



July - September 2021

Écoutez



Volume LIII, No.2

A PUBLICATION OF THE WEST BATON ROUGE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

"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."

Card Party set for July 26



Members of the 2021 Christmas in July Card Party met on May 10 to plan their annual fundraising event to be held at the West Baton Rouge Community Center in Port Allen on July 26. Shown are Beth Kleinpeter, Babs Babin, Kim Callegan, Ruth Stanley, Janet Simoneaux, Alice LeBlanc, Andrea Normand, Mary Bennett (Committee Chair), and WBRHA Board President, Tom Acosta.

The WBR Historical Association is Collecting 2021 Membership Dues

Please support your community's history by being a current member.

Make a check payable to : WBRHA

See membership form on the last page for dues amount.

Mail to:

West Baton Rouge Historical Association
845 N. Jefferson Avenue, Port Allen, LA 70767

SAVE THE DATE



We are pleased to announce that the West Baton Rouge Museum's 26th annual SugarFest will be held in person this year! Come have a sweet ole time with us on Sunday, October 3, 2021, from 11:00 AM- 4:00 PM. This annual celebration of the sugar cane harvest has been going strong since 1995.

SugarFest provides visitors with a free opportunity to learn about local culture, music, and history with a variety of folk art and craft demonstrations, tours of the museum's exhibits and historic buildings, cane cutting and grinding demonstrations, cane syrup boiling, and of course, live music. Genres featured include Blues, Dixieland Jazz, Folk, Cajun, Zydeco, Bluegrass, and Spirituals. Some of the demonstrations include praline candy making, blacksmithing, bousillage making, wood working with antique hand tools, spinning and weaving, and much more. Other festivities include wagon and train rides, a petting zoo, old fashioned cake walks, sugary treats, and a sweets contest with celebrity judges.

Mark your calendars, and join us for the fun and festivities!

From Our President Around Our Association



Tom Acosta
WBRHA President

It is wonderful that things are slowly beginning to return to a pre-pandemic normal as we approach the halfway mark of 2021. We have so much to look forward to in the second half of the year as we prepare for events last held in 2019.

On July 26, we will once again be hosting one of our major fundraising events: the "Christmas in July Card Party", at the WBR Community Center in Port Allen. If you know of friends and family who normally participate, let them know and encourage them to sign up no later than the July 15 registration deadline. Special thanks to all who work hard to prepare for and put on this fun activity... we hope to see you there!

Last year, SugarFest was virtual. This year, we are preparing to return to a live SugarFest in all of its sweet glory on Sunday, October 3. Planning is already in the works for our traditional Chicken Dinner fundraiser, as well as the always-popular Sweets Booth and Sweets Contest. As a reminder: in early August, WBR Historical Association members will be receiving a letter with six (6) Chicken Dinner fundraiser tickets for purchase/sale. Please purchase and/or sell these as soon as you receive them, and return the tickets stubs and funds to Amanda Moak in the envelope provided by the end of August. This is an "all hands on deck" event, so we hope everyone will consider volunteering in whatever way you can!

We are eagerly anticipating the publication of *Images of West Baton Rouge* by Arcadia Publishing as part of their *Images of America* series. Many thanks to the staff of the West Baton Rouge Museum, and especially to Lauren Hawthorne, West Baton Rouge Museum Curator of Collections, and Registrar Destiny Burnett for their hard work on this project. We also extend our appreciation to Mrs. Joanne Bourgeois for her aid in identifying and providing additional information with many of our Brusly photographs. And finally a huge thank you to the other West Baton Rouge Historical Association Book Committee members Mary Bennett, Glen Daigle, and Brian Falcon for their service and support in the formation of the book.

Next year, we will once again be called upon to spearhead the tax election campaign to successfully renew of our Museum millage. The 2022 election date will be scheduled by the WBR Parish Council later this year.

In the meantime, please keep up the good work, stay safe, join us at Association and Museum events when able, tell friends about us, and help celebrate West Baton Rouge at OUR Museum! Bonne Santé!!

Sincerely,

Tom Acosta

WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM
CULTURE CULTIVATED • LA CULTURE CULTIVÉE • LA KILTIR KILTIVÉ

From Our Director



Angélique Bergeron
Executive Director

We are thrilled to be able to offer two fabulous summer exhibits and a full slate of programs once again this summer as things slowly return to (something resembling) normal. It has been too long since we've heard children's voices and laughter in our galleries. Our Blast From the Past Summer History Camp closed out the month of June with campers exploring *A Tale of Acadie*. Inspired by our current exhibit, *Evangeline: Evolution of an Icon*, campers learned about the Acadian people, language, and culture, including a French word of the day,

sewing, spinning and weaving, traditional crafts and building methods, Louisiana culinary traditions, trapping and fishing, and pastimes.

Other events planned to coincide with the exhibit include a poetry reading (July 11) with artist Melissa Bonin and former Louisiana Poet Laureate Darrell Bourque, our annual Teachers' Institute (July 12-13), and a 5-day wooden boatbuilding workshop (July 16-25) in which participants will build a 4x8' wooden pram while learning about Louisiana's rich boat-building traditions. Our lecture series picks up on August 15th with Dr. Elista Istre speaking on *Evangeline: The Myth and the Maiden*.

Art by Bourgeois featuring the work of St. Amant native Doug Bourgeois is on display through September 4th. His gallery talk in June was so well received and so well attended, that Doug has graciously

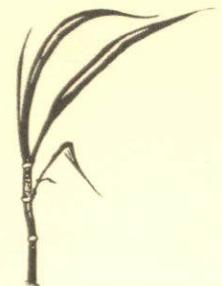
agreed to return for a gallery talk in August. If you missed this rare opportunity in June, mark your calendar; you won't want to miss Doug's lunchtime lecture on August 25th.

The West Baton Rouge Museum will also be hosting upcoming events as part of the recently-formed Port Allen Cultural District, including ceramics, painting, sculpture, and art classes, and even an art scramble (July 20), as well as on-going workshops in the traditional trades of blacksmithing and woodworking, and wellness workshops. Check our calendar and social media for details. Later this summer as we gear up for SugarFest, follow us on social media to catch our short documentary series on the life and work of Port Allen sculptor Ronald Trahan.

Our monthly Café Français (1st Fridays @1pm), Old Time Jam (2nd Sundays @ 3pm), and CFMA Cajun Jam (3rd Sundays @3pm) are still going strong. Historical Happy Hour will take a break for the summer but returns in August. Get back in the "swing" of things with the Florida Street Blowhards on August 20th as our Historical Happy Hour returns for the fall season.

Hope to see you at the museum!

Angélique Bergeron, Ph.D.



Opening Reception and Gallery Talk for Art by Bourgeois

The museum hosted a reception and Gallery Talk with artist, Douglas Bourgeois on Sunday, June 6. in celebration of the opening of the exhibit, *Art by Bourgeois: Douglas Bourgeois*. The artist is represented by New Orleans' Arthur Roger Gallery.

The famed artist is a Louisiana native known for his intricate paintings, collages, and sculptures. He has been called a "Visionary Imagist" by New Orleans critic, D. Eric Bookhardt and "Louisiana's leading fantasy-based realist painter" by Isabelle Loring Winallace in an article in *Art in America*. His work has also been described as magical realism. Bourgeois, himself, has been noted as referring to his work as figurative pieces that tell a story, and he was thrilled for the opportunity to share insight into his work with a live audience at this gallery talk and reception. The exhibit will be on display through September 4.



Sunday *Evangeline* Programs

In conjunction with the exhibition *Evangeline: Evolution of an Icon* the museum will host two special Sunday programs.

On **Sunday, July 11 at 2pm** join celebrated **Louisiana poets, Darrell Bourque and Melissa Bonin** for a reading of poems about Acadian women, variants of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's iconic legendary figure, *Evangeline*. Bourque served as the Louisiana Poet Laureate (2007-2011) and received the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Humanist of the Year Award (2019). His works include poetry profiles of traditional Louisiana musicians Cleoma Falcon, Amédée Ardoin, Iry Lejeune, and Goldman Thibodeaux, social activist Henriette DeLille, and legendary historical figure Joseph "Beausoleil" Broussard. Educated at University of Louisiana, Lafayette and L'Université Catholique de l'Ouest, Angers, France, Melissa Bonin has worked as a visual artist, poet, lyricist and mansion artist for Governor Blanco. Bonin has two oil paintings in the *Evangeline* exhibit. Bourque and Bonin will move the audience through time with words depicting modern day females, feminine family role models, and women who were part of the early migrations.

On **Sunday, August 15 at 2pm**, **Dr. Elista Istre** will present "*Evangeline: The Myth and the Maiden*," which will shed light on the enduring legacy of *Evangeline*, the Acadian exile's best-known heroine who never lived. Scheduled to occur on Acadian Day, this program will address how and why *Evangeline* became such an important character in the Acadian saga, as well as how and why Louisiana Cajuns have both adopted and rejected her as one of their own. Following the presentation allons danser in the barn for our monthly Cajun Jam.

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

1st Fridays, 1PM: Le Café Français. GRATUIT

2nd Sundays, 3PM: Old Time Country Music Jam. FREE

3rd Sundays CFMA Cajun Jam. FREE

Returning in August

3rd Fridays, 6PM: Historical Happy Hour. FREE



Frank Foret WBR Historical Association Volunteer

Mr. Frank Foret is also a longtime member of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association, and one of our most dedicated volunteers. When the museum reopened its doors, after an initial closure during COVID-19, Mr. Frank became a constant presence. We see him every Tuesday, during our weekly staff meetings and he is always on call whenever we need extra help. Mr. Frank has a long family history in West Baton Rouge Parish. As a child, he traveled from Alexandria to visit his grandparents in Addis. He even moved into the Addis family home, where he lives now. He is very involved with the Town of Addis Museum, where he leads guests by appointment.

When Mr. Frank is not volunteering at the West Baton Rouge Museum, you can find him singing in the choir at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, and giving tours at the Old Governor's Mansion in downtown Baton Rouge. He loves sharing his knowledge and passion about the state of Louisiana and its history to visitors and locals alike.

Curators' Corner



Ferin Jones
Exhibits Curator

This summer the West Baton Rouge Museum has two new exciting exhibits to offer you! Currently, in our Whitehead Gallery is *Evangeline: Evolution of an Icon* and *Art by Bourgeois: Douglas Bourgeois* is on display in our Brick Gallery.

Evangeline: Evolution of an Icon examines the changing appearance of the iconic character through the art and paraphernalia produced since her inception. The exhibit features the work of Louisiana and Canadian artists including George Rodrigue, Francois Gaudet, Remi Belliveau, and Mario Doucet, as well as vintage Evangeline brand artifacts, and even Evangeline comic books. This exhibit runs through October 31.

So Henry Longfellow wrote *Evangeline* and Edgar Allen Poe wrote...

Well you can find out in one of the paintings in our current exhibit.

Poet Edgar Allen Poe pairs up with rapper Lil Kim in a painting, *Kim and Ed*, on display in our current exhibit, *Art by Bourgeois*. According to Douglas Bourgeois they are both great lyricists. See the lyrics and many more paintings on display until September 4th. Douglas Bourgeois earned his B.F.A. from Louisiana State University and is an extremely decorated artist. With over a dozen solo exhibitions spanning across every decade since 1970, Bourgeois is well respected inside, as well as outside, of the art community.

And, coming this fall...



Lauren Hawthorne
Curator of Collections

Goodnight Irene, Hello Angola! *Music Behind the Gates*, opens September 18 and explores the life of prison inmates and their escape through music. Bands, iconic songs, and touching stories are all birthed from this infamous prison. Also in September, KAK Art and Designs provides an intimate look at wildlife with her Louisiana Bird Series. An established watercolor painter, Katherine impressively brings insects, animals, and more to life. This exhibit will be a breath of fresh air for families, students, and all animal loving visitors.

Build a Boat

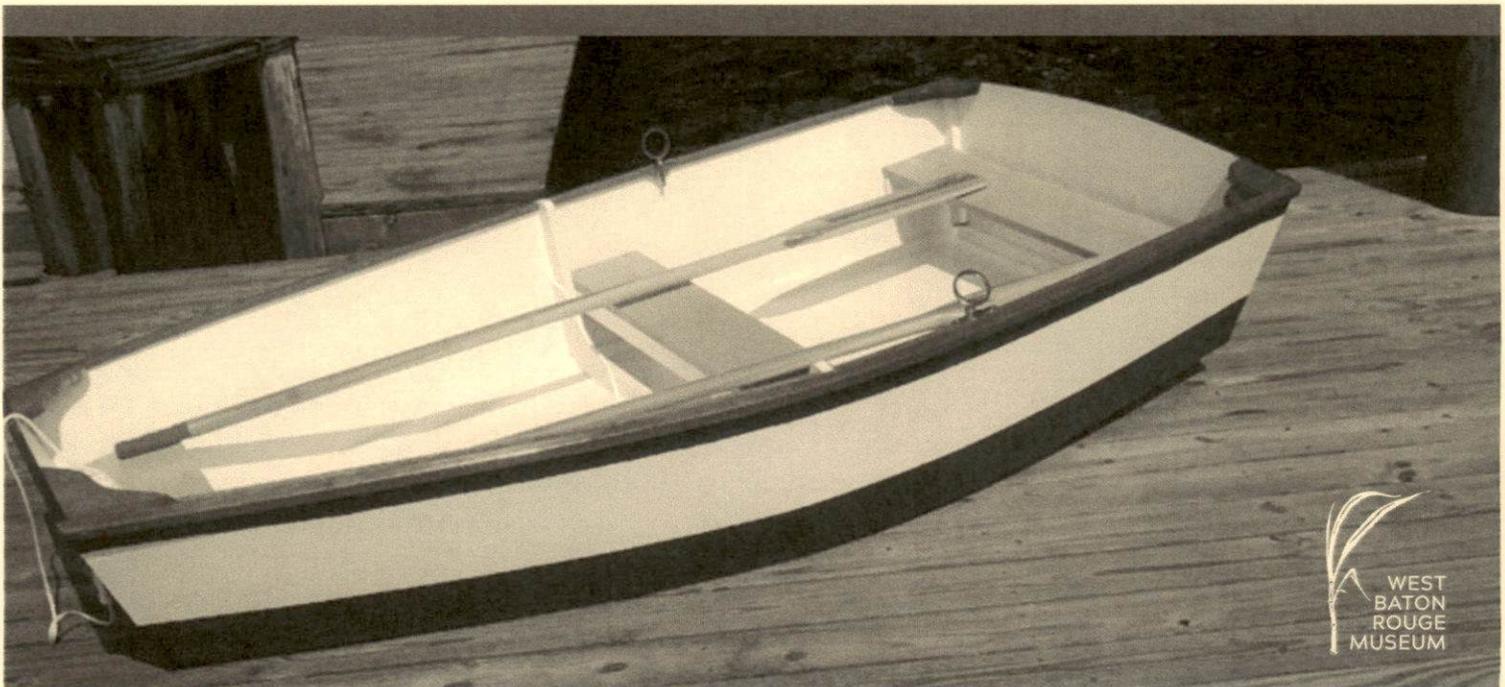
AT THE WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM

JULY 16, 17, 18, 24, AND 25

Sign up as an individual or as a team to build an heirloom quality wooden boat to keep made of Marine Plywood, White Oak, Spanish Cedar, Cypress, and White Pine. Learn about the rich tradition of boat building, craftsmanship, and water safety while assembling, painting and finishing a 4'x8' pram style boat that will seat 2 adults and can be powered by an electric trolling motor, a small gas outboard motor or oars with the optional oarlocks installed. This watercraft will be eligible for a title from Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries. This boat will conveniently go in the back of a pick-up truck or tie on to the top of an SUV.

- 5 day course with Ron Blue, the Gulf Coast's premier wooden boat restoration specialist and the Director of Boat Building at the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum
- Christening Ceremony on the last day in keeping with boat building culture and tradition
- The cost is \$1,400 per boat including tuition and materials and can be purchased by an individual or a group. This cost can be reduced with students providing some of their own materials.
- Signed waiver and a non-refundable 50% deposit required upon registration with remaining cost due on the last weekend

For registration information, contact West Baton Rouge Museum Program Director, Jeannie Luckett at (225)336-2422 Ext. 205 or at Luckett@wbrmuseum.org. The WBRM is located at 845 N. Jefferson Avenue, Port Allen, Louisiana 70767.



New Hires at the WBRM



Haleigh Babin is a native of Brusly and currently an Art Major at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond. Her concentration is in Graphic Design. Haleigh joins the museum staff as a part-time weekend tour guide, but we are already putting her artistic studies to good use. Haleigh is the granddaughter of long-time West Baton Rouge Historical Association leader Babs Babin. In her spare time, Haleigh enjoys drawing, painting, and anything artistic.



Madyson "Maddy" Bergeron was recently hired as a part-time weekend tour guide but also worked as a camp counselor at our *Blast From the Past* summer history camp. She is a native of West Baton Rouge and a rising senior at St. Joseph's Academy. Maddy is the daughter of Richie and Margie Bergeron and has volunteered for past West Baton Rouge Museum programs. Maddy is an officer in the SJA Literary Club. She loves history and enjoys art and drawing in her spare time.



Ben Deshotels joins the museum staff as a part-time blacksmith. Raised in Boyce, Louisiana, Ben developed an interest in blacksmithing as a high school junior, building his first forge with a coffee can and thermal wool from a local power plant. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where he also took classes on jewelry making and general metal fabrication, including blacksmithing. Ben was working as a math teacher and professional blacksmith, when he stumbled upon the West Baton Rouge Museum and was hooked. Ben is teaching the blacksmith apprenticeship series along with Gart Hart.



Karen Marionneaux returns to the West Baton Rouge Museum as part-time Museum Assistant. Karen served many years as a tour guide and has returned to offer assistance to all departments, including recordkeeping, programs, and the museum front line. Karen loves dogs, music, and the Louisiana lifestyle.



Kurdavion Williams begins work as a part-time weekend tour guide. He is a native of Plaquemine and a rising senior at Port Allen High School. Kurdavion is the son of Elana Jordan & Kurtis Williams. He is active in sports, including basketball, football, soccer, and track. He was selected to represent Port Allen at the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy this summer. In his spare time, Kurdavion enjoys reading, cooking, playing video games, and collecting sports cards and coins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 11, 2PM: *Evangeline and Her Sisters*, Poetry readings by award winning poets, Darrell Bourque and Melissa Bonin. *FREE* and, **3PM:** Old Time Jam. *FREE*

July 12 & 13, 8:30AM – 4:30PM: *Teachers' Institute, Evangeline: Engine for Student Engagement & Social Change*. Limited number of stipends for teachers. Advanced registration is required.

July 16,17,18,24,25, 9AM – 5PM: Boat Building Workshop, with master boat builder, Ron Blue. Advanced registration is required. Tuition and materials is \$1,400

July 18, 3PM: CFMA Cajun Jam. *FREE*

July 20, 6:30 – 8PM: Summer Art Scramble, an evening event looking at, searching for, and creating art with abstract artist and instructor, Kellie Rountree that culminates in participants making enchanting Louisiana landscapes drawings, paintings or collages. Advanced registration is required. *FREE*

July 26: *Christmas in July* Card Party. Join the WBRHA at the Community Center and play bridge, dominos, hand and foot canasta, pokeno, bourrée, and other games. Bring your friends for a day of food and fun. Registration required.

July 30 & 31: Birth and Wellness Past and Present: Women's Retreat with Nanette McCann of A Caring Season Doula and WBRM's Mary Costello. Advanced, paid registration required. *Fee: \$65*

August 6, 1PM: Le Café Français. *GRATUIT*

August 8, 3PM: Old Time Jam. *FREE*

August 15, 2PM: *Evangeline: The Myth and the Maiden* lecture presented by Belle Heritage's Dr. Elista Istre. *FREE* and, **3PM:** CFMA Cajun Jam. *FREE*

August 20, 6PM: Historical Happy Hour with the Florida Street Blowhards. *FREE*

August 25, 12PM: Lunchtime Lecture with Artist Douglas Bourgeois on the meaning and inspiration behind his works of art on display in the Brick Gallery through September 4. *FREE*

September 3, 1PM: Le Café Français. *GRATUIT*

September 12, 3PM: Exhibit Reception celebrating artist Katherine Klimatas of KAK Art and Designs and her paintings featuring wonderfully detailed watercolors depicting a number of dog breeds and a beautiful array of Louisiana bird species. *FREE* and, **3PM:** Old Time Jam. *FREE*

September 19, 3PM: CFMA Cajun Jam. *FREE*

September 25 – January 2: Exhibition, *Music Behind the Gates*. This exhibit features the stories, music, and photographs of men and women who live in the Louisiana State Penitentiary system.

ON DEMAND:

Classes Keeping Traditional Crafts and Trades Alive, Contact Museum Director of Programs, Jeannie Luckett at Luckett@wbrmuseum.org or at (225)336-2422 Ext. 205 to schedule a workshop at your convenience to learn Blacksmithing, Woodworking, Fiber Arts, and Ceramics. Fees and details are available upon request.

CURRENT LIST OF FRIENDS

Friends List as of June 2021

Carolyn & Wayne Achee	Butch & Peggy Plauche
Tom & Mary Acosta	Mr. & Mrs. Rod Prejean
Karla Argrave	Thelma & Noah Rizan, Jr.
Babs Babin & Family	James & Theresa Rizzutto
Joyce & Kenneth Barbier	Edana Robnett
Gordon & Lorraine Bergeron	Debra & Ronnie Salvadras
Dr. Angelique Bergeron & Fly	Janet Simoneaux
Riley L. Berthelot, Jr.	Bob & Connie Smith
Carolyn T. Blanchard	Eleanor & Mike Stevens
Sid & Sue Blanchard	Clay Stewart
Beth & Keith Bonanno	Charles & Carolyn Stutts
Barry & Sarah Brewer	Sun Plus, Inc.
Business First Bank	Debra Jones Tarter
Kim & Kerry Callegan	Mike & Ellen Tauzin
Tony & Kym Cashiola	Bill & Lorry Trotter
Mr. & Mrs. James Charleville	Margot G. Turk
Beverly B. Coates	Upper Delta Soil & Water
David Couvillon	Conservation
Glen Daigle	West Baton Rouge CVB
Russel & Peggy Daigle	West Baton Rouge Garden
Linda L. Erley	& Civic Club
Brian Falcon	
Mr. & Mrs. Don Favrot	
Ellis Gauthier & Family	Welcome New Members
Hughes Mechanic	Beaulieu Plantation, Inc.
Daniel & Jayne Jason	Teri B. Bergeron
George Jenne	Marcia B. Correll
Ken & Cindy Kahao, Jr.	Laura Crook
Randall & Judy Kolb	Aundrea Flynn & Family
LA Farm Bureau	Sheri D. Gros
Lagniappe Dulcimer Society	Julia Hebert & Family
Mim & Najma Landry	Alice Leblanc & Family
Greg & Cindy Lowe	Ronald & Mona Leblanc
Harry L. Laws & Co.	Kathleen Mier
Dorene & Dale Mayeaux	Elijah Owens
Joey & Andrea Normand	Allendale Plantation
Al & Brenda Parker	Willi Sager
Dr. & Mrs. Gordon Pirie	Wyatt Dean Simoneaux

BUS TOUR

Road Trip! Details coming soon! Johnny Cash, the "Man in Black" and Elvis Presley, the "King of Rock 'n' Roll," traveled the highways and byways, forever changing the American landscape as they toured together. You can too! Unlike any other bus tour you may have experienced before, we'll go behind-the-scenes and experience the people and places that created these two American icons. Private tours, special meals, precious memories... This is one road trip you don't want to miss!



West Baton Rouge Historical Association

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 31
Port Allen, LA

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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.org

Change Service Requested

MEMORIALS RECEIVED AFTER THE MARCH 2021 ÉCOUTEZ

Acquisition Memorial Fund

Wilhemenia Williams DeCuir- The WBRHA Board
Evva Wilson- The WBRHA Board

Ethel Claiborne Dameron Memorial Fund

General Memorial Fund

Museum Memorial Fund

Clarence "Pieman" Williams - Angélique Bergeron

Frank Carruth III Children's Fund

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 _____
(individuals)

Patrons \$35.00 _____
(families/individuals)

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