with Dr. Gwendolyn Midlo Hall on additions to our *Cuttin' Cane Ain't All We Do (Slavery to Civil Rights)* tour. Dr. Hall's groundbreaking work has shed light on the ethnic origins and complex stories of the enslaved community in the colonial period. Dr. Hall was generous in sharing her research including records she tracked down in archives across France, Spain, the Caribbean and Louisiana. Read more about this trip and project in the Curators' Corner.

The Juke Joint has been an extremely popular addition to our tour. The grand opening on April 6th was so well attended that visitors crowded into the old tin building, spilling out onto the grounds to hear local legends in an old-school blues jam with special guest appearances from Lil' Ray and Kenny Neal. Join us for another evening of entertainment in the Juke Joint as Country Roads will host a Supper Club on our grounds in late September. Look for more information in the August edition of Country Roads Magazine. The WBRM's Juke Joint will also be featured in the upcoming edition of Cultural Vistas published by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

Plans for the 50th Anniversary Gala on August 18th are progressing nicely thanks to a dedicated committee of WBR Historical Association and Museum volunteers. We truly have a rich history to celebrate.

With so much going on around here, we hope to see you at the museum. Just look both ways before crossing the street... and then look again!

Angelique

Angélique Bergeron



Curators' Corner

Research Trip to Guanajuato, Mexico (June 2018)



Kathe Hambrick
Exhibits Curator

Kathe Hambrick and Angélique Bergeron recently spent a week of study in Guanajuato, Mexico with the esteemed scholar and historian Dr. Gwendolyn Midlo Hall. Dr. Hall, a leading authority on slavery in colonial Louisiana, has agreed to serve as consultant for the West Baton Rouge Museum. Kathe, who Dr. Hall advised for over 25 years at the River Road African American Museum, was also granted an exclusive interview which covered her life, professional career and upcoming memoirs.

Our research while in Mexico included rare documents dating back to the 1700s that Dr. Hall collected from French, Spanish, Caribbean, and Louisiana archives. Some of the stories uncovered will be useful in the development of museum's *Cuttin' Cane Ain't All We Do (Slavery to Civil Rights)* tour. A recent grant approved by the National Park Service is supporting the development of the new tour.

Upcoming Exhibits

The search for local artifacts is always on as we prepare to host some exciting and informative exhibits. Following our *Treasures of the Collection* exhibit which will open on August 18th, will be *Picturing Nam*, a traveling exhibit from the National Archives. We are currently seeking artifacts from local Vietnam veterans and their families. We would also like to set up interviews with people willing to share stories of their experiences during the Vietnam War era. If you or someone you know has artifacts or would like to participate in an oral history interview, please let us know. *Picturing Nam* opens on November 10, 2018.

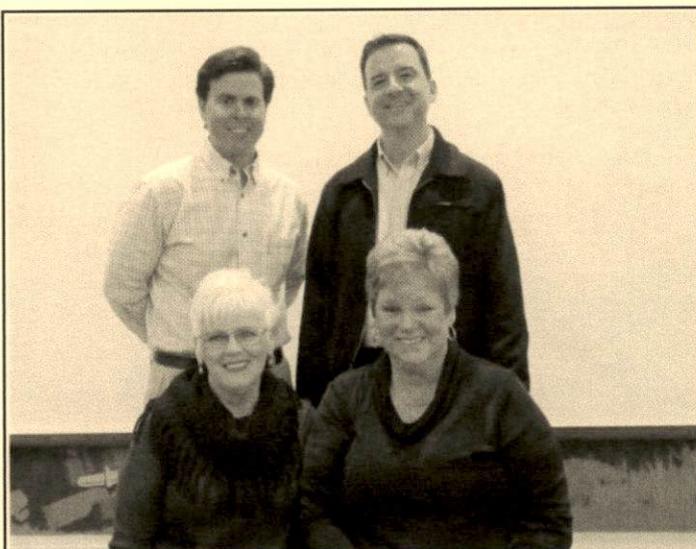
To kick off our 2019 exhibit season, we will explore the world of Scouting. Many artifacts and files were gathered from our Juke Joint building which served for 60 years as the Scout Hut for Boy Scout Troop 38. The exhibit will tell the stories of the boys and

girls who learned valuable life skills and made lasting friendships in local Boy Scout and Girl Scout programs. The WBRHA collection holds many Scout related artifacts, but more are needed to tell the complete story of Scouting in West Baton Rouge. If you have uniforms, photographs, handbooks or Scout related stories to tell, please let us know so we can include your Scout in the exhibit that opens on January 19, 2019.



Elizabeth Brantley
Curator of Collections

To donate or loan items for any of these upcoming exhibits, contact Curator of Collections Elizabeth Brantley at Elizabeth@wbrmuseum.org or 225-336-2422 x 206.



2018 WBR Historical Association Officers:

Directing the activities of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association in its 50th year of service are Drew Maciasz, President, and Glen Daigle, Treasurer, shown standing. Seated are Mary Bennett, vice president; and Janet Simoneaux, secretary. Plans are underway for the 50th anniversary celebration on Saturday, August 18, 2018.

2018 Historical Association Board of Directors

Babs Babin	Janice Hebert	2018 Officers
Joyce Barbier	Garry Hubble	
Jane Brou	Dorene Mayeux	President
David Couvillion	Andrea Normand	Drew Maciasz
Wilhemenia DeCuir	Ida Pierre	Vice President
Glen E. DeMourelle	Ruth Stanley	Mary Bennett
Brian Falcon	Evva L.Z. Wilson	Secretary
Ellis Gauthier	Lorry Trotter, Ex Officio	Janet Simoneaux
		Treasurer
		Glen Daigle

NEW PHONE EXTENSIONS FOR THE MUSEUM

The WBR Museum recently had to replace the phone system. As a result, all employees have new three-digit extensions. For your convenience, they are:

Front Desk	200	Hambrick, Kathe	207
Gift Shop	202	Hawthorne, Lauren ..	209
Bergeron, Angélique ..	210	Lavolette, Gwenn	201
Brantley, Elizabeth	206	LeBlanc, Alice	203
Brantley, Toni	201	Lockett, Jeannie	205
Collins, Linda	204		

Blast from the Past Summer History Camp

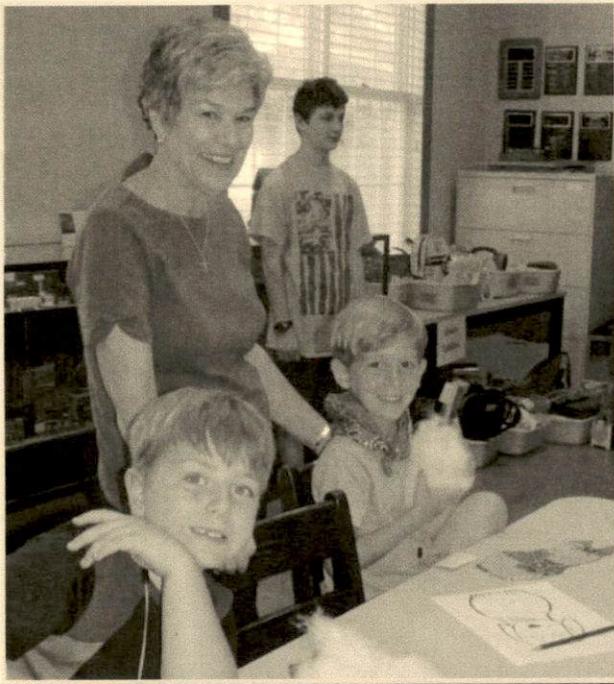
"How to Have More Fun on the Farm"

The West Baton Rouge Museum served up farm fresh fun at its twenty-third annual "Blast from the Past" summer history camp series during the weeks of June 18 – 22 and June 25 – 29, 2018.

Museum staff, visiting artists and other special friends taught campers ages 6 – 12 about work, play and farm family traditions. Activities included playing vintage games, making crafts to keep, learning how to play an American made folk instrument, the mountain dulcimer with the Lagniappe Dulcimer Society, and performing old fashioned chores. Campers examined artifacts to learn how the innovative spirit of farmers led to great inventions that made work easier. Campers visited Kemp Farms to milk a cow, feed baby animals, plant seeds, and go on a hay ride. They also learned how to hoe and plow and how the same work can now be done faster with new farming equipment such as tractors and tillers. They learned how these and other new inventions came to be with special guests, William and Theresa Blount and met a young inventor, Ian Bizette, who turned his ideas into inventions starting at the age of twelve. Antique car enthusiast, Sid Blanchard brought his Ford Model T to camp to share how transportation evolved from carriages to cars. Campers learned about cash crops and how to shell corn, irrigation systems and how to solve problems like having a hole in the bucket, and everything from famous farmers to Farm Aid and Farmer's Markets. They also practiced sewing skills with board member, Dr. Evva Wilson, blacksmithing with volunteer, Gary Hart, and woodworking with the Baton Rouge Woodworkers Club led by volunteer, Mark Monestere. Most of all, they learned respect for hard working farmers who feed and clothe the world.

This year's theme was inspired by the museum's summer exhibit, *Rural Ingenuity*. Director of Education, Jeannie Luckett would like to send a great big thank you to all of the staff, volunteers and special guests who worked tirelessly sharing their time and talents to make the exhibit come to life to enrich the lives of eighty young campers. This program was sponsored in part by the *Frank Carruth, III Children's Fund*.





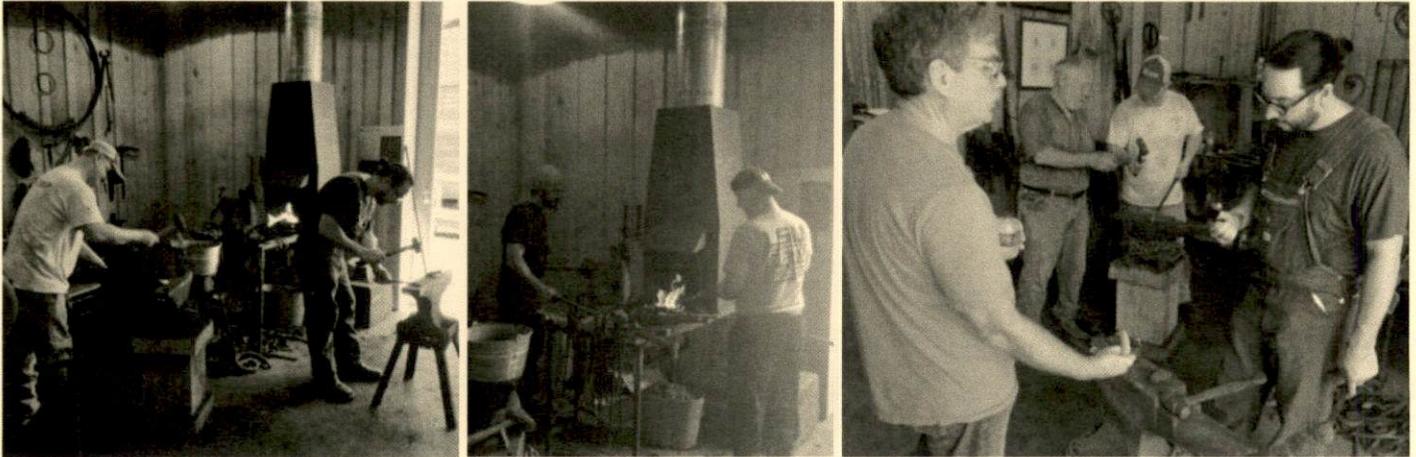
West Baton Rouge Museum's Blacksmith Apprenticeship Program is a Success

This summer, the West Baton Rouge Museum launched a new master class series with the first being a Blacksmith Apprenticeship program. Classes were taught by Artist in Residence and professional blacksmith, Gary Hart.

Participants completed twelve hours of course work where they finished projects to keep and learned blacksmithing basics and ornamental blacksmithing techniques. Class sizes were limited to two students per course. The response was so successful that three summer courses were scheduled as well as one for the fall. Upon completion of the program, participants interested in continuing to hone their craft have been invited to conduct demonstrations at the West Baton Rouge Museum by becoming blacksmithing volunteers.

Summer apprentices included Kristian Geiger, David Sanders, Chris Ransome, April Snellgrove, Malik Jacob, and Danny Farley.

A special thank you goes out to Gary Hart for taking on new students in an effort to keep the tradition alive.



Introducing...

The West Baton Rouge is pleased to introduce our new weekend tour guide, Amanda Moak. Amanda will also be working with our summer camp and summer tours. She earned an M.A. in Library and Information Sciences from LSU in May 2017 and spent a semester as an intern at WBRM. Amanda has also volunteered extensively for WBRM programs which earned her distinction as last year's Volunteer of the Year. Please join us in welcoming her to the WBRM team!

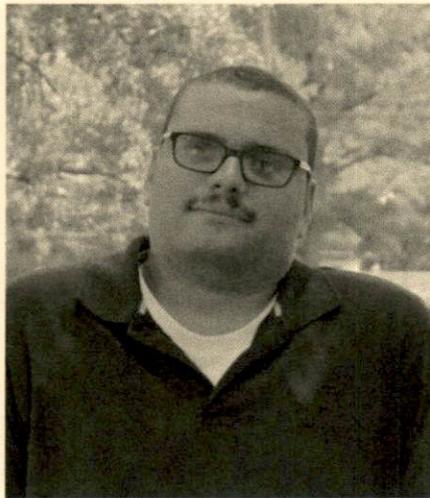
We are also very fortunate to have two summer interns, Benjamin Schexnayder and Emma Bates.

Benjamin is currently a student in LSU's Library and Information Sciences program with two specializations in Archival Studies and the dual enrollment CARST certificate. He is a 2017 cum laude graduate of Loyola University in History. Benjamin will be assisting the Curatorial Team with several archival projects.

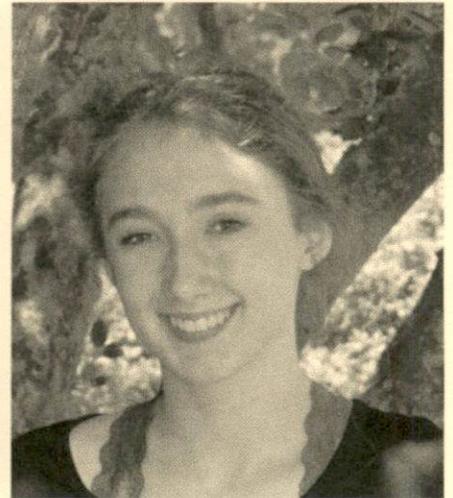
Emma Bates is a senior at Catholic High School of Pointe Coupee. Emma is the daughter of WBRM Educator Gwenn Laviolette and husband, Dr. Reed Bates. Emma will be helping out with our busy schedule of summer tours, as well as some work behind the scenes assisting the Curatorial Team with upcoming exhibits.



Amanda Moak



Benjamin Schexnayder



Emma Bates

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Through - August 19 - Exhibit: Tractors: Rural Ingenuity. This exhibit will tell the story of the inventions and people who shaped the way agricultural processes changed in the rural south. Among the local inventors featured are Leonard Julien, Allen Ramsey Wurtele, and Norbert Rillieux who transformed the way sugarcane is planted, harvested and processed.

July 6 , 1:00 p.m. – Café Français, A venue for those interested in maintaining, preserving and learning the French language and an opportunity. Café français meets on the first Friday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the Museum's Education Room. Free

July 16 – 17 – Teachers Institute – Registration for this annual program sponsored by WBR Historical Association opens March 26. Space is limited.

July 30, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Christmas in July Card Party, West Baton Rouge Community Center, Port Allen, LA

August 3 – Café Français

August 3, Noon - Luchtime Lecture and Panel Discussion, *A Brief History of Invention and Patents in the United States* with historian, Dr. Paul Paskoff and a panel of special guests.

August 18 – 50th Anniversary Gala

August 18 – October 28 - Golden Anniversary: Treasures from the Collection - Treasures from the Collection: In honor of the WBR Museum's 50th Anniversary, the Historical Association is opening the vault to display objects from our collection that document the rich cultural history of our parish. Many of these objects will be on display for the first time!

October 7 – SugarFest, Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The 23rd annual festival.



**OCTOBER 7
2018**

CURRENT LIST OF FRIENDS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mrs. Carolyn Corona Achee | Dorene & Dale Mayeux |
| Thomas W. Acosta, Jr. | Modernaires Dance Club |
| Patricia L. Alford | Carlyn Morales * |
| American Sugar Cane League | Myles & Myles, Attorney-at-Law |
| Mary Arrasmith / Katie Heck | Andrea & Joey Normand |
| Babs Babin and Family | J. Huntington Odom, Jr., DDS |
| Joyce & Kenneth Barbier | Dr. Philip G. Padgett |
| Marlene Benedetto/Hubbens | Al & Brenda Parker |
| Grocery | Placid Refinery |
| Claire Bergeron | Skip & Laura Rhorer |
| Lorraine & Gordon Bergeron | River View Development |
| Carolyn Blanchard | James & Theresa Rizutto |
| Mike & Pat Blanchard | Kathy Robillard |
| Sue & Sid Blanchard | Edana Robnett |
| Mr. & Mrs. Keith Bonanno | Debra & Ronnie Salvadras |
| Barry & Susan Brewer | Claire Sarradet |
| Qiana Bynum | Janet Simoneaux |
| Kim & Kerry Callegan | Bob & Connie Smith |
| Kym & Tony Cashiola | Sneaux Balls on the Geaux |
| Jim & Mary Helen Charleville | Bobby & Ruth Stanley |
| Mr. & Mrs. Dudley W. Coates | Eleanor Favrot Stevens |
| Cou-yon's BBQ-Port Allen | Clay Stewart/State Farm Insurance |
| Criterion Catalysts & | Sun Plus, Inc. |
| Technologies, L.P. | Debra Jones Tarter |
| Glen Daigle | Mike & Ellen Tauzin |
| Russell & Peggy Daigle | Lorry & Bill Trotter |
| Z. Dave Deloach | Al & Cathy Troy |
| Chad & Ashley Doiron | Margot G. Turk |
| The Dow Chemical Company | J. Kenneth Washington |
| Ann Neal Dugas & Family | Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Weldon |
| Linda Lowe Erley | West Baton Rouge Chamber |
| Don & Marie Favrot | West Baton Rouge CVB |
| William H. Forman, Jr. | West Baton Rouge Garden |
| Ellis Gauthier & Family | & Civic Club |
| Sara & George "Skipper" Grady | West Side Women's Club |
| Jeff Guidry/Edward Jones | Doug & Anna Wilkinson |
| Lee & Michelle Hart | |
| Holy Family Catholic Church | Welcome New Members |
| Garry Hubble Family | New Friends: |
| Ken & Cindy Kahao | Carlyn Morales |
| George & Bentley Kennedy-Stone | |
| Mr. & Mrs. William Kleinpeter | New Patron: |
| Stacy & J. Matthew Krebs | Deborah Fuller |
| Janice Kitchens/Anita Melancon | |
| LA Farm Bureau Federation | New Members: |
| LA Heat Pump Association | Carol L. Lamotte |
| Lagniappe Dulcimer Society | Montez Love |
| Mim & Najma Landry | Dr. Olivia M. Pass |
| Harry L. Laws Co., Inc. | Barbara Quirk |
| | Jerry Westmoreland |



West Baton Rouge Historical Association

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Port Allen, LA 70767

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Phone: 225-336-2422
Fax: 225-336-2448
Email: contact_us@wbrmuseum.org
Website: www.westbatonrougemuseum.com

Change Service Requested

Donations were received for the following Memorial Funds:

Acquisitions Memorial Fund

Laura Ann LeBlanc Daigle – WBR Historical Assn Board
Eleanor Favrot – Laura & Ed Rhorer
Beryl Fourroux – Ruth & Bobby Stanley
Beryl Fourroux – Evva Wilson

Ethel Claiborne Dameron Memorial Fund

Eleanor Favrot – Ron & Genie Hendry
Wink Dameron Sutz – Ron & Genie Hendry

General Memorial Fund

Museum Memorial Fund

Frank Carruth III Children's Fund

Marsha Best Turner – Barry & Susan Brewer
Marsha Best Turner – Kathleen C. Higgins
Marsha Best Turner – Melissa Higgins
Marsha Best Turner – Anne and Paul Marks
Marsha Best Turner – Morris Farms Partnership, LLC
Marsha Best Turner – O'Dell Family

WBR HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MEMORIAL DONATION FORM

Please fill out the form, enclose your donation made payable to the West Baton Rouge Historical Association in an envelope and mail to: West Baton Rouge Historical Association, 845 N. Jefferson Avenue, Port Allen, LA 70767. Only one acknowledgement card will be sent per donation. Thank you.

FROM: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

PLEASE MAIL CARD TO: _____

ADDRESS: _____

NOTE: Place an (X) next to the Memorial Fund to which you wish to send your donation.

ACQUISITIONS FUND _____ ETHEL CLAIBORNE DAMERON FUND _____

GENERAL FUND _____ MUSEUM MEMORIAL FUND _____

FRANK CARRUTH III CHILDREN'S FUND _____ (make checks payable to WBR Museum for this fund)

The WBR Historical Association is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. All gifts are tax exempt. Thank you for supporting the WBR Historical Association.

Membership Form - 2018

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Please check the membership category you wish to join.

Student \$10.00 _____ Friends \$100.00 _____

(businesses/individuals)

Member \$20.00 _____ Patrons \$35.00 _____

(individuals)

(families/individuals)

Make checks payable to West Baton Rouge Historical Association, and mail to 845 North Jefferson Avenue, Port Allen, LA 70767.