



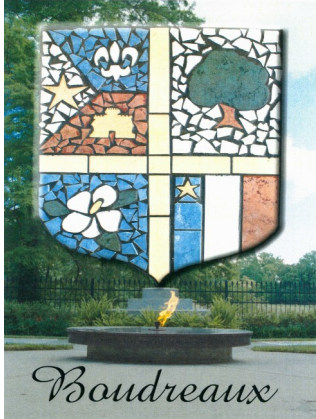
CALLING ALL CAJUNS!

A Publication of The Acadian Memorial Foundation

November 2010

ALL ABOUT THE CRESTS

Suzy Bridwell



Postcards featuring Family Crests from the AM Meditation Garden will soon be available through our boutique. Mosaic crest design by John Albert Landry. Postcard design by Steve Comeaux Photography.

© 2010

Question: Which 37 families have crests in the AM Garden? Turn to page 6 for the answer!



2010 Day of Remembrance at the Acadian Memorial: Warren Perrin of the Acadian Museum in Erath inducts musician Bernie David, also known as Etlinq Mui'n, into the Order of Living Legends.

Read more about *Journey Stories* on the LEH website, in the "Museum on Main Street" section: <http://www.leh.org/html/museum.html>

Stay updated on the *Journey Stories* project for St. Martinville: www.acadianmemorial.org & www.stmartinville.org

Visitors to the Acadian Memorial are frequently curious about the family crests embedded as tile mosaics into the courtyard terrace overlooking the Bayou Teche. Some comment on the powerful statement made by the representation of these family names and symbols, appearing at a point along one of the primary waterways to carry their ancestors to their original places of establishment in Louisiana.

This issue contains special articles about these crests. The excerpt from "Tiles That Bind" appearing on pages 2 and 3 comes from a grant written by Board Parliamentarian Sylvia Bienvenu in 2004. The successful application to the Acadian Arts Council provided funds toward the development of this special feature in the Acadian Memorial's Meditation Garden. The article on pages 4 and 5 by President Marty Guidry reveals the symbolism of the Guédry crest, originally commissioned by family association Les Guidry d'Asteur from Lindsey Hardee, a graphic artist in the family. Designed in time for their 2004 reunion, they later decided to sponsor the mosaic crest here at the Memorial.

As of late spring 2010, the mosaic walkway is now deemed complete with the additions of decorative scrollwork branches and the Daigle family crest. It is here that you will find crests for thirty-seven families, proclaiming the triumph of their survival.

ON DISPLAY: YOUR STORIES & PHOTOS! Suzy Bridwell

Something special will be happening in St. Martinville from May 28-July 9, 2011: a Smithsonian traveling exhibition called *Journey Stories*. Using imagery, audio and artifacts, *Journey Stories* is designed to "tell the individual stories that illustrate the critical roles travel and movement have played in building our diverse American society."

The Acadian Memorial Foundation has been selected by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities to be the organizing host for this prestigious exhibition. In order to receive this honor, we have a special assignment to complete: the creation of our own locally-themed exhibition to be displayed here in St. Martinville alongside the displays sent to us by the Smithsonian.

Our plans include the creation of a slideshow DVD to tell our journey stories to, from and within the community. We'd like to invite you to **share your photos and stories to be featured in this display**. Photos old and new, of people, places or objects can be used to tell the stories of the St. Martinville area. Tell how your ancestors came to the area. Tell about your Sunday drives or your grandchild's return from deployment. Visit our website to download the form used to collect the photos and stories. www.acadianmemorial.org/english/IntakeForm.pdf

Do you have questions about using your photos and stories for the project? Call us at the Acadian Memorial; 337-394-2258. Do you have an old photograph you'd like to share, but hesitate to copy it or leave it with someone? Call 337-278-5307 to make an appointment with project partner Steve Comeaux Photography by November 30th. Steve will scan accepted photos at no cost to you; your original photos go home with you!

Journey Stories has been made possible in St. Martinville by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

Journey Stories is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and State Humanities Councils nationwide. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress.



Smithsonian Institution



www.leh.org

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Marty Guidry



Marty Guidry by the Guédry family crest in the Acadian Memorial Garden.

Welcome to all of our friends of the Acadian Memorial. We sincerely appreciate your continuing support. This edition of "Calling All Cajuns" highlights one of our many projects, the Family Crests in our Meditation Garden. I think you'll enjoy learning how this project evolved and the careful thought and planning by each family in designing their Crest. Next time you are at the Acadian Memorial, spend a few moments in the Meditation Garden and view the Family Crests in a different light.

We have enjoyed several successful activities in the past few months. The Commemoration of the Great Upheaval on July 28th solemnly remembered the plight of our Acadian ancestors during their tragic exile from their Acadian homeland. On August 15th we celebrated the National Day of the Acadians where folks enjoyed lectures, storytelling and films focused on our Acadian Heritage and a very moving French Mass at St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church, the Mother Church of the Acadians. The L'Ordre du Bon Temps, the oldest social club in North America, returned to Louisiana on October 6th when the Acadian Memorial hosted its 4th annual reenactment of this key event in Acadian history at the Cajundome with chefs from Suresnes, France; Québec, Canada and Lafayette, LA preparing a special 1600's-era meal.

As you read this issue of "Calling All Cajuns," note the upcoming events on the last page. Plan to attend one or more of them. Most are free and you'll enjoy the special programs our staff develops and the camaraderie with your fellow Acadians. And don't forget to renew your Membership in the Acadian Memorial for 2011. Your support is needed and sincerely appreciated.

Thanks for your continued support of the Acadian Memorial,
Marty

Marty Guidry,
President, Acadian Memorial Foundation

From TILES THAT BIND

Sylvia Bienvenu

Editor's note: As mentioned in "All About the Crests" on page 1, the following article is excerpted from the narrative of a grant application to the Acadiana Arts Council, written in 2004 by AMF Board Member Sylvia Bienvenu. The modified narrative is published here with her permission. It explains beautifully the development of a significant feature of the Acadian Memorial; the family crests in our Meditation Garden.

The Acadian Memorial's mission is to memorialize the original Acadian settlers of the Acadiana region and to provide historical and genealogical information about the original Acadian families that settled here. A recent assessment by the prestigious firm of LaPaglia and Associates indicated a need for enhancing the Eternal Flame area to make it more conducive to meditation and remembrance of those families. So, the decision was made to design mosaic Family Crests to symbolically interpret the family names of the original Acadian settlers. To date, eighteen Acadian family crests have been interpreted in mosaics and embedded in the cement pathway above the Eternal Flame. Highlighted at the center, directly below the Deportation Cross, are the family crests of the First Elected Acadian Governor of Louisiana, Alexandre Mouton, and the First Female Acadian Governor; Kathleen Babineaux Blanco. Immense interest and pride have been generated by these crests, both for the families they represent and the Acadian legacy; so the need to complete the whole area has become urgent.

Accordingly, our present plans include installing 10 crests, thereby completely covering the north walkway; embedding granite tiles acknowledging the five Acadian Governors of Louisiana; installing a border of symbols around the Governors' Crests and plaques that tell of the origins, settlement, endurance, and strength of the Acadians and unifying the area by covering the remaining areas with the same tiles that frame the mosaic crests. John Landry has been asked to continue as Master Artist. Acadian families and/or Associations are asked to contribute half of the expense of their Crests and to assist in their design.

Certain events and ideas take on the highest importance in man's religious, social, and political life. From earliest times he has had some formal symbol or ceremony to mark and preserve such ideas, and they have come to represent

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Overlooking the AM Meditation Garden
Photo by Suzy Bridwell

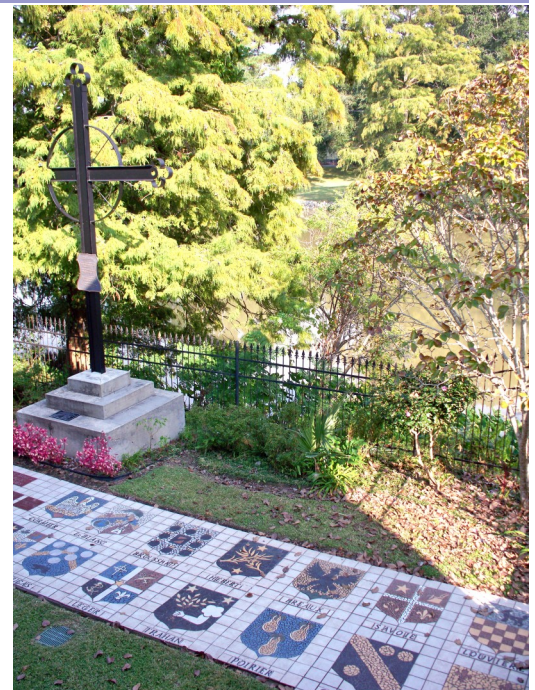
ideal human or cultural qualities. Our research has provided bountiful examples of how such symbols are combined to represent personal and family characteristics of Acadian and French ancestors, and how they were expressed through the design of crests and shields. Some designs, such as Broussard and Comeaux, originated as ancient French family shields and were found in the "Book of Heraldry" by Johannes Baptist Rietstap, proclaimed authority in Coat of Arms and Family Crests. Others are designed by families and are symbolic of the family's history. Well-known symbols are combined in artistic, original fashion to show the family's origin, such as the French FLEUR de LIS or the Acadia STAR. Some occupations are evident, particularly through the Anvil - blacksmith; Braid - soldier; Wheat - farmer. Others depict the origin of family names: Pear (Poire) - Poirier; Lamb (Mouton) - Mouton. Elements are added to differentiate Acadians from French. i.e., the Dugas family added an anvil to the French shield to honor their ancestor Abraham Dugas, blacksmith/armourer of Port Royal.

The historical and artistic elements work together, creating a story, a pride in history, recognition of accomplishments, and family and cultural traits. The eight vacant spaces along the walkway mar the continuity of this story and cry out to be filled, to complete the narrative. As a tribute to the five Louisiana governors of Acadian descent, granite plaques will be inscribed with the names and dates of service of: Harry S. Thibodeaux, Alexandre Mouton, first elected Acadian governor, Paul O. Hebert, Newton C. Blanchard, and Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, first Acadian female governor. Mosaic symbols and tiling will surround the plaques and governors' crests, incorporating the following symbols: ANCHOR - Succor in extremity and the Christian symbol of hope; TREE - object of veneration; the colors of the French, Acadian, and Louisiana flags: WHITE - peace and sincerity, BLUE - loyalty and truth, and RED - military fortitude; FLEUR-de-LIS, derived from the lily, has religious connotations and is a prominent feature on French and Acadian flags; PELICAN - opens its breast to feed its young, a symbol of generosity; STAR - Mary, patron saint of the Acadians; OAK, ACORN, and MAGNOLIA all represent Louisiana. Lastly, the walkway surrounding the Eternal Flame will be covered with tiles, enhanced with scrollwork. These additions will complete the narrative that symbolizes the Acadian Spirit.

John Albert Landry, a renowned artist and architect, specializes in preserving Acadian culture and has done extensive research on Crests at the University of St. Anne, Nova Scotia. His outstanding work on the first 18 crests is to be lauded. Theresa Duhon, hired as a tiler, has blossomed into a Mosaic Artist under John's tutelage, and is beginning a new career in this field. Her exemplary work on other Crests attests to her qualifications. Kathleen Dugas, an experienced tiler, will create the lettering tiles for the Family names.

The Memorial has necessarily been a humanities-based project in the past. The addition of artistic interpretations of the historical aspects offers a prime opportunity to enrich the cultural life of the city, Acadiana region and state. A 12x30 foot mural by famed artist Robert Dafford portrays the actual Acadian refugees who arrived in Louisiana. Now, the Family Crests and Governors' Plaques will provide a tribute to their families, helping visitors to understand them in greater depth. Mosaic art usually relays a story or message. This aspect will be emphasized when visitors are prompted to "read" the messages told by the crests: Where did they live? What was the family occupation? Are any indications of character evident? Visitors arrive "hungry" for a cultural experience in the humanities. The mosaics will provide an added dimension to their visit; one of artistic expression that interprets, enlivens, and defines the historical information.

John Landry will research, design, and coordinate the construction of the Mosaics. Sylvia Bienvu, Project Director last year, will continue in that position, assuring that all aspects of the project are in keeping with the Memorial's mission. Crests will be funded jointly by the grant and Acadian family donations. The plaques, tiling and mosaics around the plaques and Eternal Flame will be funded by the grant. Louise Guidry, renowned local artist, will conduct an independent evaluation of the project. The Mosaics will symbolize how a people, BROKEN and scattered in Nova Scotia, are now REASSEMBLED on the banks of the Bayou Teche through the symbols of the noble and enduring Acadian culture!



THE GUIDRY CREST

THE STORY OF OUR FAMILY

Marty Guidry

The Guédry Crest tells the story of the Guédry family from its French origins through the struggle of its exile and eventually its resettlement throughout North America and Europe. It is the crest of the Guédry family in all of its name variations.

Each item and color on the crest has special significance. Below is an explanation of the colors and components of the Guédry crest as they tell the story of the Guédry family.

ESCUTCHEON- The field of the escutcheon (shield) is divided into two parts: the chief (broad band across the top) and the field per quarterly with simple cross charge.

The **CHIEF** is divided into three sections per pale (vertical lines) of blue, white and red tinctures (colors). Blue, white and red are the colors of the Acadian flag. These colors, the same as the tricolor of the French flag, signify the French origins of the Acadians and of the Guédry family.

BLUE represents the personal color of the Holy Virgin Mary, the patron saint of the Acadians. It also signifies loyalty and truthfulness; traits the Guédry family exhibited throughout their lives in Acadie and during the bleakness of deportation.

WHITE represents peace. In Acadie our Guédry forefathers remained neutral between the English and French, striving for peaceful lives. Even while being deported, they maintained their peaceful demeanor.

RED represents fortitude, the strength of mind that enabled our Guédry ancestors to endure the almost unbearable treatment by the English and emerge a stronger people.

The **YELLOW STAR** symbolizes Our Lady of the Assumption (the Virgin Mary), the patron saint of the Acadians.

The **CREEL** (fish basket) symbolizes the unique relationship between the Guédry family of Merligueche and the Mi'kmaq nation. The Mi'kmaq taught their Guédry neighbors how to survive the harsh Merligueche environment using the bounty of the land and the sea.

The **FIDDLE** symbolizes the unique culture of the Guédry family; their music, their food, their faith, their joie de vivre. Although their culture has evolved and changed through the generations and where they may live, it has remained uniquely theirs. An old musical instrument, the fiddle has remained a constant of this culture wherever the music is played: in old Acadie, in Louisiana, in Nova Scotia, on Prince Edward Island, in New Brunswick, or in France.

CHARGES- The four symbols in the quarterly fields represent the evolution of the Guédry family from the days of old Acadie to today. The silver tincture of the two fields represents the neutrality and peace that our ancestors strove to maintain during their two hundred years in Acadie. The blue tincture of the two fields represents loyalty and truthfulness; qualities exhibited by our Guédry forefathers through much adversity.

The **FLEUR-DE-LIS** symbolizes the French origin of Claude Guédry, the North American forefather of our family. The **GOLD** color symbolizes the generosity of our ancestors toward others, striving for better lives for all.

The **COAST-PILOT** (boat) represents the early life of the Guédry family in North America. Settled near the Mi'kmaq at Merligueche, the Guédrys were excellent coasting pilots, plying the waters between Merligueche and Ile Royale. They lived a difficult life, learning critical skills from the Mi'kmaq, harvesting their needs from the land and sea and growing strong as a family.

The weather-beaten **OAK TREE** symbolizes the difficult days of deportation for our Guédry ancestors and their survival through it. It represents the strength of our family as they were uprooted and exiled, separated from mother and father, brother and sister, cousin and friend; spread throughout the world. They endured the hardships, the persecution and the



oppression; they survived and spread their roots firm and deep. The **BLACK** color denotes the grief experienced during the dark days of exile.

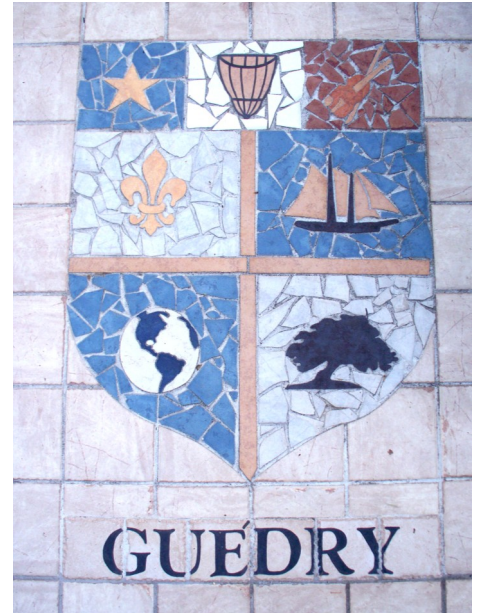
The **GLOBE** symbolizes the worldwide breadth of our family today: throughout the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Europe and even the Southern Hemisphere. Because of the firm, deep roots laid by our Guédry forefathers; the faith that helped them survive the early days of Acadie, endure the difficult days of deportation and overcome the struggle for survival afterwards to build the strong family that we are today. The gold tincture represents the generosity of our forefathers throughout their lives; a cornerstone of their faith.

MOTTO- the motto “Dieu, Famille, Acadien” translates to “God, Family, Acadian”: the guiding lights that have held our Guédry family together for over three hundred years and will continue to serve us well into the future.

The Guédry crest represents all direct descendants of Claude Guédry and Marguerite Petitpas. The Guédry name has many variations in spelling today. All variations are represented by the Guédry crest. These variations include:

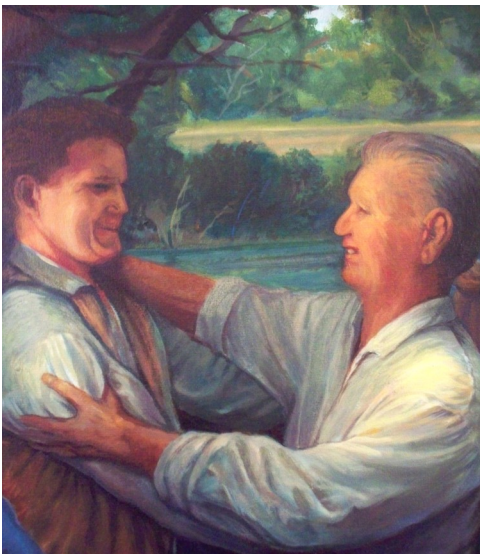
Guédry	Guildry	Geddry	Jeddry	LaBean
Guedry	Guildrie	Geddrie	Jeddrie	LaBeau
Guedrie		Gedry	Jedry	Labeau
Gaidry	Gedrie		Jedrie	
Guidry	Gaidrie			Lledre
Guidery	Gettry	Labine		
Guidrey	Gidry	LaBine		Yedri
Guidrie	Gidrie	Labene		
Guiddry		Labeen		
Guiddery	Guitry			

The Guédry family crest found in the Meditation Garden at the Acadian Memorial.



STORIES FROM THE MURAL

Jane G. Bulliard



The figures above represent Jean Baptiste Semer and Joseph Semer in this detail from the Robert Dafford Mural “The Arrival of the Acadians in Louisiana.”

© City of St. Martinville

Jean Baptiste Semer reunited with his father?

Louisiana History magazine published an article in the Spring 2007 issue (Vol. XLVIII, No. 2:219-226), titled “Letter by Jean-Baptiste Semer, An Acadian in New Orleans, to his father in Le Havre, April 20, 1766”. This excellent article details the discovery of a copy of the letter referred to in the title and presents the complete text and is recommended reading for all family historians and genealogists.

Historians have long known about this letter as it is alluded to in summary in official colonial correspondence. The original is thought to be lost but the new discovery believed to be a close copy. Important for our purpose here is that a report accompanying the letter gives more information about the writer and reveals that the ‘father’ alluded to in previously available official correspondence is now identified as Germain Semer.

And therein lies the question mark above, as one story depicted on the Acadian Memorial mural is that of two men, Acadian relatives who arrived in Louisiana twenty years apart and are reunited in the Attakapas Country. A story which is very true, but now we know that Jean Baptiste Semer who arrived in 1765 is welcoming his **uncle** Joseph Semer who came in 1785 and not his father, Germain who died in France.



Merci Bien

Many thanks to the following individuals and organizations who support the Acadian Memorial in a number of ways:

Returning members of the Acadian Memorial Foundation

J.B. Levert Foundation, Inc., donation to the Memorial

Louis Aspeling, visit and donation to the Memorial

William Bacque, donation to the Memorial

Journey Stories Organizing Committee, for assistance with program planning & publicity

Acadian Museum of Erath and Bernie David for bringing the Living Legends ceremony to the Acadian Memorial on the 2010 Day of Remembrance

L'Ordre du Bon Temps 2010

Merci Bien to:

All who purchased tickets in support of the Memorial

Grand Master Raymond Hebert

Past Grand Master Philippe Gustin

Chefs Gilbert DeCourt, Marcel Fraudet & Diane Tremblay

Donors & sponsors:

St. Martin Bank & Trust Company

David & Christy Maraist

Le Centre International de Lafayette

Louisiane-Acadie, Inc.

Jay & Elaine Jackson

Stuller Family Foundation

Raymond & Allyson Hebert

Van Eaton & Romero Realty

Larry & Judy Swindle



New members are inducted into Le Confrérie du Vin de Suresnes toward the end of the evening. Photo provided by Rogers Romero.



Bienvenue

A warm welcome to all new members of the Acadian Memorial Foundation:

Clara Sonnier Darbonne

Louis & Kathy Mier

John & Gayle Breaux Smith

Bryan Staton

Robert Tatum, Jr.

GET READY FOR GRAND RÉVEIL

From Acadie to Acadiana, people are talking about GRA 2011, The Great Acadian Awakening to be held October 7-16 throughout South Louisiana. GRA promises great fun & camaraderie for all ages, and an opportunity to focus on serious issues affecting Acadian/Cajun culture.

Website address <http://gra2011.org/>

Response to question on cover:

Which 37 families have crests in the AM Garden?

Arceneaux, Babineaux, Benoit, Bernard, Blanchard, Boudreaux, Bourque, Breaux, Broussard, Comeaux, Cormier, Daigle, Dugas, Duhon, Dupuis, Doiron, Granger, Guédry, Guilbeau, Guillot, Hebert, Landry, LeBlanc, Leger, LeJeune, Louviere, Martin, Mouton, Poirier, Richard, Roy, Savoie, Sonnier, Theriot, Thibodeaux, Trahan, Vincent



Grand Master Raymond Hebert (left) and Past Grand Master Philippe Gustin (right) present the ceremony. Photo provided by Maegan Hebert.



James Akers pleases the crowd with his portrayal of original L'Ordre du Bon Temps host Samuel de Champlain. Photo provided by Maegan Hebert.



Acadian Memorial Foundation, Inc.

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Phone: 337.394.2258 Fax 337.394.2260

Email: info@acadianmemorial.org

WE NEED YOU!

Please JOIN /REJOIN

Membership dues in the Acadian Memorial Foundation go directly to supporting the Memorial and sharing the memory of the 3,000 exiles that settled in Louisiana. *Membership dues have helped to fund...*

- * Mural interactive-Adult and Children both in French and English
- * Wall of Names / Eternal Flame
- * Replica of the Grand-Pré Deportation Cross
- * Family Mosaic Coat of Arms in the Meditation Garden
- * Deportation Re-enactment & future historical re-enactments
- * Acadian Memorial Cultural Festival

With your support, we can accomplish so much more!

All donations are appreciated. Memorials and gifts are encouraged.

Donations qualify as tax deductible charitable contributions under number 721308747

- ___ Individual Membership \$25/year
- ___ Family Membership \$35/year
- ___ Of Acadian Descent \$125/year
- ___ Acadian Heritage \$225/yr. Family Association
- ___ L'Ordre Du Bon Temps Membership \$25single/\$35family

L'Ordre Du Bon Temps membership is a one time membership fee and will be valid for as long as your Acadian Memorial membership is valid and in good standing. Any break in Acadian Memorial Membership invalidates the L'Ordre Du Bon Temps membership. Membership into L'Ordre Du Bon Temps does NOT include cost for special events.

- ___ Corporate Sponsor/Business \$1,000
- ___ Mural Sponsor Figure \$2,000
- ___ Donations \$ ___
- ___ Endowment Fund designated for future support (*only interest will be used*) \$ _____

All members receive membership card, *Calling All Cajuns* newsletter, special invitation to events and voting privileges at the Annual meeting.

Name: _____

Address _____ City _____

State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Email _____

Charge my ___ VISA ___ MC _____ Card Number _____

Expiration

Signature



ACADIAN MEMORIAL 2011 EVENTS CALENDAR

Visit the Acadian Memorial

www.acadianmemorial.org

121 South New Market St.
St. Martinville, LA 70582

Open 10:00 am to 4:30 pm daily,
except for major holidays

Telephone: 337-394-2258

Current admission: \$3 for ages 13 and up

Price includes:

Acadian Memorial & Cultural Heritage Center

Guided tour packages are also available.

Tour groups and field trips are welcome!
Please call for rate and reservations.

February 2011- Romance Under the Oak

Afternoon showing of "Evangeline" silent film & reception

March 18, 2011- Acadian Memorial Festival Kickoff

5:30 to 8:00 pm Art Walk & Crawfish Boil in Historic District

March 19, 2011 - 7th Annual Acadian Memorial Festival

10:00 am to 4:00 pm in Evangeline Oak Park

May 28 - July 9, 2011 - Smithsonian *Journey Stories*

Exhibition at Maison Duchamp, including local lecture series

June 2011- Annual Foundation Membership Meeting

July 28, 2011- Day of Remembrance

Afternoon ceremony at Acadian Memorial, followed
by French Mass at St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church

August 15, 2011 - National Day of the Acadians

Activities at the Acadian Memorial & flag procession to
St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church for French Mass

October 2011- L'Ordre du Bon Temps supper

Acadian Memorial Foundation

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Jane Bulliard, Marty Guidry

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