



Écoutez



January—March 2015

Volume XLVII, No. 1

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."

WEST BATON ROUGE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION HOLDS 47TH ANNUAL MEETING

Members of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association gathered at the West Baton Rouge Museum in Port Allen on January 12, 2015 for the group's 47th Annual Meeting. President Babs Babin presided.

Ellis Gauthier was elected President of the organization while Lorry Trotter was re-elected Vice President, Elisa Tubbs was re-elected Secretary, and Glen Daigle was re-elected Treasurer.

New board members elected to serve 3-year terms were Mary Bennett, Wilhelmenia DeCuir, Jason Hammack, and Janice Hebert. Continuing as board members were Joyce Barbier, Jane Brou, Kim Callegan, L. J. Cavaliere, Jr., Jessamy Charette, David Couvillon, Glen DeMourelle, Brian Falcon, Gary Hart, Garry Hubble, and Debra Salvadras.

Committee reports were presented and fundraising activities for the year were highlighted. Attendees enjoyed refreshments following the board meeting.



WBR Historical Association Accessions Committee Accepts New Items into the Permanent Collection: Members of the WBRHA Accessions Committee met on March 23, 2015 and accepted a number of items into the permanent collection. Pictured above standing from left are Brian Falcon, Ellis Gauthier, President; Evva Wilson, and L. J. Cavaliere. Committee members seated from left are Julie Rose, Museum Director, Babs Babin, and Angelique Bergeron, Curator. Babin is holding a US World War II Army jacket that belonged to Warren J. Bethancourt, great uncle of Jeannie Luckett, and donated by Gerald Soulier. Bergeron shows a Port Allen High School pennant, c. 1958, that was donated by David Corona.



2015 WBRHA Board Members--Current board members shown following the January 21st Board Meeting from left are: L. J. Cavaliere, Wilhelmenia DeCuir, Garry Hubble, Jessamy Charette, Ellis Gauthier, Elisa Tubbs, Jane Brou, Janice Hebert, David Couvillon, Joyce Barbier, Brian Falcon, Mary Bennett, and Deborah Salvadras. Other board members not pictured are: Glen Daigle, Glen DeMourelle, Gary Hart, Kim Callegan, Jason Hammack, and Lorry Trotter.

SAVE THE DATE!

West Baton Rouge Historical Association

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

CARD PARTY

Monday, July 27, 2015

WBR Community Center, Port Allen, LA



Ellis Gauthier
WBR Historical Association
Board President

FROM OUR PRESIDENT AROUND OUR ASSOCIATION



As we go into our 47th year of operation for the West Baton Rouge Historical Association, we find it increasingly difficult to find new opportunities to grow the organization. However, we are always open to new members joining our 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Currently we have over 400 members including regular members, patrons, students, and friends members.

Many of our members volunteer throughout the year in various capacities and help to keep the organization thriving. We value our wonderful volunteers and hopefully will be able to surpass our past accomplishments.

Our main fundraisers are the Christmas in July Card Party on Monday, July 27, at the West Baton Rouge Parish Community Center in Port Allen; and the Plantation Dinner and Sweets Booth at the Museum's SugarFest on Sunday, October 4. As these activities grow larger each year, we are looking for more volunteers to

assist us. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for these fundraising events.

Another area that we need support from the local community is donations of items to the WBR Historical Association Permanent and Education Collections. These collections make up the bulk of items relating to West Baton Rouge Parish and are used throughout the year in various exhibits at the West Baton Rouge Museum.

The Ethel Claiborne Dameron lecture in the fall marks the high point of our activities. Our Hospitality Committee does a great job assisting with the ECD Lecture and other events. If you would like to become a member of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association or assist with our activities, please call Alice LeBlanc at 225 336-2422, Ext. 10.

Let's get off to a good start this year and make it the best year ever!

Sincerely,

Ellis

Ellis Gauthier



Commemorating the U.S. Civil War Sesquicentennial in Louisiana



Julie Rose
West Baton Rouge
Museum Director

FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Greetings,

Many of us are ready for spring and looking forward to the beautiful display that Mother Nature has ready for us to enjoy outdoors. The museum's grounds continue to attract hundreds of visitors who enjoy taking family photographs in the gardens. The West Baton Rouge Museum is eager to head into the new season with a host of exhibits and programs. The 150th anniversary of the U.S. Civil War is in its

fifth and final year (2011-2015). The museum is showcasing an outstanding collection of over 100 prints of the Civil War from the Frank Leslie Illustrated Collection in the exhibit "When the Cannons Fell Silent: Sesquicentennial of the End of the U.S. Civil War" from April 18 through August 16, 2015. Check out the calendar in this issue of the Ecoutez to find the exciting lectures planned to complement the Civil War exhibit. The talented West Baton Rouge students are sharing their beautiful artworks in the current exhibit on display through April 30, 2015. Later this spring, the museum is working closely with the Neal family to install "The Neal Family Blues" exhibit in the Brick Gallery. The countdown is underway for Blast from the Past summer camp; registration opened on March 2. The theme this year complements the Neal Family Blues exhibit, "Rockin' through the Ages." The 2015 Teachers Institute will focus on the history of American music bringing teachers up-to-date on the legacy of blues music from West Baton Rouge Parish; registration is now open to the first 25 educators to sign up.

The museum campus is now secured with an upgraded security

system that will help the staff and volunteers better manage the safety of our visitors and the security of the many buildings and galleries. The museum is pleased to be working with Custom Securities with this important upgrade to our museum facilities.

We extend a warm welcome to new museum board members Claire Sarradet and David Toups, and new WBRHA board members Janice Hebert, Jason Hammack, Wilhemenia DeCuir and Mary Bennett. New and long-time volunteers were all invited to the 2015 Volunteer Coffee in February where everyone was invited to wear aprons as we "mixed it up" with green spatulas at the museum! Congratulations to Gary Hart and Jackie Begue for their volunteer-of-the-year awards. A big thank you to the volunteers at the West Baton Rouge Museum who are the finest and kindest individuals!

Spring has sprung! See you at the museum,

Best,

Julie

Julie Rose, Ph.D.
Director



West Baton Rouge Historical Association

2015 membership dues are now due.

Please send your check to:

Alice LeBlanc, WBR Museum

845 North Jefferson, Port Allen, LA 7076

See Membership form on the last page for dues amount.

SCENES FOLLOWING THE JANUARY 12, 2015 WBR HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING



Jo Ann Busse, Jane Brou, Elisa Tubbs, and Claire Sarradet discuss projects.



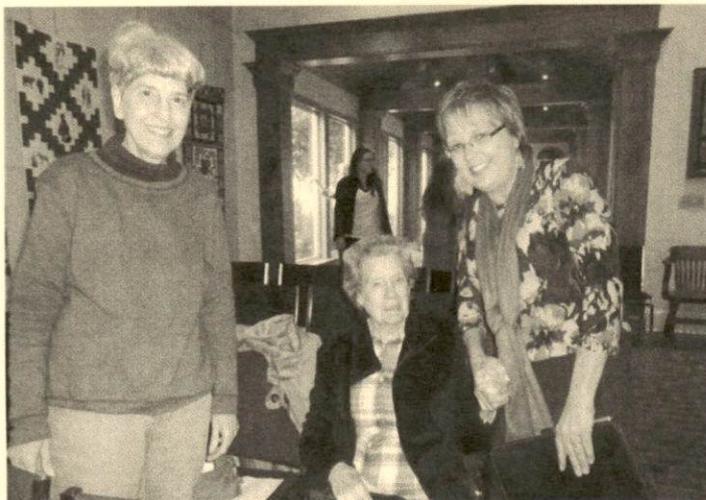
Brian Falcon, Glen DeMourelle, and Kim Callegan share ideas.



Ruth Stanley, Joyce Barbier, and Fannie Easterly enjoy refreshments.



Lorry Trotter, Ellis Gauthier, Janice Hebert, Jason Hammack, and Mary Bennett attend the social.



Fannie Easterly and Elisa Tubbs visit with Eleanor Favrot at the WBRHA Annual Meeting.

2015 HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joyce Barbier	Glen E. DeMourelle	2015 Officers
Mary Bennett	Brian Falcon	President
Jane Brou	Jason Hammack	Ellis Gauthier
Kim Callegan	Gary Hart	Vice President
L. J. Cavaliere, Jr.	Janice Hebert	Lorry Trotter
Jessamy Charette	Garry Hubble	Secretary
David Couvillon	Debra Salvadras	Elisa Tubbs
Wilhelmenia DeCuir		Treasurer
		Glen Daigle

WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM VOLUNTEER COFFEE

On the afternoon of February 19, West Baton Rouge Museum staff donned aprons in celebration of the many volunteers and supporters who lend a helping hand throughout the year. Inspired by the exhibit on display in the Whitehead Gallery, "Apron Chronicles: A Patchwork of American Recollections," the staff shared their artistic talents to decorate the aprons they wore which were given away as door prizes during the event.

While everyone in attendance was an honored guest, special recognition was given to the 2014 Volunteer and Junior Volunteer of the Year and to the Frank Carruth III Foundation for their recent donation.

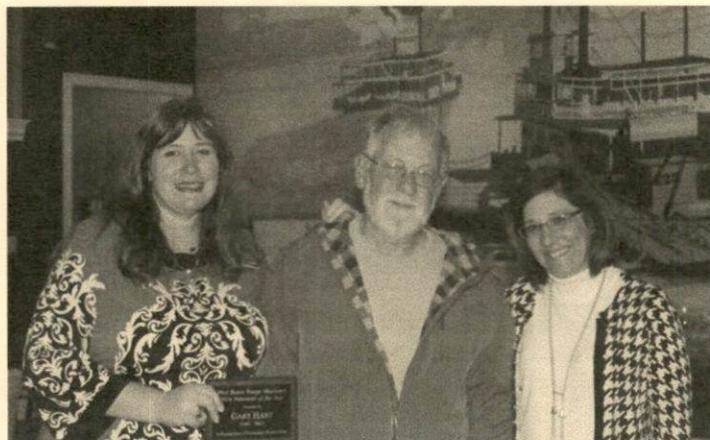
Volunteer of the Year, Gary Hart has been volunteering for the museum for almost two decades utilizing his talent as a blacksmith to create period appropriate pieces for open hearth cooking demonstrations in the c.1850 Allendale Slave Cabin and making hardware to repair the historic houses on the museum grounds. Now, he volunteers once a week by conducting blacksmithing demonstrations in the museum's new Mule Barn.

Junior Volunteer of the Year, Jacqueline Begue has been participating in museum events ever since she was a small child attending the museum's annual Blast from the Past summer History Camp program. She is now a junior at Brusly High School. When she exceeded the age limit for camp but still wanted to be involved, she started sharing her time and talents to help teach the next generation about our culture and history at camp and weekend events.

The Frank Carruth III Foundation was recognized for a generous donation that resulted in the establishment of the *Frank Carruth III Children's Fund*. This fund is designed to allow for future memorial donations designated for children's programs to be made to the museum for years to come. The fund will be used for programs that benefit the children of West Baton Rouge Parish, including the annual "Blast from the Past" summer history camp, field trips, performances, and workshops. Frank Carruth III was actively involved with the museum, local scouting, and other programs that benefited children and their education. Carruth family members present at the celebration were Marsha Best Turner, Stacy Ryan, and Melissa Best Turner.



Pictured in their aprons from left are, Jeannie Lockett, Eleanor Favrot, Julie Rose, Carolyn Blanchard, Alice LeBlanc, Angelique Bergeron, Gwenn Laviolette, Tom Acosta, Debbie Price, Toni Brantley, Paul Algu and Jackie Beque.



Pictured from left are Jeannie Lockett, Gary Hart and Julie Rose. Gary was awarded volunteer of the year for 2014.



Pictured from left are Jeannie Lockett and Jackie Begue. Jackie was awarded junior volunteer of the year for 2014.



Pictured from left are Carruth family members, Melissa Best Turner, Stacy Ryan and Marsha Best Turner seated, along with Tom Acosta, Chairman of the WBR Museum Board and Julie Rose, Museum Director.

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY CONTEST AT THE WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM

On Saturday, March 7, West Baton Rouge Museum hosted the Greater Baton Rouge Regional National History Day Contest for the fourth year in a row. Represented were 170 projects including research papers, documentaries, websites, performances, and exhibits presented by 250 middle and high school students. The contest was judged by 35 volunteers who reported being quite impressed by the level of creativity and critical thinking skills demonstrated by all of the students competing. Of those competing, 107 students will be moving on to the state contest at the National World War II Museum in April with hopes of advancing to the national level held in Washington D.C. in June for a chance to win scholarships and cash prizes. National History Day (NHD) is a non-profit education organization in College Park, MD. Established in 1974, NHD offers year-long academic programs that engage over half a million middle- and high-school students around the world annually in conducting original research on historical topics of interest. The National History Day program encourages the development of research and problem-solving skills, oral and written communication and presentation skills. More than 5 million students have gone on to careers in business, law, medicine and countless other disciplines where they are putting into practice what they learned through NHD. To learn more about the National History Day program, visit www.nhd.org.

The West Baton Rouge Museum would like to thank all who participated as students, teachers, parents, judges, vendors, and volunteers. See pictures below. Thanks to so much support, this event was a complete success.



Blast from the Past

Summer History Camp 2015

"Rockin' Through the Ages"

Come make music and for a Be-Boppin', Hip Hoppin' week of fun for Rock Stars ages 6-12 at the West Baton Rouge Museum

Session One: June 8-12
 Session Two: June 15-19
 Drop off: 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.
 Pick up: 3:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Space is limited. Advanced, paid registration is required.
www.westbatonrougemuseum.com
 or call (225) 336-2422 ext. 15

MUSEUM WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM



Angelique Bergeron
Curator of Collections

Curator's Corner

The Accessions Committee met on March 23rd to review recent donations and make recommendations. Recent additions to the Historical Association's Permanent Collection include a bracelet from the 1960 Miss Sugar Queen contest, a c.1913 Directory of Louisiana Sugar Cane Farmers, a collection of photographs from American Gateway Bank (formerly the Bank of West Baton Rouge) and a collection of early 20th century correspondence from the Town of Port Allen. Additions to the Museum's Education Collection which have been added to the barn and historic buildings include a horse-drawn buggy, a vintage gambling machine from the Allendale Plantation Store, as well as a railroad spike and section of track from the Allendale dummy line. If you have items pertaining to the history of our parish that you would like to donate, please contact me at bergeron@wbrmuseum.org or 225-336-2422 x11.

Upcoming exhibits:

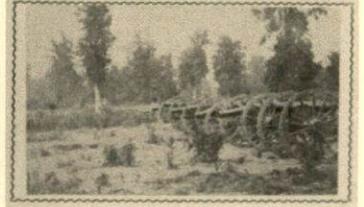
From **March 28 through May 3**, the West Baton Rouge Museum will host the **Talented Student Art Exhibition**, featuring the artwork of local students at Brusly Elementary, Brusly Middle, Brusly High, Chamberlin Elementary, Cohn Elementary, Devall Middle, Lukeville Upper Elementary, Port Allen Elementary, and Port Allen High School. **An opening reception was held on Saturday, March 28th** and included a dance performance as well as a make and take craft project. The West Baton Rouge Talented Art Student Exhibition reflects a partnership between the West Baton Rouge schools and the museum that has lasted for many



"Pond View" by Port Allen High 12th grader, Caitlin Miller

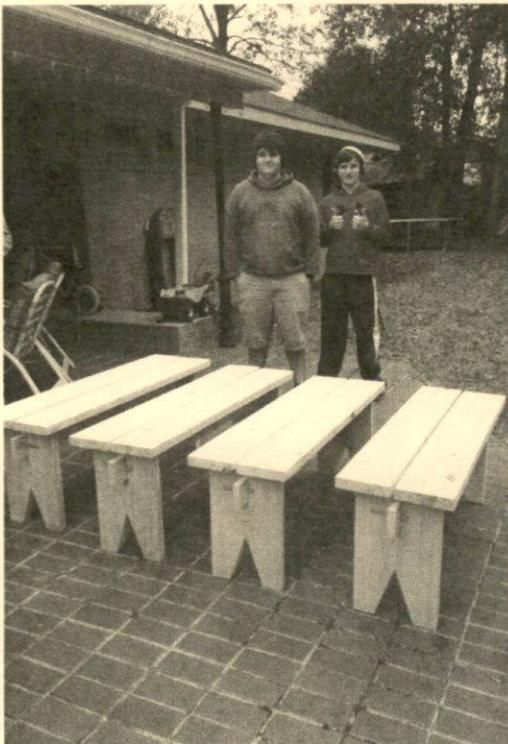
years. The museum takes great pride in supporting the creative talents of the parish's aspiring young artists. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

The West Baton Rouge Museum will host **When the Cannons Fell Silent: A Sesquicentennial Celebration of the End of the American Civil War** from April 18 through August 16, 2015. The exhibit features one of the finest collections of original Civil War prints available, including works published by Frank Leslie, who spared no expense in commissioning twenty skilled artists to sketch "every battle, skirmish and military movement, to give to the anxious ones at home a vivid and realistic picture of the real war." Also on display will be the East and West Baton Rouge Parishes Confederate Memorial, cannons, Confederate money, and Civil War era photographs from the Baton Rouge area, as well as Civil War era scrapbooks and period swords from the West Baton Rouge Historical Association's Permanent Collection.



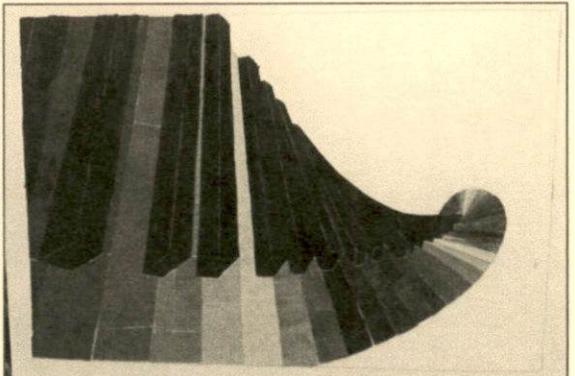
Neal Family Blues

Beginning May 9th and running through July 12th the West Baton Rouge Museum will pay tribute to Raful Neal "Godfather of Baton Rouge Blues" and his talented family. Erwinville native Raful and his wife Shirley had 10 kids together; all of them musically inclined. Sons Kenny and Lil'Ray Neal have carried rural blues to the international stage, while grandsons Tyree, Chris, and BroBro carry the next generation into the hip-hop scene. The exhibit **Neal Family Blues** will feature a vintage jukebox playing Neal family albums, as well as instruments, photographs, and video on loan from the family. Don't miss the exhibit or the Kenny Neal Family and Friends Heritage Blues Festival at the WBR Multi-Purpose Arena on June 6th.



Blacksmith Shop Benefits from Eagle Scout Project

Micah Owens, pictured left with his younger brother, Eli, are both members of Boy Scout Troop 53. Micah recently completed a project at the West Baton Rouge Museum for his Eagle Scout rank. With the help of his fellow scouts and leaders from Troop 53, Micah designed and supervised the construction of four wooden benches which will be used in the Museum's Blacksmith Shop. Visitors to the Blacksmith Shop can now sit and enjoy the weekly blacksmithing presentation by Gary Hart. Thanks to Micah and best wishes from your friends at the West Baton Rouge Museum.



Another art entry, "Colorful Keys" by Amanda Kitchen from Port Allen High. Both Amanda and Caitlin Miller are 12th graders in Ms. Janeece Font's class.



Welcome Pam Van Buren. Pam has joined our team at the West Baton Rouge Museum. She will be tour guide and manage the gift shop.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 18-August 16: "When the Cannons Fell Silent: Sesquicentennial of the End of the American Civil War"

April 21, 10:00am - noon: Open Hearth Cooking Class "Civil War Ends: Cooking What We Can Find" Call (225) 336-2422 x15 to register. Spaces limited. FREE

May 2, 10:00am - noon: Blacksmith Class To register (225) 336-2422 x14. Space limited. FREE

May 7, noon: Lunchtime lecture with Dr. Paul Paskoff "War Time Destruction and Post War Politics in the South, 1861-1867." FREE

May 9 - July 12: "Neal Family Blues" an exhibit featuring the music history legacy of Raul Neal and family

June 6 Music Festival: Louisiana Southern Soul Blues Society presents South Louisiana's Blues Legacy Concert at the Louis Mouch Multipurpose Arena.

June: Blast from the Past Summer History Camp. The theme this year is "Rockin' Through the Ages: Celebrating 20 Years of Blast from the Past."

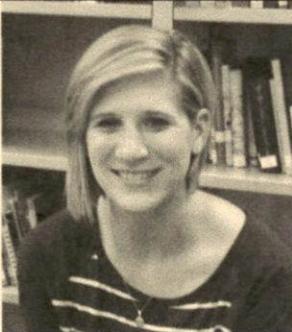
Two one-week sessions

Session One: June 8 - 12

Session Two: June 15-19

July 9, noon: Lunchtime lecture with Dr. Jenna Kuttruff "We All Wore Black: Mourning Dress at the End of the Civil War." FREE

July 14, 15, 16: Teachers Institute: Anthropology of Blues. Social studies, science math, & history integrated with music. Registration required. Visit www.westbatonrougemuseum.com for form. Space limited.



Welcome Marisa Primeaux. Marisa is a senior history major at LSU and is an intern this spring semester at the West Baton Rouge Museum. Marisa is researching the history of sculptures Angela Gregory did for the facade of the new state capitol building. The studies for these sculptures are new acquisitions in the West Baton Rouge Historical Association's permanent collection.

WHEN THE CANNONS FELL SILENT: Sesquicentennial of the End of the U.S. Civil War

Showing
April 18 through
August 16, 2015



(225) 336-2422 | 888-881-6811 toll free | 845 N. JEFFERSON AVE. | PORT ALLEN, LA 70767
WWW.WESTBATONROUGEMUSEUM.COM

CURRENT LIST OF FRIENDS

- | | |
|---|--|
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| Dana A. Ayo *** | Placid Refinery |
| Babs & Ronnie Babin | Butch & Peggy Plauche |
| Joyce & Kenneth Barbier | Rod Prejean & Assoc., Inc. *** |
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| Glen Daigle | J. Kenneth Washington |
| Dexco Polymers LP | West Baton Rouge Chamber of
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| The Dow Chemical Company | West Baton Rouge Convention
& Visitors Bureau |
| Linda Lowe Erley | West Baton Rouge Garden &
Civic Club |
| ExxonMobil | West Side Women's Club |
| Don & Marie Favrot | Westside Homeschoolers |
| William H. Forman, Jr. | Zeta Tau Alpha Baton Rouge LA
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| Jeff Guidry/Edward Jones | |
| Jenny Forest | |
| Terry & Steve Guidry | |
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| Garry Hubble Family | |
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| LA Farm Bureau Federation | |
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| Jane P. Middleton | |
| Modernaires Dance Club | |
| Andrea & Joey Normand | |
| Dr. J. H. Odom, Jr. | |
| Darrell & Angela Owens | |

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- Caroline Kennedy
- Rod Prejean & Assoc, Inc.
- Jonathan & Brandi LeFeaux
- Dr. Philip & Monica Padgett
- Rabalais Law
- Michael & Stacy Ryan

Patrons:

- Bridget DeSilva
- Marguerite Gresham

Members:

- Angelique Bergeron
- Jeanne Smith

Students

- Julia & Samuel Gibson

*** Denotes New Friends Member



**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.com

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Port Allen, LA

**DONATIONS WERE RECEIVED FOR THE
FOLLOWING MEMORIAL FUNDS:**

Acquisitions Memorial Fund

William Matthew Acosta – Evva & J.L. Wilson
Wayne Knotts – Evva & J.L. Wilson
Hugh Marionneaux – Evva & J.L. Wilson
Vanessa Miller Prejean – Babs and Ronnie Babin

Ethel Claiborne Dameron Memorial Fund

Frank Carruth III Children's Fund

William Matthew Acosta – West Baton Rouge Museum Staff
William Matthew Acosta – Stacy & Michael Ryan
Michael Danna - Michael & Stacy Ryan
Julie LeMoine – Alice & Chris LeBlanc
Julie LeMoine - Blake & Megan (LeBlanc) Kinchen
Ava & Jacob Saucier – Andrea & Joey Normand

General Memorial Fund

Museum Memorial Fund

William Matthew Acosta – West Baton Rouge Museum Board

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 _____

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

GENERAL FUND _____ MUSEUM MEMORIAL 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 - 2015

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.