



# CALLING ALL CAJUNS!

A Publication of The Acadian Memorial Foundation

May 2011



## Smithsonian Institution



## THE ACADIAN MEMORIAL PROUDLY PRESENTS THE SMITHSONIAN JOURNEY STORIES EXHIBITION!

May 28<sup>th</sup>-July 9, 2011

Maison Duchamps, 201 Main Street, St. Martinville, LA  
10 am - 4:30 pm ♦ 7 days

*Journey Stories in St. Martinville has been made possible 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.*



Andre Olivier and a friend, Louise Bulliard, are pictured in front of his store which was located on the east side of Bayou Teche in the area of town known locally as "Pinaudville". The store was on the corner of Bridge and Pinaud Streets. For many years, this was the favorite stopping place for all visitors to St. Martinville who came to hear Mr. Andre's story of the Acadians and especially how an Acadian maiden, *Evangeline*, found her lost love, *Gabriel*, under the *Evangeline Oak*. After the story, the visitor was treated to a glass of wine and asked to leave his signature on Mr. Andre's tablecloth. He said it was his "memory book".

Photo courtesy of Jane G. Bulliard

The caption above reads as follows:

"Andre Olivier and a friend, Louise Bulliard, are pictured in front of his store which was located on the East side of Bayou Teche in that part of town known locally as "Pinaudville". The store was on the corner of Bridge and Pinaud streets. For many years, this was a favorite stopping place for all visitors to St. Martinville who came to hear Mr. Andre's story of the Acadians and especially how an Acadian maiden, *Evangeline*, found her lost love, *Gabriel*, under the *Evangeline Oak*. After the story, the visitor was treated to a glass of wine and asked to leave his signature on Mr. Andre's tablecloth. He said it was his "memory book"."



## JOIN US AS WE TRAVEL THROUGH TIME TO EXPLORE JOURNEY STORIES

The Acadian Memorial is proud to host and welcome the Smithsonian Exhibition, "Journey Stories". St. Martinville was selected as the first "Journey Stories" exhibition in the state. Two years in the making, the exhibit is an exciting addition to the community.

St. Martinville will also present an exhibit of journey stories of the settlement along the Bayou Teche with a DVD slideshow of photos and short stories and a Quilt Exhibit using symbols and genealogical data to highlight individual settlement histories and stories. The exhibit opening will be held **May 28th at 7:00 p.m.** The "Journey Stories" program will be offered from **May 28th to July 9th at Maison Duchamp, 201 South Main Street in historic downtown St. Martinville, LA. Open seven days a week, the hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**



Photo courtesy of James Akers

This exhibit is made possible through the support of funds provided by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. Their generous support makes projects such as the *Smithsonian Journey Stories* accessible to our community.

“ This exhibition is about engaging images with audio and artifacts to tell the individual stories that illustrate the critical roles travel and movement have played in building our diverse American society. ”

- Smithsonian Museum on Main Street



# 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 truly appreciate your continuing support. I encourage each of you to visit the Acadian Memorial in 2011 and learn about the Acadian experience in Louisiana. Bring a friend with you and share this special time.

May 28<sup>th</sup> – July 9<sup>th</sup> will be an exciting time for all of us at the Memorial as we host the national-touring Smithsonian Exhibit “Journey Stories”. The Acadian Memorial has been selected by the Smithsonian Museums to host the initial “Journey Stories” exhibition in Louisiana. Our staff has been working diligently for almost two years preparing for this 6-week exhibition. There’ll be slide shows, evening presentations, exhibits and much more to view, hear and enjoy. The exhibits and major activities will be at La Maison Duchamp on Main Street in St. Martinville with the weekly presentations being at various locations in or near St. Martinville. This exhibit will showcase the immigration of folks of many nationalities into St. Martin Parish from the 1700’s to the present. Come and view the permanent exhibits at La Maison Duchamp and also attend the weekly presentations by outstanding historians. The exhibit and all of the presentations are free.

On July 28<sup>th</sup> the Memorial will again host the Commemoration of the Great Upheaval where we’ll solemnly remember the plight of our Acadian ancestors during their tragic exile from their homeland. Also, in partnership with the Acadian Museum of Erath, LA we will induct an extraordinary St. Martin Parish resident as a Living Legend. August 15<sup>th</sup> is the National Day of the Acadians. There will be lectures, storytelling and films focused on our Acadian heritage throughout the day at the Memorial. We’ll close the day with a moving Mass at St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church, the Mother Church of the Acadians in Louisiana.

On October 13<sup>th</sup> the Acadian Memorial Foundation will host the traditional L’Ordre du Bon Temps, the oldest social club in North America. The program and other details are being developed at this time and will be presented in a future “Calling All Cajuns”.

Most activities are at no cost to the public. So come out with family and friends and celebrate your Acadian heritage. Again, thanks for you support of the Acadian Memorial. And don’t forget to renew your Membership in the Acadian Memorial Foundation for 2011 by using the attached Membership Form.

Marty

Martin Guidry

President, Acadian Memorial Foundation



The 2011 Acadian Memorial Festival has come and gone. Another successful year prompts new ideas for a bigger and better event in 2012.

AM Festival honors the Guillot family as the reenactment of the arrival of the Acadians takes place on the Teche. (left)

Families and friends enjoy the Festival and check out Acadian music and merchandise during the day. (right) - Photos courtesy of Keith Borne





# BLAZONRY ON THE BAYOU

Jane G. Bulliard

*Editor's Notes:* Already on display in La Maison Duchamp are the paintings of eight family coats-of-arms. While the majority of the families hailed from France, there were also families from the West Indies, Switzerland, and Holland. These coats-of-arms continue the Journey Stories of the families emblazoned in the paintings and proudly reflect a part of St. Martinville's past. Excerpted from *Blazonry on the Bayou*, published by Friends of La Maison Duchamp, Inc. *Blazonry on the Bayou* is available at the Duchamp Opera House store for \$10.

The coats-of-arms of eight local families were painted by **Rev. Father Gommer Eugene J. M. Veekmans, S.J.** (1890-1954) who journeyed from Antwerp, Belgium to Louisiana in 1921 and was in St. Martinville from 1937 to 1944. Clare McVickar Ward has described the paintings as done in the style of a "hatchment", a heraldic term for "a diamond shaped panel emblazoned with a full coat-of-arms crafted specifically as a funeral memorial" and observed that Rev. Veekmans, who came from "an Old World culture rich in amorial traditions which honored its dead with colorful hatchments in the parish church as well as in cathedrals" made the paintings to pay similar homage to these New World families. They first hung in St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church and are now located in La Maison Duchamp.

The **de Blanc d'Erneville** family journeyed from Marseille, France to Natchitoches and then to the Attakapas Post. The family is represented by Louis Charles de Blanc (1753-1826) who served as commandant from 1795 to 1803. De Blanc, a captain in the Spanish cavalry, was also Commandant of Fort St. Jean Baptiste at Natchitoches from 1787 until 1795 when he was named to the Attakapas Post.

The **de Clouet** family journeyed from Chateau Cambresis, Parish of St. Martin in the province of Picardy, France to New Orleans. The family is represented by Alexandre François Joseph de Clouet (1716-1789), a member of the French military. Under Spain, he served as Commandant of the Arkansas Post in 1768 and as Commandant of the Posts of Attakapas and Opelousas from 1774 to 1787.

The **d'Hauterive** family journeyed from Dauphine, Diocese of Belley, France to New Orleans and thence to the Attakapas. The family is re-presented by Jean Bernard Antoine d'Hauterive, who acquired vast land grants on Bayou Teche. The central part of the city of St. Martinville grew around land he donated in 1771 as his share for the building of l'eglise des Atakapas.

The family of **Duchamp de Chastaignier**, represented by Jean Baptiste Eugene Duchamp (1806-1889), journeyed from Martinique in the West Indies to Morris County, New Jersey, returned to Martinique briefly thence to New Orleans, Louisiana, and with his eight children arrived in St. Martinville in 1853. He was a pharmacist and philanthropist.

The family of **DuCrest de Villeneuve** journeyed from the Swiss Diocese of Geneva to New Orleans. The family is represented by Louis Armand Ducrest (1722-1797), a major in the military who served at the Point Coupee Post and arrived in the Attakapas by 1771 where he was a syndic in the local government, an interim commandant of the Post in 1789 and a prosperous planter.

The **Olivier de Vezin** family journeyed from Nancy, France to Trois Riviere, Canada to New Orleans. The family is represented by Pierre François Olivier (1716-c.1776), "Chief Surveyor of Roads" in colonial Louisiana. The family was established in St. Martinville in 1811.

The **Pelletier de la Houssaye** family, represented by Paul Augustin de la Houssaye (1702-1777), journeyed from Verteuil, Dept. of Gironde, France, to New Orleans, Louisiana. A major in the military he served as a Commandant of the Arkansas Post and of the fort at English Turn. He was stationed at Point Coupee before retiring to the Attakapas District in 1770.

The **Van Voorhies** family journeyed from Hees in Holland to the Jersey colony in America in 1660. By 1860 the family was in Opelousas, Louisiana. In 1839 Cornelius Voorhies II (1804-1859) came to St. Martinville to practice law; his son, Judge Felix Voorhies is remembered as the author of *Acadian Reminiscences*.



Photo of the de Clouet Coat-of-Arms, one of the paintings on display at Maison Duchamp in historic downtown St. Martinville - Photo courtesy of Steve Comeaux

## EVANGELINE BRONZE UNVEILED

In April of 1931, in St. Martin Parish at St. Martinville, in the churchyard of St. Martin de Tours, the first bronze statue of *Evangeline* in Louisiana was unveiled. A visiting Canadian delegation was guided to the event along a meandering trail that wound through a parish named *Evangeline*. Now, in this centennial year of Evangeline Parish they have appropriately recreated part of that trail with the twinning of two beautiful depictions of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's *Evangeline*. On April 19, 2011 at the lovely *La Vieille Banque* in Ville Platte the Evangeline Tourism Association gifted one of the limited edition bronze Maquettes of "Our Evangeline" to the St. Martin Parish Delegation establishing Evangeline's Trail in Acadiana. [Pictured at right are Jane G. Bulliard (l-r), Emelie Frazer, St. Martin Mayor N. Thomas, Brenda Comeaux Trahan and Suzy Lemoine]



## ≡ CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS ≡

**Interested in being an exhibition attendant?** If you enjoy meeting people, are dependable and have an interest in both local and American history, this is a great opportunity! Training to assist us as an exhibition attendant will be provided. Call the Acadian Memorial with your name and contact information today, and let us know when you are available. (337) 394-2258

## ≡ ATTENTION TEACHERS - EXHIBIT PREVIEW OFFERED ≡

Students are invited to a special preview of the Smithsonian Journey Stories exhibition and the St. Martinville exhibit of journey stories of the settlement along the Bayou Teche. The opening preview for schools will be from May 24th to 27th. Contact the Acadian Memorial for additional details at (337) 394-2258.

## THEN AND NOW

Suzy Mills

The much anticipated *Journey Stories* exhibition is here. Opening May 28th the Acadian Memorial will unveil its own special project: St. Martinville (and environs) then and now, captured on DVD with the help of Steve Comeaux, photography, and Dr. Michael Martin of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Since August 2010, the public has been invited to bring in photos and short stories to help tell the story of the community.

Many participants who have already contributed were initially hesitant to spend the time looking for suitable photos or jotting down details of the corresponding stories. As it turns out, several have reported to us to be happily surprised at what they found when they started digging, or how much they enjoyed writing their own journey stories. As a result, some plan to further develop these stories to share with their families. Popular themes include how an individual or family first came to the area, who leaves or returns and why, and the places and objects which change the face of our landscape and culture over time.

"Evangeline" leading a parade in downtown St. Martinville circa 1955.  
Photo courtesy of Jane G. Bulliard





# JOURNEY Stories



Smithsonian Institution



## Special Programs

**Saturday, May 28, 2011**

**6:00 pm:** Opening lecture: **“St. Martin Parish Journeys”**  
 Dr. Michael Martin, University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
 Location: Trinity School Gym, 201 Evangeline Blvd, within a block of the exhibition

**7:00-9:00 pm: Opening reception**  
 Location: Trinity School Gymnasium, 201 Evangeline Blvd, within a block of the exhibition

**7:00 pm-9:00 pm: Exhibition opens to the public**  
 Maison Duchamp, 201 S Main

**Sun. May 29, 2011, 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 am and 5:30 pm**  
**Mass, journey theme**  
 Location: St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church, 133 S Main

**Thursday, June 2, 2011, 6:30 pm**  
 Lecture: **“African Founders of the Teche Country”**  
 Dr. Gwendolyn Midlo Hall, Michigan State University  
 Location: Trinity School Gym, 201 Evangeline Blvd, within a block of the exhibition

**Thursday, June 9, 2011, 6:30 pm**  
 Lecture: **“Atakapa/Ishak: Exiled from a Home They Never Left.”**  
 Dr. Ray Brassieur, University of Louisiana at Lafayette and Rachel Mouton, Atakapa-Ishak Nation of Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana  
 Location: Trinity School Gym, 201 Evangeline Blvd, within a block of the exhibition

**Thursday, June 16, 2011, 6:30 pm**  
 Lecture: **“We Cannot Bear to Think of the Past and So Dread the Future: The Civil War Experience of Kate Stone”** Dr. Mary Farmer-Kaiser, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

**Thursday Continued....** Location: Trinity School Gym, 201 Evangeline Blvd, within a block of the exhibition

**Friday, June 17, 2011, 7:30 pm**  
 Lecture: **“Levert Family Journey”**  
 Ira Harkey III, Author of *Black Sugar*, based on the life and times of Jean Baptiste Levert  
 Location: Levert-St. John Plantation House, 6000 block of Resweber Hwy (Hwy 347)  
 Limited seating, reservations required:  
 call 337-394-2258.

**Thursday, June 23, 2011, 6:30 pm**  
 Lecture: **“To Honor Our Veterans: An Oral History of World War II Veterans from the Bayou Country.”**  
 Jason Theriot, University of Houston  
 Location: Trinity School Gym, 201 Evangeline Blvd, within a block of the exhibition

**Saturday, July 2, 2011, 6:00 pm**  
 Lecture: **“I’m Comin’ Home: Dislocation and Return in the Music of South Louisiana.”**  
 Kevin Fontenot, Tulane University  
 Location: AV Room at Longfellow-Evangeline State Historic Site, 1200 N. Main Street

**Tues. July 5 - Sat. July 9, 2011, 7:30 pm**  
**Evangeline Players present** an updated version of the musical *Grand-Pré*, by local artists Cody Daigle and Roy Bertucci. **Pre-show special feature: one-act vignette** created by Christy Dugas Maraist based on the novel *Acadian Reminiscences*. [Subject to change]  
 Call 337-394-6604 for tickets.  
 Location: Duchamp Opera House, 200 S Main Street

Photo above left, courtesy of James Akers. Photo above right, courtesy of Jane G. Bulliard





*Merci Bien*

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

**Special thanks** to the following **local sponsors for their support** of the Smithsonian Exhibition, Journey Stories, the opening reception, lectures or theatre series.

**Acadian Memorial Foundation (Host Organization)**

**St. Martin Parish Tourism Commission**

**St. Martin Parish Government**

**City of St. Martinville**

**African American Museum**

**St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church/Trinity Elementary**

**Teche Bank**

**St. Martin Bank & Trust**

**Lafayette Convention & Visitors Center**

**The Borne Quilter**

**Quilters' Guild Acadienne**

Special thanks to **Janelle Hebert**, Smithsonian *Journey Stories* volunteer, for many hours devoted to the project. Janelle writes a regular column about *Journey Stories* for *Teche News*. She has also been instrumental in gathering material for the slideshow exhibit described on page 4, speaking to local businesses and civic organizations to encourage participation.



We recognize and thank new member, Marc Q. Sonnier of Tuscaloosa, Alabama for his generous donation and support of the Acadian Memorial.



Special thanks to Sylvia Biennu for coordinating the outstanding boat show and to Ray Trahan for chairing another superb Festival. A great job was done by all Board members and Memorial Staff in helping with the Festival.

*Our Boutique*

The Acadian Memorial documentary is now available in DVD format for \$15 and contains both the English and French version.

*Bienvenue*



A warm welcome to our new member of the Acadian Memorial Foundation:

Marc Q. Sonnier of Tuscaloosa, Alabama

*All Festival Thanks!*

We did it again; the festival was a great Success. We are so grateful to you for your hard work during this year and all the past year's events. Knowing that so many of you have other commitments, busy schedules or even driving long distances to take part and help out is not forgotten and appreciated. With so many elements to coordinate, there is no way we could have held a successful event without you. Please accept our deepest thanks. We also extend our thanks to all the cooks for the delicious sweets we received. This year outdid all prior years with the Sweets Booth. Thanks again!

Several attendees and participants have contacted us to let us know how special the event was for them and how much they appreciated it. We are aware that more help is needed. Next year's efforts will be concentrated on increasing our volunteer numbers for March 2012. Please encourage your family and friends to become a part of what we do.

Contact us at [info@acadianmemorial.org](mailto:info@acadianmemorial.org) with any feedback on Festival 2011 or with ideas you may have to make next year's Festival another success.

Merci Bien to all,

*Brenda Comeaux Trahan*

Curator/Director, Acadian Memorial and Museum of the Acadian Memorial

*Ray Trahan*

Festival Chairman



Acadian Memorial Foundation, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 379, Dept AM  
 St. Martinville, LA 70582

121 South New Market Street, St. Martinville  
 Phone: 337.394.2258 Fax 337.394.2260  
 Email: [info@acadianmemorial.org](mailto:info@acadianmemorial.org)

**WE NEED YOU!**  
**Please JOIN /REJOIN the Acadian Memorial Foundation**

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 fund...

- \*Replica of the Grand-Pré Deportation Cross
- \* Family Mosaic Coat of Arms in the Meditation Garden
- \* Mural interactive-Adult & Children in French & English
- \* Acadian Memorial web site [www.acadianmemorial.org](http://www.acadianmemorial.org)
- \* "Ensemble Encore / Together Again" Genealogy Database
- \*Eternal Flame
- \*Wall of Names
- \*Acadian Memorial Spring Cultural Festival
- \*Deportation Re-enactment & future historical re-enactments

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 170 (b) (1) (A) (vi)

\_\_\_ Membership (Individual/Family)      \$ 35/year

**Benefactor Levels**

- \_\_\_ Friend      \$100
- \_\_\_ Patron      \$250
- \_\_\_ Of Acadian Descent (Life Member)      \$500
- \_\_\_ L'Ordre Du Bon Temps Membership      \$ 35 (one-time)

*L'Ordre Du Bon Temps membership has a one-time 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.*

- \_\_\_ Acadian Family Association      \$200
- \_\_\_ Corporate Sponsor      \$1,000
- \_\_\_ Mural Sponsor      \$2,000
- \_\_\_ Endowment Fund designated for future support (*only interest will be used*)      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All members receive *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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Expiration      Signature      Security Code



## Visit the Acadian Memorial

[www.acadianmemorial.org](http://www.acadianmemorial.org)

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

Telephone: 337-394-2258

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

Current admission: \$3 for ages 13 and up 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.

*Curator and Director:* Brenda Comeaux Trahan  
*Docent/Tourism Assistant:* Cynthia Champagne  
*Docent/Historian/Tour Guide:* James Akers  
*Docents:* Laura Alexandra, Merlin Champagne, Suzanne de la Houssaye

Acadian Memorial Foundation, Inc.  
P. O. Box 379  
St. Martinville, LA 70582

### **Calling All Cajuns!**

A Publication of the Acadian Memorial Foundation, Inc.  
Editor: Christine Duhon

Contributors: Jane Bulliard ♦ Marty Guidry ♦ Suzy Mills

# ACADIAN MEMORIAL 2011 EVENTS CALENDAR

## MAY

**May 28 - July 9, 2011 - Smithsonian *Journey Stories***  
Exhibition at Maison Duchamp, including local lecture series

## JUNE

**June 14, 2011- Annual Foundation Membership Meeting**

## JULY

**July 28, 2011- Day of Remembrance**  
Afternoon ceremony at Acadian Memorial, including "Living Legend" Induction, followed by French Mass at St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church

## AUGUST

**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

**October 13, 2011- L'Ordre du Bon Temps Supper**

**October 15, 2011 - Grand Réveil Acadien** activities in St. Martinville, including Reenactment of the Arrival of Acadians

**Interested in helping with the The Smithsonian Exhibition, "Journey Stories"?** Call us at (337) 394-2258 to see how you can help with this exciting exhibit. We welcome your participation!