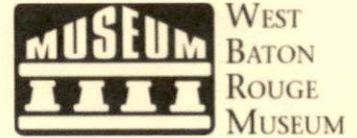




Écoutez



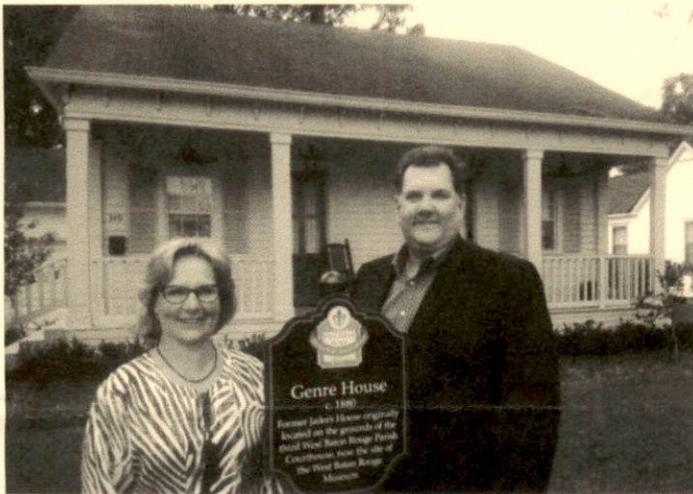
April - June, 2015

Volume XLVII, No. 2

A PUBLICATION OF THE WEST BATON ROUGE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Janet Simoneaux, Editor, jcsimoneaux@gmail.com, 225-383-2502

"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."



WBR Historical Association Historical Marker - Genre House

Anne Lemoine and Adrian Genre stand beside the new West Baton Rouge Parish historic marker honoring the Genre house. The home, constructed in the 1880's, was originally the jailer's residence behind the old courthouse, now the West Baton Rouge Museum. Adrian's Uncle and Aunt, Richard and Marguerite Genre, purchased the house and had it moved to the site of Holy Family School gymnasium in 1957. In 1984 it was moved to its current location on 6th street. Anne is the current owner of the house and has continued to preserve and improve it in the spirit of maintaining its historic character. The marker was installed as part of a project by the Historical Association to replace and add to the existing markers installed by the Chamber of Commerce at sites throughout the parish.

2015 Historical Association Board of Directors

Joyce Barbier	Glen E. DeMourelle	2015 Officers
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JOIN THE FUN

"Christmas in July"

Card Party set for July 27



"Try your luck at bridge, hand and foot canasta, Shanghai rummy, sequence, pokeno, boureé and other games at the 9th annual "Christmas in July" Card Party sponsored by the West Baton Rouge Historical Association on Monday, July 27, 2015," invited Lorry Trotter, Card Party chairman.

The fundraiser event includes lunch and runs from 10 am to 3 pm at the West Baton Rouge Community Center, 749 North Jefferson Avenue in Port Allen. A registration fee of \$25.00 per person benefits the West Baton Rouge Historical Association.

Come and join us for a day of fun, fellowship, good food, door prizes and more! Bring your entire group or register individually to play cards or other parlor games and celebrate "Christmas in July" with us!

Reservations are required. Registration deadline is July 20. Call Alice LeBlanc at 336-2422, Ext.10 to register or for additional information.



United Way and ExxonMobil came to the museum for the "Day of Caring" on June 19, 2015 to refinish and stain the wheelchair ramp behind the Aillet House.



Ellis Gauthier
WBRHA Board President

FROM OUR PRESIDENT AROUND OUR ASSOCIATION



We have started our 47th year off in a busy way. The Christmas in July Card Party is set for Monday, July 27th and if you haven't registered yet, there's still time to do so. Please call Alice LeBlanc at 336-2422, Ext. 10 for registration information. Our Card Party Chairperson is Lorry Trotter and Food Chairperson is Evva Wilson. Other committee members assisting are: Babs Babin, Joyce Barbier, Jane Brou, Kim Callegan, Sara Grady, Alice LeBlanc, and Ruth Stanley. In addition to Card Party Committee members, many of our WBRHA Board members also assist with set up and take down for the event. If you're interested in helping in any way, please give Lorry Trotter a call at 627-6264 or 953-3867. Remember, each board member is asked to bring at least two wrapped door prizes to Alice at the WBR Museum before the Card Party. Monetary contributions will also be accepted.

Sugar Fest is just around the corner so mark your calendars for October 4 and plan to spend the day at the WBR Museum. The WBRHA manages the Plantation Dinner and Sweets Booth during the day. Remember, all HA board members are required to sell dinner tickets for the October 4 event. You will receive your tickets to sell in early September. This has always been a favorite meal of the day.

The Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture will be coming up soon and our co-chairs Debra Salvadras and Jeannie Luckett are working on a presenter for the program.

The amount and quality of accessions that have been coming in is very impressive. If you have something tucked away pertaining to West Baton Rouge Parish history, we would love to add it to our collection either as a donation or loan.

The Historic Preservation Committee has been diligently adding new and replacement markers throughout the parish. Thanks to Brian Falcon for heading up this committee. Recognition of the many local historic sites in West Baton Rouge Parish adds credibility to the long term viability of these buildings.

The Hospitality Committee is called upon to provide refreshments for our events. Thanks to Kim Callegan for chairing this committee along with volunteers who provide delightful treats for attendees.

Please continue to be active in your association and encourage your friends and neighbors to join as well. If anyone would like to become a member of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association or assist with our activities, please call Alice LeBlanc at 336-2422, Ext. 10.

Thanks to everyone for making this 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,

The sounds of summer at the West Baton Rouge Museum are rich with the rhythms and soulful lyrics of Louisiana Blues. Shaped by the current exhibit in the Brick Gallery, "Rafal Neal Blues Legacy", the current exhibit curated by Angelique Bergeron, is filled with pieces from the Kenny Neal Family Collection and a kiosk for listening to recordings by the Neals. Education Curator, Jeannie Luckett, has used the local Blues theme to fill the

activities for the Blast from the Past summer camp for 80 campers. In July, the three-day Teachers Institute theme is "Anthropology of Blues: Social Studies, Science, Math, and History Integrated with Music." Participants in the summer camp and the Teachers Institute benefited from the outstanding live musical performances by Kenny Neal, the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra's Blues Quartet, Chris Thomas King, and Carter Wilkinson. Support for the BRSO Blues Quarter performances came from the Frank Carruth III Children's Fund.

Summer staff includes Paul Algu, Danielle Rugel, David Martin, Ben Knapp, LSU intern Jade Spears, a host of junior volunteers, and the teen volunteers from Youth Volunteers Corps of the United Way. The summer includes more new faces, including librarian Rachel Gifford and LSU intern Malori Bezet. Read more about the many wonderful volunteers and supporters for this year's camp in this issue of the Ecoutez.

Breaking news! This June came the announcement from the Foundation for Historical Louisiana that the West Baton Rouge Museum will be awarded the 39th annual Brick and Mortar Award for Historic Preservation for the Arbroth Mercantile Plantation Store. The store was donated by Joanne Busse and family in 2007 and was moved to the museum in 2009. The museum opened the restored store in 2011. Today, the store is interpreted to the era between the two World Wars, and highlights events in American history and the social history of plantation stores in south Louisiana. The store had a 'saloon', post office, payroll office, and sold gasoline, hardware, dry goods and groceries, thus providing a major social gathering place for locals. The Foundation for Historical Louisiana will hold the awards banquet this summer. Information to attend the awards banquet, July 16, can be found at www.fhl.org.

Happy Birthday to Addis! This year is the 100th anniversary of the Town of Addis and the town is set to hold a major festival on September 11 & 12, 2015. The public is invited. The West Baton Rouge Museum will help mark this significant milestone with an exhibit, "The Town of Addis's Centennial Anniversary" in the Brick Gallery opening September 19, 2015. The exhibit will feature an 11' x 17' working railroad model to help recall the town's railroad history provided by the Greater Baton Rouge Railroad Association.

Mark your calendars for October 4, 2015, Sunday, for the 20th Sugar Fest, Twenty Sweet Years!

See you at the museum!

Julie

Julie Rose, Ph.D.
Director



We Had A Blast from the Past Thanks to YOU!

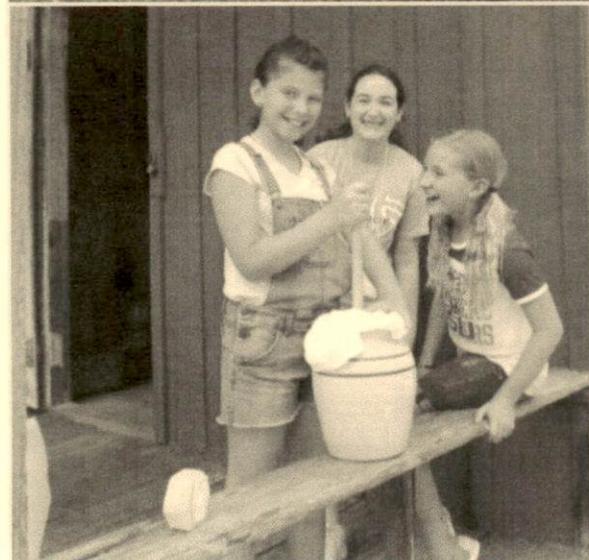
On behalf of the West Baton Rouge Museum, Education Curator, Jeannie Luckett would like to thank the following people for helping to make the museum's 20th annual "Blast from the Past" summer history camp series a tremendous success. This year's theme was "Rockin' Through the Ages" in celebration of the current *Neal Family Blues Exhibit* and the two decade run of this program which has enriched 1,600 plus children over the years. With the help of the following artists, donors, educators, musicians, re-enactors, and volunteers, 80 children ages 6 -12 were able to trace the origins of the blues from its African roots to modern day music through a series of specially themed stories, snacks, games, crafts, concerts, and more. Campers made primitive gourd instruments and cigar box guitars, wrote their own original Blues songs, and enjoyed live musical performances. Thank you so much to the following for making this summer special for the children!

Frank Carruth III Children's Fund
Anna & Elizabeth Daigle
Tomas Scheffer
Gabrielle Boudreaux
Simone Guidry
Dara Badon
Owen Hollier
Jacqueline Begue
Parker Galloway
Lindsey West
Annalise Rome
Kaci Wilson

Alexandra Whitten
Alaina & Danielle Vallet
Debbie, David & Patrick Martin
Carter Wilkinson
Nick Lee
Claire Burleigh
Evva Wilson
Iris Almond
Harvey Hill
JoAnn Dodd
Joyce Barbier
Mary Bennett

Metha Arnold
Kim Callegan
Po Folks Fruit Stand
Don Juan Cigar Shop
Sheila Spagna
Ron Wall
Bryan Taylor
Mary Guarisco
Kenny Neal
Marguerite Gresham
Annie & Emma Bates
Gary Hart

Millicent Hawthorne
Kenny Acosta
Stacy Ryan
Gwenn LaViolette
Baton Rouge Symphony
Orchestra
Richard Holloway
David Martin
Lina Cutrer
Capitol Area United Way Youth
Volunteer Corps
WBR Museum Staff





Angelique Bergeron
Curator of Collections

Curator's Corner

Summer 2015

Collection Highlight: Replica of the ferry *Louisiana* on display at the WBRM

The June 2015 edition of *Country Roads Magazine* featured a lovely piece entitled "Crossing Water, Mississippi River Ferry Tales" by Ila Reinstein. I met Mrs. Reinstein shortly after I began working at the West Baton Rouge Museum one year ago while she was researching ferries for a book she is writing. Mrs. Reinstein found helpful information about the ferries in the WBRM vertical files. (The vertical files are a wonderful resource on a wide variety of topics, thanks to years of contributions by HA members and staff)

As Mrs. Reinstein and I discussed our mutual love of river stories, we agreed that a museum such as ours should feature a model of a ferry boat to assist in the interpretation of the river stories told for generations. The museum agreed to commission a model of the *Louisiana* ferry for display. Mrs. Reinstein and I arranged for Mr. Ernest Busby, a trustee at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, to build for the museum the model of the *Louisiana* ferry pictured in the *Country Roads* article. The photograph of the completed ferry model can be seen to the right. Mr. Busby used historical photographs from the WBRM vertical files as well as scans of the original blueprints obtained from Howard Shipyard, which built the ferry in 1925. Thanks to a display case made by Mr. Harvey Hill, the *Louisiana* model will be on permanent display in the Perkins Gallery near the hands-on display of the giant ferry steering wheel.



Among the pictures included with the *Country Roads* article was a c.1925 photograph from the West Baton Rouge Historical Association collection that showed Marion Kahn and Chief Engineer William Gibbons with a group of people on the deck of the *Louisiana*. This led Keith Norrington, Director-Curator of the Howard Steamboat Museum in Jefferson, Indiana, to contact the West Baton



Rouge Museum. He was surprised to be able to identify the man on the far right as Captain James E. Howard standing with his daughter, Martha. See the historical photograph to the left. However, we are still missing the names

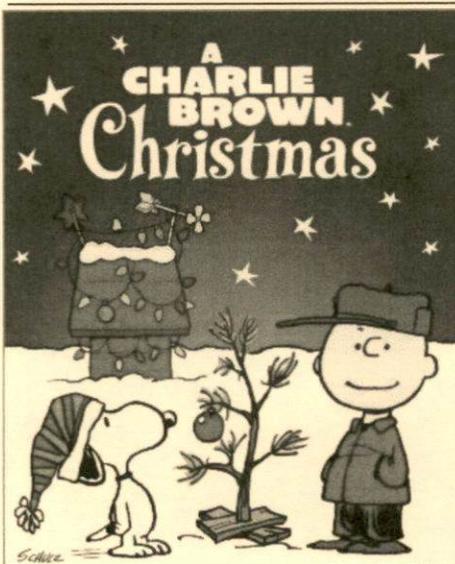
of the others in the photo. Can you help us out? If so, please contact Angélique Bergeron, Curator at (225) 336-2422, ext. 11 or via email at bergeron@wbrmuseum.org.

Upcoming Exhibits:

This summer the museum is wrapping up the sesquicentennial commemoration of the American Civil War with the exhibit *When the Cannons Fell Silent*, which will remain on display through August 16th. Several items have been added to the exhibit for the final month including Civil War era mourning handkerchiefs from the LSU Textile and Costume Museum and several studies made by artist Angela Gregory that she prepared in the 1960s for the Henry Watkins Allen monument. The plaster studies of Henry Watkins Allen are part of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association's permanent collection and have been on loan to the Louisiana Arts and Science Museum for their exhibit *Monuments and Metaphors*.

We will remember the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina through the photography of Thomas Neff in the Brick Gallery with *Holding Out and Hanging On: Ten Years after Hurricane Katrina*, which opens on July 18th and runs through September 13th. The photographs were taken in the days following the storm and published in Neff's 2007 book by the same name. This exhibit will include updates on the survivors pictured as well as on the rebuilding process in New Orleans. Mr. Neff will be at the museum on August 18, 2015 at noon for a gallery talk and book signing.

Opening on August 29th in the Whitehead Gallery is *House and Home*, a nationally touring exhibit from the National Building Museum sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. This exhibit takes visitors on a tour of houses both familiar and surprising, through past and present, to explore the varied history, and many cultural meanings of the American home.



CALL FOR ARTIFACTS! The WBR Museum is planning an exhibit commemorating the 50th anniversary of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" opening this November 2015. The Museum is calling all those who have Peanuts or Charlie Brown Christmas items, such as Charlie Brown Christmas limited edition commemorative plates, Peanuts characters music boxes, Charlie Brown Christmas ornaments, records, cassette tapes, and videos. All items will be returned to their owners after the exhibit closes. We will be collecting the loaned items between July 1 and November 1, 2015. Lenders for the Charlie Brown exhibit can call Angelique Bergeron 336-2422 x 11.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Through August 16: When the Cannons Fell Silent: Sesquicentennial of the End of the American Civil War, an exhibition.

July 14, 15, 16: Teachers Institute: Anthropology of Blues. Social studies, science, math, and history integrated with music. www.westbatonrougemuseum.com for registration.

July 18 through September 13: Katrina Photos by Thomas Neff for the 10th anniversary of Katrina.

August 1, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm: Furling the Flag: The Soldiers Come Home, lecture and demonstration of the historical process reintegrating men into civilian life, with historian Richard Holloway. Free.

August 6, noon: Lunchtime Lecture "The 70th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombing of Japan: A Look Back" Gary C. Ethridge will discuss events that hastened the end of WWII: the use of the uranium bomb code named "Little Boy" and the use of the plutonium bomb code named "Fat Man" in 1945. Free.

August 12, noon: Lunchtime Lecture, "The Art of the Civil War in the South" with Dr. Claudia Kheel. Free.

August 18, noon: Lunchtime Gallery Talk and Book Signing: *Holding Out and Hanging On: 10 Years after Hurricane Katrina* presented by photographer and author, Thomas Neff. Free.

August 18: At the WBRM Museum, Book Club distribution of the book, *New Orleans Boom and Blackout* by Brian Boyles, Free. (Generous support from WBR Parish Library).

August 20, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm: Discussion and Book Signing with author Brian Boyles, *New Orleans Boom and Blackout* a look at post Katrina recovery as the city prepared to host Super Bowl XLVII. This book is the Book Club read. Enjoy a commemorative Hurricane cocktail at this evening event, which also serves as the concluding program for the Book Club.

August 29 to October 18: House and Home, *NEH On the Road* exhibition.

September 16, noon: History of Scotlandville: The Neighborhood: Talk and Book Signing with author Dr. Rachel Emanuel. Free

September 19 through November 15: Town of Addis Centennial Anniversary exhibition.

September 26, noon -1:30 pm: Slavery by Another Name. The film challenges the assumption that slavery in the U.S. ended with emancipation and looks at post-Civil War systems of involuntary servitude. Documentary and panel discussion will be based on the Pulitzer Prize winning book of the same name. Free.

Oct. 4, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm: SugarFest "Celebrating 20 Sweet Years!"

October mid-month (TBD) noon: "Henry Howard: Louisiana's Architect" talk and book signing by author Robert S Brantley. Mr. Brantley will share the history of prominent courthouses and buildings in West Baton Rouge and the local region designed by Henry Howard. This program is presented in partnership with the Historic New Orleans Collection. Free.

CURRENT LIST OF FRIENDS

Thomas W. Acosta, Jr.	Jonathan & Brandi LeFeaux
American Gateway Bank	Calvin & Becky Mayeux
Dana A. Ayo	Jane P. Middleton
Babs & Ronnie Babin	Modernaires Dance Club
Joyce & Kenneth Barbier	Andrea & Joey Normand
Baton Rouge Community College***	Dr. J. H. Odom, Jr.
Michael & Jan Becnel	Dr. Philip & Monica Padgett
Claire L. Bergeron	Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Pirie
Lorraine & Gordon Bergeron	Placid Refinery
Tom Bernard	Rod Prejean & Assoc., Inc.
Carolyn Blanchard	Rabalais Law
Mike & Pat Blanchard	Thelma & Noah P. Rizan, Jr.
Sue & Sid Blanchard	Edana Robnett
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Bonanno	Julie & Kenny Rose
Barry & Susan Brewer	Michael & Stacy Ryan
Jane Brou & Family	Debra & Ronnie Salvadras
Kim & Kerry Callegan	Claire Sarradet
Kym & Tony Cashiola	Janet Simoneaux
Jim & Mary Helen Charleville	Denise Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Dudley W. Coates	Sneaux Balls to Geaux/Carol
Criterion Catalysts & Technologies, L.P.	Quattrone
Glen Daigle	Bobby & Ruth Stanley
The Dow Chemical Company	Clay Stewart/State Farm Insurance
Linda Lowe Erley	Mike & Ellen Tauzin
ExxonMobil	Lorry & Bill Trotter
Don & Marie Favrot	Al & Cathy Troy
William H. Forman, Jr.	Margot G. Turk
Ellis Gauthier & Family	J. Kenneth Washington
Sara & George "Skipper" Grady	West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce
Jeff Guidry/Edward Jones	West Baton Rouge Convention & Visitors Bureau
Terry & Steve Guidry	West Baton Rouge Garden & Civic Club
Lee & Michelle Hart	West Side Women's Club
Garry Hubble Family	Westside Homeschoolers
Hugh's Place, Inc.***	
Iberville Bank	
Rose & Kenneth Jackson	
Caroline Kennedy	Welcome New Friends:
Janice Kitchens-Melancon	Baton Rouge Community College
LA Farm Bureau Federation	Hugh's Place, Inc.
Lagniappe Dulcimer Society	
Mim and Najma Landry	New Members:
Harry L. Laws Co., Inc.	Shari Giurintano

HA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO CHAIR SWEETS SHOP

We are in need of someone to chair the Sweets Shop at SugarFest this year. Hopefully a couple of HA members will step up as chairpersons for this event. Please call Ellis Gauthier at 225-387-3757 to volunteer.



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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Acquisitions Memorial Fund

William Acosta – Babs & Ronnie Babin
Ronnie Babin – Jim & Mary Helen Charleville
Genny Bernard – Fran Ragan
Tom Bernard – Ruth & Bobby Stanley
Tom Bernard – Eleanor Favrot
Tom Bernard – Babs & Ronnie Babin
Julie Sarradet LeMoine – Babs & Ronnie Babin
Maurice Pecquet – Jim & Mary Helen Charleville
Maurice Pecquet – Ruth & Bobby Stanley

Ethel Claiborne Dameron Memorial Fund

Frank Carruth III Children's Fund

William Acosta – Ruth & Bobby Stanley

General Memorial Fund

Tom Bernard – Jeffrey Bernard
Tom Bernard – Jan Bernard
Mary Jane Kahao – Erin & Colby Cook

Museum Memorial Fund

Tom Bernard – Fran Ragan
Gift from Paul and Beth Paskoff

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.