



CALLING ALL CAJUNS!

A Publication of The Acadian Memorial Foundation

November 2012

MAJOR MILESTONE

By the fall of 1993, Robert Dafford had completed his mural in Nantes, France and had begun the Acadian Memorial mural. A group from Nantes met with the Acadian Memorial Project members to officially twin the two murals. The Nantes mural depicts Acadian settlers leaving France for Louisiana in 1785 while the mural in the Acadian Memorial depicts the arrival of the Acadians in Louisiana. The figures in both murals are life-sized and based on models by real descendants. Dafford used many of the same models for both murals creating a visual reunion of Acadian families separated during *le Grand Dérangement*.

During the 2013 March festival weekend, Acadian Memorial will commemorate this 20th twinning anniversary by hosting a special reception to honor Robert Dafford, the mural models, mural voice narrators, and twinning representatives of both murals.

In preparation for this event, we are compiling photographs, stories and other memorabilia to create an interactive timeline and exhibit of the mural's creation and evolution. Please share your memories with us and help make our twinning anniversary truly special. ☺

L'ORDRE DU BON TEMPS A GREAT SUCCESS!



On October 19th, L'Ordre du Bon Temps Louisiana held its annual meeting in St. Martinville.

In lieu of the annual gala, this year's L'Ordre du Bon Temps meeting offered a simple gumbo dinner and social. The gala tradition will return at the October 2013 annual meeting. Opening with a social hour on the balcony of La Maison Restaurant and Alligator Bar, participants were transported to a different era while in the presence of Samuel de Champlain portrayed by James Akers who was dressed to perfection, complete with a sword and large yellow feather in his hat.

Grand Master 2006, Preston Guillotte presided over the evening and introduced the 2013 Grand Master, Ernest Freyou of New Iberia. Mr. Roger Bourgeois read a note of thanks in reverence to our Acadian ancestors and reminded us of how far we have come. Samuel de Champlain then raised a toast to his 15 men and supper was served. During dessert, documentarian and Breaux Bridge native Conni Castille shared selected portions of her latest award-winning documentary *T-Gallop: A Louisiana Horse Story* (2012), which highlights our rich horse culture as exemplified by Mardi Gras, Le Tournoi and our record-setting jockeys. The evening closed with the induction of new L'Ordre du Bon Temps members: Carole Gauthier Lancon, and Kenneth and Susan LaCombe Verret. Those inducted in absentia include Georgie Zeringue Blanchard, Guy Broussard, Paul A. Durand, Daisy Leonard Lodrigue, Margie Laws Luke, Mary Ellen Decker Menge, and Brenda Comeaux Trahan.

We express our gratitude to everyone who worked to make this year's annual meeting and social a success. Special thanks to Grand Master Guillotte for presiding upon short notice; thanks to Mr. Bourgeois for reading a special blessing; Mr. Akers for portraying Samuel de Champlain; Ms. Castille for the evening's entertainment; thanks to Bob and Charmaine Savastan for the delicious dinner and the use of their beautiful restaurant; Jessie Thibodeaux for the evening's photographs; and the Acadian Memorial board members and docents for organizing, planning and executing this successful event.

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

Ralph Melancon



As President-Elect of the Acadian Memorial Foundation Board of Directors, I would like to say thank you to everyone who showed support at our recent *L'Ordre du Bon Temps* annual meeting. A special thanks to Mr. Preston Guillot for standing in for Grand Master Warren Perrin, James Akers who portrayed "Sieur Champlain," Ms. Conni Castille who presented excerpts from her award-winning documentary *T-Galop*, and Bob and Charmaine Savastan for the delicious Gumbo meal and use of their beautiful La Maison Restaurant and Alligator Bar.

Looking back to our August 15 National Day of the Acadians festivities, it is clear to see that our community is very supportive of our efforts. It was a day full of informative presentations and a celebration of our heritage and culture. I deeply enjoyed photographing the banner procession to the church, the photos tell a story of Cajuns, young and old, proudly carrying their family names. Another recent important date this year was July 28, Day of Remembrance. On this day, the Acadian Memorial hosted an induction ceremony, during which Mr. Warren Perrin inducted Ray and Brenda Trahan into the *Order of Living Legends*.

L'Ordre du Bon Temps 2012 marked our last fundraising event for the year, but we have proclaimed The Year of Our Lord 2013 to be *The Year of the Cajun Wooden Pirogue*. It is now time to look forward and plan for another successful year and focus on the Acadian Memorial Festival in March 2013. I hope that everyone involved with the Acadian Memorial will be in attendance for our festival, but there is much to do before the big day! Any kind of help is encouraged and welcomed, whether it is volunteering that day, joining a festival planning committee, or donating to the Memorial, all efforts are greatly appreciated. If you want to help, we can show you where there is greatest need. Please remember that our overall measure of success begins and ends with you.

On a personal note, I have recently moved from the East Acadiana Bayous of Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes, into St. Martinville's Historic District and intend on becoming familiar with all things local. I look forward to learning my way around West Acadiana and being in closer proximity to the Acadian Memorial. It is my hope that this will increase my availability to our Foundation. I have been made to feel very welcome in this town and hope to strengthen my relationship with the Acadian Memorial and all those who share in preserving our culture.

Ralph Melancon

President-Elect
Acadian Memorial Foundation

Benefit Raffle for the Acadian Memorial Foundation, Inc. Authentic Cajun Wooden Pirogue-Handmade by Dr. Hal Bienvenu



Marine Mahogany planking with Louisiana Cypress, Cedar and Cherry
Finished with Epoxy and Glass Laminate
Length 15' 6" Center Bottom 23" Beam 45" Weight 55 lbs. Valued at \$3,000

Drawing 1:00 PM on March 16, 2013
at the Acadian Memorial Foundation Festival and Wooden Boat Congé
Under the Evangeline Oak, St. Martinville, LA

Donation \$10
Need not be present to win. For name of winner call 337-394-2258



LA FÊTE NATIONALE DE L'ACADIE

Elaine Clément

The National Day of the Acadians, August 15, was a day of sharing, learning, community and family. According to Michelle Johnson, Director/Curator of the Acadian Memorial, the celebration was "...the perfect occasion to demonstrate and advocate for our Acadian heritage and its evolution into the Cajun culture."

Ray Brasseur, professor of anthropology at UL Lafayette, spoke on the influences in Louisiana that created the Cajun culture. He spoke of his research on the healing arts in the culture of the Creoles of color during the 30s. He says, similar to religion culture and language, the healing arts in the Cajun culture are a mixture of influences, from North America, from France, Africa and the Caribbean. The link with Acadie (Acadia) is but one part of the traditions here, adapted to their new environment.

Folks from St. Martinville and from all over Acadiana took advantage of a day filled with activities and discussions. According to Johnson, the number of visitors for the National Day doubled from that of last year. James Akers, museum docent, says that he has never seen people so engaged.

Even if it is a relatively new holiday in Louisiana, Johnson says that the enthusiasm for celebrating the day is growing. There was a 43% hike in visitors for the Cajun Culture Day at Vermilionville on August 12, and an entire day of activities was planned in the town of Scott for August 15.

Errol Gautreau, a Cajun from Baton Rouge, placed ads in newspapers across the state, including Alexandria, Baton Rouge and Lafayette, to ask everyone to fly the Acadian flag. According to Johnson, due to these ads, the Memorial began receiving requests for Acadian flags 3 weeks in advance of the National Day.

During the day itself, the French table, led by Mavis Frugé, who hosts the monthly French table in Arnaudville, welcomed 30 people.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the mural, Robert Landreneau, Jim Viator and Laura Viator, members of Théâtre Cadien recreated an important moment in Acadian history with a skit in French. It tells the story of Olivier Theriault, an Acadian in France, and Henri Peyroux de la Coudronniere, who convinced Acadians to come to Louisiana. Landreneau says he does the play to "...help people think about their history." Viator wants everyone to know who they are. (See photo at right)

Jesse Thibodeaux began her job at the Acadian Memorial 3 months ago. She says, "It just hit me that that's a big part of who I am (being Cajun). I am proud of being Cajun, of growing up in St. Martinville and knowing a little French."

By chance, a couple from Bordeaux, France, Carole and Luis Vasquez, passed by the Memorial. They were interested in Acadian culture and the role of the Catholic Church.

The daily life of Cajun women was highlighted in Connie Castille's film, *First I Iron My Collars*. She explained, "I don't tell the story, it's their story."

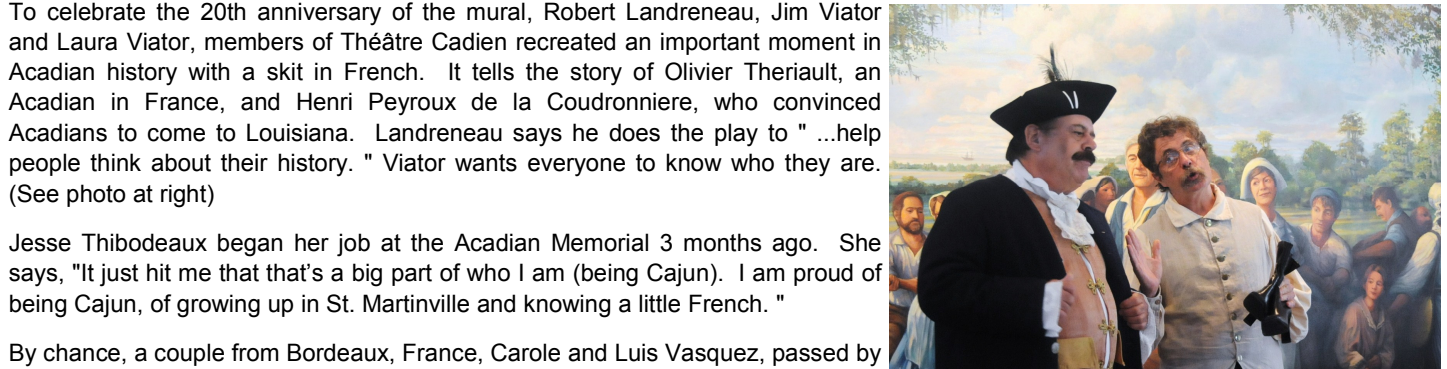
Ron Thibodeaux, Cajun and senior editor at the *Times Picayune*, presented his new book, *Hell or High Water: How Cajun Fortitude Withstood Hurricanes Rita and Ike*. Thibodeaux discovered his Acadian history in Nova Scotia in 2004 during the World Acadian Congress. On his return, the newspaper published a series of articles on his trip and Acadian history.

He realized that all of the attention was on the after-effects of Hurricane Katrina on New Orleans when Hurricane Rita hit the coast of Louisiana in 2005. He felt the need to tell the story of what happened along the coast of Louisiana following the hurricanes.

He says, "While thinking of Acadian history, the most recent challenges remind me of the Acadian genocide." The title is misleading because the hurricanes affected several other cultures, and Thibodeaux admits it. He says that the book speaks of all the towns and cultures along the coast, including the Creole culture and the United Houma Nation in Terrebonne Parish.

Julie Arcement, a Cajun from Louisiana, and her husband, Marc Gonsvalez, come from France for the National Day as often as possible. Gonsvalez is a university professor and expert on Acadian culture. They took advantage of the day to celebrate the culture, to learn and to carry the Arcement banner in the procession.

The celebration ended with a procession of family banners and a mass in French at the Church of the Acadians, St. Martin de Tours in St. Martinville.



ENSEMBLE ENCORE/WALL OF NAMES: PIERRE MICHEL

An Acadian family in Louisiana in 1803

A unique firsthand view of the life of an Acadian family in colonial Louisiana is provided by a passage in the memoirs of Pierre Clément de Laussat, who was in New Orleans to represent France at the time of the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. The one-paragraph observation appears on page 64 of his book and was written when Laussat, the last of the French colonial Prefects in Louisiana, toured settlements along the Mississippi River.

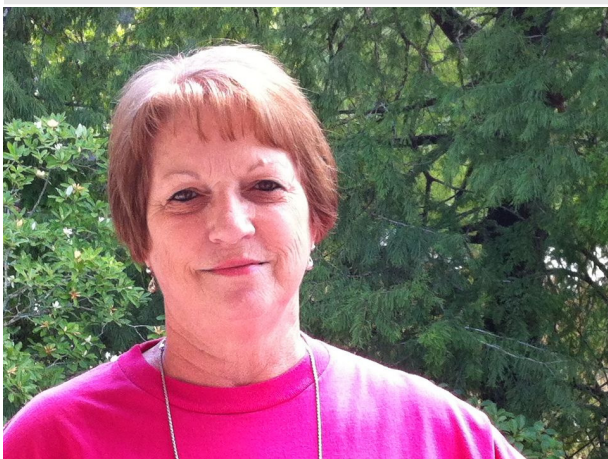
“ I wanted to see one of those Acadian families which populated this coast. So I went to the house of Pierre Michel, a cotton and corn planter. He and his wife are sexagenarians. Both born in Acadia, they were married in Louisiana and had seven or eight children. Everybody in the house was at work—one daughter was ironing; another was spinning; and the mother was distributing the cotton, while a number of little negroes, all under twelve, were carding it, picking out the seeds, and drying it. No one, more than these people, regretted not being able to remain French.”

Pierre Michel was indeed married to Marie Leger in New Orleans in 1766; both were natives of Acadia and baptized at St. Jean-Baptiste Church Parish, Annapolis Royal. Their children were: François, Anastasie, Anne Marie, Joseph, Marie Magdelaine, Pierre, Rosalie and Scholastique Anastasie.

Memoirs of My Life... by Pierre Clément de Laussat was published for the Historic New Orleans Collection by the Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, in 1978. Records of the Michel family are found in publications of the Archdiocese of New Orleans and the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

-Jane G. Bulliard

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: EMMA



My name is Amelie Borel Green, better known as Emma, and I am of Acadian heritage. I love my job, especially knowing my roots are of our Acadian exiles. I am deeply rooted in our culture, music, food and our people. I am proud that I can speak a little French. I worked at Vermilionville in Lafayette for seven years, so when I started here, I knew about our Acadian heritage. Our tourists love to be told about our culture. Most tell me how they keep coming back to visit with us.

My hobbies are making Cajun items. I love to read, travel and spend time with my grandkids. My little grandson loves to come here and view the mural, and listen to the people talk. I live on the outskirts of St. Martinville near Parks. My husband and I have traveled to different places; but here by far is the best place to live!

≡ CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS ≡

It's never too early to plan ahead for our 2013 events! We have our Festival on March 16; July 28 is the Day of Remembrance; August 15 is National Day of the Acadians; and the grand gala for L'Ordre du Bon Temps in the fall. All of our events have planning committees, and we offer the opportunity to all of our supporters to experience our events from "behind the scenes."

We also have many ongoing projects dealing with digitization, genealogy, history, kid's activities, and library organization. Being a volunteer at the Acadian Memorial is anything but ordinary. For example, if you like to sew, we have costumes to make and mend. If you like to garden, we have a heritage garden that needs care. The possibilities are endless. If you have any extra time, even if it's just a few hours, we could use your help.

If you are interested in being a volunteer please call or e-mail the Acadian Memorial with your name and contact information today, and let us know when you are available 337.394.2258 or info@acadianmemorial.org

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The year 2012 is quickly entering history, and true to the saying, I've been having fun. What memories you've given me this year! We had a wonderful year of programming. For the National Day of the Acadians on August 15th, attendance was up over 100% compared to last year, thanks to the spectacular line-up of guest presenters and participants. The Memorial played host to several special guests this year, including the Ambassador of France to the United States and his Louisiana Consul General, the Quebec Minister of International Relations, Ambassador of La Francophonie to the United Nations, and numerous local dignitaries and personalities as well.

Many of you I've now met in person, while I've come to know some of you via our file cabinets. Organizing and cleaning out boxes and drawers of paperwork, newspaper clippings, letters, and pictures, PICTURES have introduced me to a diverse, fascinating, and fun-loving support group. There is one particular group of people that I've come to know fairly well this year. Since January, about 20 of us have shared family stories, research tips, and coffee together every last Wednesday of the month. When Janie Bulliard and I ventured to offer genealogy workshops this year, we weren't sure what to expect, but we certainly did not foresee such success! The guest presenters have been generous, informative, and helpful, while the attendees bring their questions, frustrations, and stories of triumphs and discoveries. Thank you all who presented and attended our workshops, your presence brings the Memorial to life and reinforces the importance of our mission. November 28th is the last workshop of the year, and it will be a review of sorts with an open discussion on future workshops. We plan to resume the monthly workshops at the same time and place in 2013. The schedule of topics and presenters will be posted to our website as it develops.

With these workshops, I aimed to bring awareness to the Memorial's research center, which is still a work in progress. The collection's research value is slowly revealing itself. We have copies of essential Acadian/Cajun resources that exist only in archives or on microfilm, in addition to unpublished research conducted and donated by genealogists and family associations. We receive genealogy and family newsletters from across Louisiana, France, Canada. The book catalog is almost complete, the file cabinet is neat and navigable, and over 100 floppy disks of local genealogy files have been transferred and converted to updated database programs. Plenty of work remains, and we need all the help we can get. About 50 videocassettes documenting the Memorial and various local events need to be converted to DVDs, and the same goes for audiocassettes filled with oral history. Boxes of slides, negatives, photographs and photo albums need identifying, sorting, and scanning. If you would like to volunteer in the library, whether for one afternoon or on a regular basis, come on down!

Thank you all for making the year 2012 so special, and I look forward to an even better 2013. I wish you all a very happy holiday season and hope to see you at our festival on March 16th. Please stay in touch with us by following us on Twitter, "liking" our Facebook page, and visiting our website.

Michelle Verret Johnson

BE A SPONSOR / SOYEZ UN SPONSOR

Voici votre chance de jouer un rôle important dans notre festival 2013. Les commandites sont disponibles aux niveaux de \$5,000, \$2,500, \$1,000, \$500 et \$100. Les avantages comprennent ayant l'une des régions du Festival nommées d'après vous ou votre entreprise, une chance pour baptiser *La Pirogue—Le Bateau Officiel de la Louisiane*, ou *Le Canoe—Premier Bateau de la Louisiane*, ou de présenter la pagaie cadienne à la Madame ou le Monsieur Bateau de Bois 2013! Les autres avantages incluent couverture des médias en Amérique, en France, et le Canada. Visitez notre site Web pour plus de détails www.acadianmemorial.org

Here's your chance to play an important role in our 2013 Festival. Sponsorships are available at the \$5,000, \$2,500, \$1,000, \$500 and \$100 levels. Benefits include having one of the Festival areas named after you or your business, a chance to Christen the *Pirogue—Official Boat of Louisiana* or the *Dugout—First Boat of Louisiana*, or award the Cajun Paddle to the 2013 Madame or Monsieur Bateau de Bois! Other benefits include media exposure in America, France and Canada. For details, visit www.acadianmemorial.org



Merci Bien

*For those who give the gift of money, time or expertise, **please** know that your continued support is crucial for the Acadian Memorial to succeed in its mission to honor the 3,000 Acadian men, women and children who found refuge in Louisiana after British forces exiled them from Acadie. Thank you to those we may have missed and to many others who support us regularly, anonymously, and generously.*

Dr. Ray Brassieur, Lafayette, LA

Conni Castille, Breaux Bridge, LA

Elaine Clement, Lafayette, LA

Steve Cormier, Virginia

Barbara DeJean, Sunset, LA

Mavis Frugé, Arnaudville, LA

Preston Guillotte, New Iberia, LA

Janelle Hebert, St. Martinville, LA

Norma Lester, New Iberia, LA

Fr. Rusty P. Richard, St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church

Rogers Romero, New Iberia, LA

Sara Roy, St. Martinville, LA

St. Martin Bank & Trust, St. Martinville, LA

St. Martin Parish Tourism Commission

Ron Thibodeaux, Covington, LA

Robert Landreneau, Richard Landry, Jim and Laura Viator,
Théâtre Cadien

John Wayne Wiltz, St. Martinville, LA

Our Boutique

Need Holiday gift ideas? Give a gift of membership to the Acadian Memorial Foundation or a gift from our boutique. We have lovely pewter pendants of the Deportation Cross. Small pendants (\$18) are a perfect fit for children, with a .75" wide cross on an 18 inch chain. Large pendants (\$24) feature a 1.5" wide cross on a 24 inch chain. Items are for sale at the Memorial and on our website. Call or visit our website at the following address to place orders: <http://www.acadianmemorial.org/store/>

Bienvenue



A warm welcome to our new and renewed
Friends of the Acadian Memorial Foundation:

Family Friends

Randy Menard & Family, Lafayette, LA

Cheryl Thomas Stromeier & Family, Baton Rouge, LA

Friends with spouse, individuals or with library privileges

Georgie Blanchard, Breaux Bridge, LA

James & Lona Bourque, Youngsville, LA

Guy Broussard, Youngsville, LA

Elsie Castille, Breaux Bridge, LA

Terrel & Juliette Dressel, New Iberia, LA

Paul Durand, St. Martinville, LA

Preston & Hazel "Tiny" Guillotte, New Iberia, LA

Nelwyn Hebert, New Iberia, LA

Paulette Herring, Barneveld, NY

John A. Landry, New Iberia, LA

Ralph Melancon, St. Martinville, LA

Jimmie & Rose Marie Powell, Baton Rouge, LA

Friends who Gave More

Chevron Hunmankind Matching Gift Program, a \$1000 grant made possible through the service of Chevron retiree and Acadian Memorial Foundation board member and donor, J. E. Delahoussaye, Lafayette, LA
Delores Guidry Respass, Port Arthur, TX (\$1000)

L'Amitié D'Or Level

Margie Laws Luke, Franklin, LA

L'Amitié Rouge Level

Paul Durand, St. Martinville, LA



October 19, 2012

Acadian Memorial Foundation, Inc St. Martinville, LA

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Acadian Memorial Foundation is dedicated to the preservation of the history and lore of the 3,000 Acadians who found refuge in Louisiana after their exile by British forces from their native Acadie; and

WHEREAS, the Acadians' cleverness and ability to adjust to geographic conditions resulted in their adaptation of the Wooden Pirogue for maneuvering the shallow inland waters of South Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Acadian Memorial Foundation has for the last eight years recognized the historical value of the Pirogue by featuring it at its annual Wooden Boat Congé and in the Re-Enactment of the Arrival of the Acadians; and

*WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Louisiana has duly passed, on May 14, 2012, House Concurrent Resolution 746 declaring **The Pirogue as the Official Boat Of Louisiana**; and*

WHEREAS, the Acadians have now come to be known as the Cajuns.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The Year of Our Lord 2013 is hereby designated as

The Year of the Cajun Wooden Pirogue

*Proclaimed this **19** day of **October, 2012***

Ralph Melancon

Ralph Melancon, President-Elect

Acadian Memorial Foundation, Inc.



The Acadian Memorial Foundation has for the last eight years recognized the historical value of the pirogue by featuring it at the annual *Wooden Boat Congrès* and in the *Re-enactment of the Arrival of the Acadians*. On May 14, 2012, the Legislature of the State of Louisiana passed the Proclamation above declaring 2013 as *The Year of the Cajun Wooden Pirogue*.

Anyone interested in being a sponsor for this exciting, upcoming event, or making a donation can contact us at 337.394.2258 or e-mail us at info@acadianmemorial.org.

More on the Year of the Cajun Wooden Pirogue in the February 2013 issue of *Calling All Cajuns*.



Visit the Acadian Memorial

121 South New Market St.
St. Martinville, LA 70582
Telephone: 337-394-2258

www.acadianmemorial.org
info@acadianmemorial.org

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: Michelle Verret Johnson
Tourism Coordinator: Jessie Thibodeaux
Docent/Tourism & Curator's Assistant: Cynthia Champagne
Docent/Historian/Tour Guide: James Akers
Docents: Laura Alexander, Merlin Champagne, Amelie "Emma"
Green, Patty GuteKunst

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

ACADIAN MEMORIAL

2012-2013 EVENTS CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2012

November 28 - Genealogy Workshop 10-11:30 a.m., Acadian Memorial, 2nd Floor. Sources and Citations, Review of workshops presented by Janie Bulliard and Michelle Johnson. This is the final workshop for the 2012 year. Call to reserve a seat, 337.394.2258.

DECEMBER 2012

December 2 - Acadian Memorial featured in the Garden Club's Tour of Homes. Hosted by the St. Martinville Garden Club, this fundraiser event benefits the entire community. It is a tour of renovated historic homes fashioned in Christmas décor. For more information, contact Charmaine, 337.251.4623.

JANUARY 2013

January 30 - Genealogy Workshop, 10-11:30 a.m., Acadian Memorial, 2nd Floor. Free and open to the public, check our website for updates on topics and guest presenters.

FEBRUARY 2013

February 14— "Calling all Lovers" Romance under the Evangeline Oak. The Acadian Memorial and the Old Castillo Hotel hold a reception in honor of couples who were married or engaged under the Evangeline Oak in St. Martinville.

February 27— Genealogy Workshop, 10-11:30 a.m., Acadian Memorial, 2nd Floor. Free and open to the public. Check website for updates on topics and guest presenters.

MARCH 2013

March 16—Acadian Memorial Festival, Evangeline Oak Park, St. Martinville.

March 27 - Genealogy Workshop, 10-11:30 a.m., Acadian Memorial, 2nd Floor. Free and open to the public. Space is limited, call 337.394.2258.