



Écoutez



July - September, 2020

Volume LII, No. 2

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."



Members of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association Board are pictured following the July 27, 2020 board meeting. Shown from left are Glen Daigle, Janet Simoneaux, Mary Bennett, Ida Pierre, Lorry Trotter, Brian Falcon, Janice Hebert, Babs Babin, David Couvillon, Beth Kleinpeter, Tom Acosta and Michelle Owens.



Sweet Success for Virtual SugarFest

The 25th anniversary of SugarFest, WWBR Museum's annual sweet celebration of the sugarcane harvest was shared online this year instead of in person due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Viewers from near and far were able to tune into a spectacular two day event that took place October 3 and 4, 2020 on the museum's Facebook page, [Facebook.com/TheWBRM](https://www.facebook.com/TheWBRM). There, onlookers were able to access interviews, performances, and demonstrations with Louisiana folk artists and musicians, recipes for sweet treats, and information about sugar cane history and the process of turning sugar cane into sugar crystals. The annual sweets contest that accompanies SugarFest was held virtually as well, with no baking required this year, and Three Roll Estate joined us once again to say cheers to twenty-five sweet years with cocktail making demonstrations.

Jeannie Luckett, Director of Programs stated, "While this is not how we ever would have imagined we would be celebrating SugarFest in 2020, a quarter of a century makes for an excellent time to document our local culture and traditions for generations to come." Museum staff accompanied Fantom Light Productions as they set out on a mission to document a sampling of some of the event's annual offerings by filming local band sets and folk art traditions done the old fashioned way. These performances and interviews are now archived on the museum's YouTube channel.

Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture Series Featuring Faye Phillips and Chip Landry



Authors, **Faye Phillips and Chip Landry** will be the guest speakers for the West Baton Rouge Historical Association's annual Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture Series on **Sunday, November 1, 2020 at 2:30 p.m.** at the WBR Museum. They will speak on *Historic Magnolia Cemetery*. A reception and book signing will follow their presentation.

On this All Saints Day, hear about the history of the land on the eastern edge of Baton Rouge dotted with magnolia trees that was purchased by the government in the mid-19th century to serve as a resting place for families of all races, religious affiliations, and economic status. A Civil War battle was also fought on this site where Confederate and Union soldiers died on August 5, 1862 resulting in some becoming permanent residents.

Chip Landry is the chairman of the Board of Trustees of Historic Magnolia Cemetery and the sexton of Historic St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery. Faye Phillips, named professor emerita upon retirement from Louisiana State University Libraries, is currently a library consultant.

This lecture series is held annually in memory of Ethel Claiborne Dameron, founder of the WBR Historical Association and WBR Museum. This program is FREE and open to the public. Masks will be required, and social distancing protocol will be practiced. For more information, please visit www.westbatonrougeuseum.org or call (225)336-2422 Ext. 200.

The WBR Historical Association is Now Collecting 2021 Membership Dues

Make check payable to: WBRHA

See Membership form on the last page for dues amount.

Mail to:

**West Baton Rouge Historical Association
845 North Jefferson, Port Allen, LA 70767**



Mary Bennett
WBR Historical Association
President

FROM OUR PRESIDENT AROUND OUR ASSOCIATION

Dear Members,



Covid – quarantine, learning to live in a virtual world, school closings, school openings, wearing masks, hand sanitizing, social distancing, etc. When will life return to normal? Well, for the time being this is the norm and, as we live through this pandemic, we have learned to be flexible, discovered our inner strengths, became more creative and - hoping I don't

sound trite - rolled with the punches. I believe that the WBR Museum has coped very well with all of these new confines and continues to make the museum a great place to visit and remains an enhancement to our community. We should all be proud that we support this endeavor.

No, we could not have our beloved SugarFest as usual, but the staff tapped into their creativity and technical knowledge and diligently planned and worked to have a virtual one. I hope you were able to participate and enjoy!

As SugarFest is usually a major fundraiser for the HA from the profits made by selling the barbeque dinners and the Sweet Shop, a new way of raising funds had to be considered. Well, once again our staff found a way

The WBR Historical Association is holding a fundraiser drawing and tickets may be purchased through November 1, 2020. The 1st

Prize is an original signed and framed Burny Myrick watercolor. Other prizes include original framed art by Grover Cleveland Stuart and Beth Watson, numbered Burny Myrick prints, a signed copy of *The Timeless River: A Portrait of Life on the Mississippi 1850-1900*, and more. Digital tickets are available through the WBR Museum's Facebook, and physical tickets can be purchased at or mailed to the museum. In-person purchases should be done with cash or check. Tickets are \$50. Winners will be drawn following the annual Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture being held at the museum on November 1, 2020. Please help by supporting this fundraiser and talking it up in the community.

As safety policies change, so will the rental policies. Changes have been approved by the board concerning the rental of the museum facilities by Friends members. Any time an event is scheduled outside of museum hours, there will be an additional staff fee of \$25/hour. Members of the board usually volunteered their time to man these events, but with the prevailing health climate of today it was decided to take this action. These fees should be paid via check and should be made out to the **West Baton Rouge Historical Association**. The most up-to-date information can be found by contacting Destiny Burnett at destiny@wbrmuseum.org

As I close, I would like to urge all of our members to become advocates for our museum. When the opportunity arises, please try to encourage family and friends to become members and help support this jewel in our parish. I hope this letter finds you and yours all well and safe and pray that we all remain so.

Sincerely,

Mary Bennett, President



WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM

CULTURE CULTIVATED · LA CULTURE CULTIVÉE · LA KILTIR KILTIVÉ



Angelique Bergeron, PhD
West Baton Rouge
Museum Director

From Our Director

The West Baton Rouge Museum has been working hard to get back to normal as safely as possible this summer and fall. Although the pandemic wreaked havoc on our exhibit calendar and cancelled most of our summer activities, we were able to host two successful socially distant exhibit openings in August for *The Collectible Life of Mignon Faget* and *Byrny Myrick's Timeless River*. We have hosted several bracelet making workshops, a maternal wellness weekend, and an enthralling evening lecture with Port Allen native and FBI Special Agent Randy Deaton. We've also brought back our monthly Café Français and Enrichment Mondays, and our weekly Blues After School program, which resumed in September and has doubled in size this year.



While we lament the fact that we could not be together for our 25th annual SugarFest, the West Baton Rouge Museum staff accepted the lemons brought on by 2020 and made us all some sweet lemonade. This has been a wonderful opportunity to document all the artists that we celebrate each year at SugarFest. We are grateful for Kevin McQuann and his crew at FantomLight Productions for the long

hours spent filming and editing over 40 videos for this year's virtual SugarFest. If you missed our series on Facebook, look for all of our musicians, artists, and tradition bearers on our YouTube channel, where the videos will live in perpetuity.

With so much out of whack this year, we are excited to be able to host our annual Merry-Not-Scary Halloween on Friday, October 23rd with the West Baton Rouge Parish Library. Dress up the family and head out to the museum for socially distant trick-or-treating, games, and more. Wear a mask and follow the yellow brick road (or orange arrows) for safety. Activities will be hands off. Don't forget to bring a blanket or chairs for the Disney Channel original movie *Halloweentown* on the lawn. Prizes will be awarded for best costumes and best incorporation of a facemask.

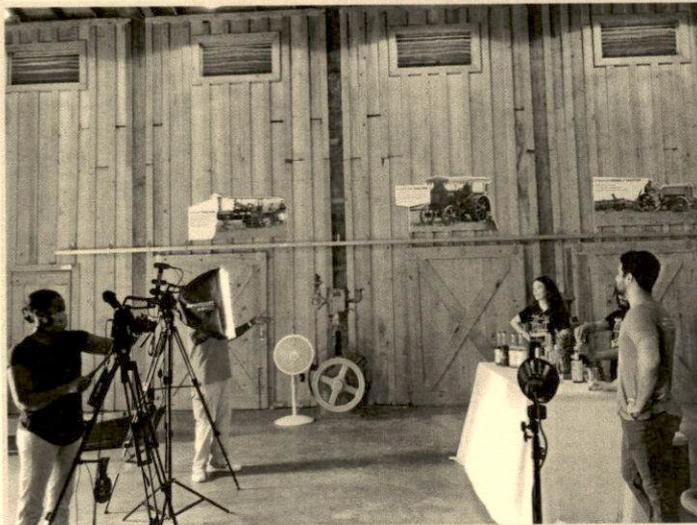
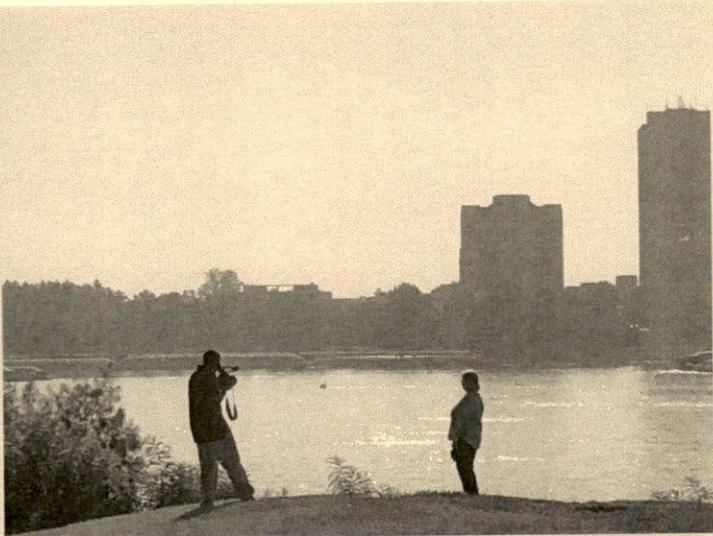
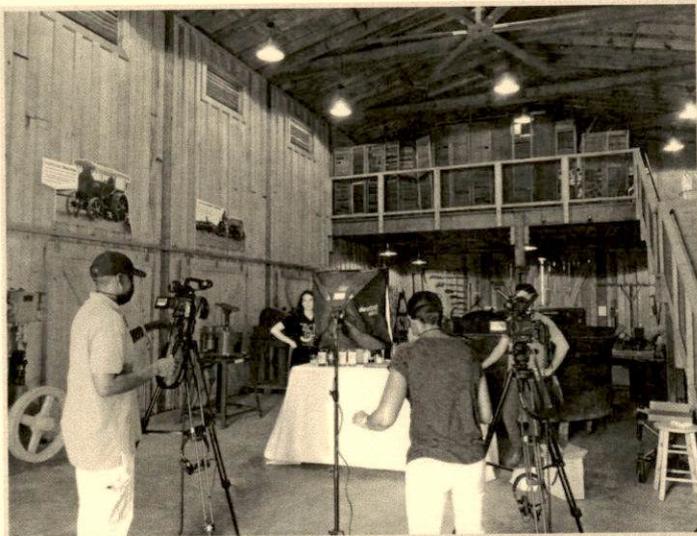
We are looking forward to our Holiday Open House and the release of a new *Joyeux Noel/Bon Chrismeusse* CD with our friends across the Basin in Lafayette. More to come on the music and merriment planned for December 6th.

We hope to see you soon! In the meantime, stay safe and stay connected with the West Baton Rouge Museum.

Angélique



VIRTUAL SUGARFEST FILMING



West Baton Rouge Historical Association and Museum Board Members Mourn Recent Deaths



Jane Brou

Jane Brou and Evva Wilson, both long time members of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association, recently died. Wilson was presently serving a 3-year term on the WBR Historical Association Board as well as a 3-year term on the WBR Museum Board.

She passed away at Hospice of Baton Rouge Butterfly Wing on May 1 at the age of 78. She retired from the LSU Ag Center and was a resident and native of Port Allen. Wilson is survived by a daughter, son-in-law and two granddaughters. She was a member of numerous clubs and organizations in the Greater Baton Rouge area. She volunteered annually for the Museum's Summer History Camp and for many years co-chaired the Ethel Claiborne Dameron annual lecture series. She was also our outstanding food chair of the annual Christmas in July Card Party.



Evva L.Z. Wilson

Brou passed away on May 3 at the age of 84. She is survived by three daughters, a son-in-law, 6 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. She was a homemaker who was actively involved in her children's school and activities. Additionally, she volunteered as a scout leader for over 10 years and was a longtime volunteer at the West Baton Rouge Museum. She worked diligently to help establish the Christmas in July Card Party fundraiser and served for many years as chair for the West Baton Rouge Historical Association's SugarFest fundraiser dinner.

Both the Historical Association and Museum have benefited from the talents and contributions from them and they will be missed.

FUNDRAISER DRAWING

BENEFITTING THE
WEST BATON ROUGE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

to Purchase Tickets Go to
[facebook.com/TheWBRM](https://www.facebook.com/TheWBRM)



**Drawing on November 1, 2020
at the ECD Lecture**

1ST PRIZE

**AN ORIGINAL SIGNED & FRAMED
BURNY MYRICK WATERCOLOR**

Winner may select from available watercolors in the exhibit

other prizes include original framed art by Grover Cleveland Stuart and Beth Watson, signed and numbered Burny Myrick prints, an autographed copy of *The Timeless River: A Portrait of Life on the Mississippi 1850-1900* by Burny Myrick, and more



2020 Virtual Sweets Contest

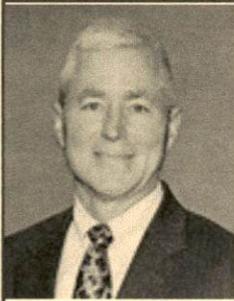
There was no baking required for the annual Sweets Contest that accompanies SugarFest each year! This time around, participants competed by taking pen to paper or tapped on keyboards to submit recipes for sugary treats. First, second, and third place ribbons were awarded for the best cookie, cake, candy, and pie recipes, and as always, the grand prize winner received the traditional sugar shell donated by West Baton Rouge Historical Association member, Fannie East-erly that has been awarded since SugarFest first started in 1995.

A special thank you goes out to the Chefs of Chef John Folse & Company for judging entries and to Susan Ford of Louisiana Kitchen and Culture for offering to publish winning recipes in the November/December Holiday Edition of the magazine online and/or in print. Their efforts truly sweetened the deal this year's unique celebration.

For the list of winners, please visit [Facebook.com/TheWBRM](https://www.facebook.com/TheWBRM).



Louisiana Kitchen
& Culture



Judge Will Kleinpeter Selected to Serve on Museum Board

Will Kleinpeter, a 1985 graduate of the LSU Law Center, earned his undergraduate degree in journalism from Louisiana State University. He has served as Judge of the City Court of Port Allen since 1991. Additionally, he also maintains a part time, private law practice in Port Allen.

Prior to being elected to the City Court, Judge Kleinpeter served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana. Additionally, he is a former law clerk for now retired Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Katherine Kimball.

Kleinpeter's involvement in community activities is broad. A member and past president of the Port Allen Rotary Club, he serves as eucharistic minister at Holy Family Catholic Church, and is a member of the Board of Trustees for the Louisiana State Employees Retirement System (LASERS). Additionally he is president of the Board for Port City Enterprises.

A native of Grosse Tete, Will and his wife Beth, are the parents of 4 children and the grandparents of five granddaughters!

In his spare time he enjoys running and has completed 2 full marathons, a number of half marathons, as well as a triathlon!

We're delighted that Will agreed to serve on the Museum Board to complete the term of recently deceased member Evva Wilson.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The 52nd Annual Meeting of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, January 11, 2021 in the Brick Gallery of the West Baton Rouge Museum in Port Allen. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us for this meeting.

2020 Historical Association Board of Directors

Tom Acosta	Janice Hebert	2020 Officers
Babs Babin	Beth Kleinpeter	President
Mary Bennett	Drew Maciasz	Mary Bennett
Kim Callegan	Andrea Normand	Vice President
David Couvillon	Michelle Owens	Kim Callegan
Glen Daigle	Ida Pierre	Secretary
Wilhemenia DeCuir	Janet Simoneaux	Michelle Owens
Brian Falcon	Ruth Stanley	Treasurer
Ellis Gauthier	Lorry Trotter	Glen Daigle



Curator's Corner:



Kathe Hambrick Exhibits Curator

Queen Zulu

It's hard to believe that Carnival Time will be here before we know it. Get ready because Mardi Gras will be on February 16th in 2021 and the West Baton Rouge Museum will open the new year with an exhibit, entitled *Queen Zulu: Rose Roche of Port Allen*. That's right, West Baton Rouge native and Cohn High School graduate Rose

Roche was ceremoniously crowned the Queen of the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club of New Orleans in 1996. The exhibit, which opens January 2nd, will feature her beautiful Queen's costume, photographs, and memorabilia from the 112 year old organization. Rose is the first Queen of the Zulu club who was not from New Orleans. Rose feels that her position as the Director of the *Southern University Dancing Dolls* for twenty years had a big impact on her se-

lection. The exhibit will feature vintage coconuts, doubloons and posters. Visitors will learn firsthand about the promenade, regalia and the production of the big event that is one of the largest tourist attractions and cultural events in the world.

Call for All Things Evangeline

The WBR Museum's exhibit, *Evangelina: The Evolution of an Icon*, slated for the summer of 2021 is an exploration of the changing image of the iconic character, Evangeline, through the paraphernalia produced in association with the epic heroine. Exhibit planners are especially interested in items that have used her image as a marketing tool. Those in Acadiana are all too familiar with Evangeline Maid Bread and Evangeline Pepper Sauce, among the myriad products sporting her name. Planners are especially interested in locating a free-standing Evangeline Maid crossing guard sign popular at Acadiana schools in the 60s and 70s. Should you have items you are willing to loan for the duration of the exhibit (May-Oct 2021), please contact Gwenn LaViolette, Director of Education, at 225.336.2422 ext. 201 or via email at gwenn@wbrmuseum.org.

A MERRY NOT SCARY HALLOWEEN

**SOCIALLY DISTANT ACTIVITIES
COSTUME CONTEST**

Join us for a viewing
of the DISNEY CHANNEL
ORIGINAL MOVIE



**TAKE HOME CRAFT
TAKE HOME TREATS**

at the
WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM
845 N. JEFFERSON AVENUE
PORT ALLEN, LA 70767
225.336.2422 X 200

OCTOBER 23 | 6:30 - 8:30 PM
MOVIE STARTS AT 7PM

ACTIVITIES WILL MOVE TO
THE COMMUNITY CENTER
IN THE EVENT OF RAIN



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please note for all programs: Masks will be required, hand sanitizing stations will be available, and social distancing protocol will be practiced.

Now – Be sure to visit the following temporary exhibits:

The Collectible Life of Mignon Faget – Through January 3, 2021

Burny Myrick: The Timeless River – Through December 2020

At Your Leisure- Virtual SugarFest – Visit Facebook.com/TheWBRM or the museum's YouTube channel to catch the amazing band performances, artist interviews and demonstrations, and more from the 25th annual SugarFest that was celebrated virtually this year.

October 9, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. - Evening Jazz Performance on the Lawn – Bring your own lawn chairs and your own refreshments to enjoy a socially distant concert under the stars to hear the sounds of a live Jazz Quartet featuring Nick Blanchard on drums, Doug Stone on tenor saxophone, Quinn Sternberg on Bass, and Ronald Rodriguez on piano. FREE

October 18 & November 15, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. - Bracelet Making Workshops – As West Baton Rouge Museum celebrates the artistry of the *Collectible Life of Mignon Faget* through an exhibit on display through January 3, 2021, join Baton Rouge jeweler Pamela Smith of *Wristful Thinking* to make a different themed creation each month. Masks are required, and social distancing will be practiced. Sign up for one or both months! Space is limited, and advanced reservations are encouraged to insure a spot by calling (225)336-2422 Ext. 200. FREE

October 22, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. – Lunchtime Lecture: **Burny Myrick: A Historical Perspective of the Mississippi River**– Join Southern Regional Arts Historian, Claudia Kheel whose presentation will accompany the current exhibit on loan from Gerard and Selma Ruth, *Burny Myrick: The Timeless River* as she places the famed Louisiana artist in a historical context by reviewing his 19th century Louisiana paintings of the Mississippi River. Masks will be required, and social distancing protocol will be practiced. FREE

October 23, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. – Merry not Scary-Socially Distant-Halloween – The West Baton Rouge Museum and West Baton Rouge Parish Library are hosting a safe evening of take-home tricks and treats from 6:30 – 7 p.m. on the museum's six acre campus complete with a contest for best costume and most innovative incorporation of a mask followed by an outdoor film screening of the Disney Channel Original Movie, *Halloweentown* at 7: 00 p.m. Bring your beach towels, blankets, and lawn chairs to sit in designated spaces on a first-come, first-served basis. FREE

November 1, 2:30 p.m. – Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture Series – On this All Saints Day, join authors, Faye Phillips and Chip Landry for a lecture and book signing on Historic Magnolia Cemetery at the West Baton Rouge Historical Association's annual event held in memory of the founder of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association and West Baton Rouge Museum. A reception will follow their presentation. FREE

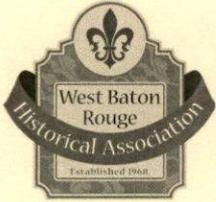
November 6, 1:00 - Le Café Français – Gratuit.

November 18, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. – Lunchtime Lecture - The Korean War – Join attorney, Gary Ethridge as he presents an overview of the war itself in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War. FREE

December 6, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. – Holiday Open House – Celebrate the season this year with a French flair along with some of the traditional favorites offered each year at this event. Stay tuned for details coming soon as we plan a safe experience for everyone to enjoy. FREE

CURRENT LIST OF FRIENDS

Carolyn and Wayne Achee	Randall & Judy Kolb
Thomas W. Acosta, Jr.	Stacy & Matthew Krebs
American Sugar Cane League	LA Farm Bureau Federation
Babs Babin and Family	Lagniappe Dulcimer Society
Joyce & Kenneth Barbier	Carlyn Morales
Mary F. Bennett	Andrea & Joey Normand
Angelique Bergeron	Dr. Philip G. Padgett
Lorraine & Gordon Bergeron	Al & Brenda Parker
Riley L. Berthelot, Jr.	Dr. Olivia Pass
Carolyn T. Blanchard	June B. Peay
Mike & Pat Blanchard	Dr. & Mrs. Gordon Pirie
Sue & Sid Blanchard	Placid Refinery
Beth & Keith Bonanno	Butch & Peggy Plauche
Caroll & Carolyn Bourgeois	Skip & Laura Rhorer
Barry & Susan Brewer	Edana Robnett
Qiana Bynum	Debra & Ronnie Salvadras
Kim & Kerry Callegan	Janet Simoneaux
Kym & Tony Cashiola	Bob & Connie Smith
Jim & Mary Helen Charleville	Ruth Stanley
Beverly B. Coates	Eleanor & Mike Stevens
David & Karen Cordell	Clay Stewart/State Farm
Insurance	Insurance
David Couvillon	Debra Jones Tarter
Cou-Yons	Mike & Ellen Tauzin
Glen Daigle	Lorry & Bill Trotter
Russell & Peggy Daigle	Al & Cathy Troy
Fernin F. Eaton	Margot G. Turk
Don & Marie Favrot	Pam Walsh
Ellis Gauthier & Family	West Baton Rouge CVB
Sara & George "Skipper" Grady	West Baton Rouge Garden &
Jeff Guidry/Edward Jones	Civic Club
Michelle Guillory	West Side Women's Club
Lee & Michelle Hart	Doug & Anna Wilkinson
Holy Family Catholic Church	
Hughes Mechanical	Welcome New Members:
Contractors	Barbara Quirck
Akitra Johnson & Family	Charles Delapasse
Ken & Cindy Kahao, Jr.	Montez Love
Mr. & Mrs. William Kleinpeter	



West Baton Rouge Historical Association

845 North Jefferson Avenue
Port Allen, LA 70767

Toll Free: 1-888-881-6811

Phone: 225-336-2422

Fax: 225-336-2448

Email: contact_us@wbrmuseum.org

Website: www.westbatonrougemuseum.org

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Port Allen, LA

Donations were received for the following Memorial Funds:

Acquisitions Memorial Fund

Evva Wilson – Babs Babin

Ethel Claiborne Dameron Memorial Fund

Jane Brou – Debra Salvadras

Bobby Stanley – Debra Salvadras

Evva Wilson – Debras Salvadras

General Memorial Fund

Museum Memorial Fund

Frank Carruth III Children's Fund

Yvonne and Jim Lazare – Erwinville Homemakers Club

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 - 2021

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.