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."

Great food, music, and living history demonstrations
FREE Admission
11am - 4pm

Sweets Booth & Contest
Featured at SugarFest

A favorite place to shop at SugarFest on Sunday, October 4, is the Sweets Booth sponsored by the West Baton Rouge Historical Association. It will be open for business from 11 am to 4 pm under the tent near the Arbroth Store on the West Baton Rouge Museum grounds. Chairperson Mary Bennett invites everyone to stop by to purchase their favorite cake, candy, cookies, or pie.

A Sweets Contest will be held in the morning for the best cake, candy, cookies, or pie. A full cake or pie, at least two dozen cookies, or two dozen candy samples must be submitted. The items must be delivered to the Sweets Booth between 10 and 10:30 am. Contest forms are available at the WBR Museum or may be picked up at the Sweets Booth on October 4.

If you’d like to donate sweets to sell at the Sweets Booth, they may be dropped off in a non-returnable container at the sweets booth on Sunday, October 4, between 10:00 am and 11:00 am. Cookies, cupcakes and candy should be individually wrapped for sale in plastic wrap or bags. Cakes and pies may be delivered whole. Please do not bring items that need refrigeration. To assist the volunteers, please label your sweet item. If you are unable to bring your item on Sunday, someone at the Museum will be happy to receive any donation on Friday or Saturday afternoon before the event.

Call Mary Bennett at 383-2513 for additional information or questions.

ETHEL CLAIBORNE DAMERON LECTURE SERIES
Susan Hymel to discuss
"Angela Gregory’s New State Capitol Art"

Local art historian Susan Hymel will discuss “Angela Gregory’s New State Capitol Art” at the West Baton Rouge Historical Association’s Annual Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture Series at 2:00 pm on Sunday, November 15, 2015 at the West Baton Rouge Museum in Port Allen.

Prior to the lecture the permanently installed relief portraits sculpted by Angela Gregory and originally commissioned for the exterior of the new state capitol building in 1932 will be unveiled. Known today as the “Faces” Gregory profiled Thomas Jefferson, John James Audubon, Judah P. Benjamin, Paul Tulane, Charles Gayarre’, Judah Touro, Edward Douglass White, and Louis Moreau Gottschalk. Seven of the eight pieces are now part of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association’s permanent collection.

Hymel will discuss the artist and her pioneering work and connection to West Baton Rouge Parish.

Following the lecture, refreshments will be served.

Plantation Dinner Set for October 4

The West Baton Rouge Historical Association will sell an old-fashioned plantation dinner from 11:00 am – 1:30 pm during the West Baton Rouge Museum’s SugarFest celebration on Sun., Oct. 4, 2015. The delicious dinner cooked by Danny’s Cajun Catering includes ½ smoked chicken, rice dressing, beans and roll for only $7.00. It will be served near the Arbroth Store on the grounds of the West Baton Rouge Museum, 845 N. Jefferson, Port Allen. Jane Brou and Debra Salvador are co-chairs of this fundraiser.
FROM OUR PRESIDENT
AROUND OUR ASSOCIATION
Hi Friends,

The past few months have been a busy time for many of our WBRHA members. With SugarFest coming up on October 4, we issue a call to our members and their friends to come out and help with this 20th Anniversary event. A special thank you to Jane Brou and Debra Salvadras for chairing the Plantation Dinner again this year. We appreciate the WBR Historical Association members for selling their tickets for the delicious chicken dinners that we're serving that day. We couldn't do this fundraiser without each and every member doing their part to make the event a success. A special thank you to Alice LeBlanc for keeping up with the tickets and money for the fundraiser.

A favorite place to shop at SugarFest is the Sweets Booth sponsored by the Historical Association. Special thanks to Mary Bennett for stepping forward as chairman. She will need the help of WBRHA members to provide cookies, cakes, candies and pies to sell in the booth and others to assist with selling them.

Special thanks to Lorry Trotter for chairing a Membership Booth for the WBR Historical Association and other volunteers for assisting with the booth. This is an important activity to increase membership in the WBRHA.

We're delighted with the results of our 10th annual Christmas in July Card Party fundraiser which brought in $3,458. Thanks to Lorry Trotter for chairing this event for the second year. Other committee members who assisted her were Babs Babin, Joyce Barbier, Jane Brou, Kim Callegan, Sara Grady, Alice LeBlanc, Ruth Stanley and Ewa Wilson.

Brian Falcon and his Historical Preservation Committee is working on additional signage to recognize the many historical sites in our parish.

Debra Salvadras, Chair of the Ethel Claiborne Dameron Lecture Series, and Jeanie Luckett, Education Curator, are preparing an outstanding event this year. Local historian Susan Hymel will be guest speaker for the 2:00 pm program on Sunday, November 15, based on the Angela Gregory leads she created for the new Louisiana State Capitol.

Nominations for new board members for the WBR Historical Association and WBR Museum are now being sought. Please make suggestions to Babs Babin or Ellis Gautier of individuals that would be interested in serving. We're looking forward to seeing you at SugarFest on October 4 for good food, music and fellowship.

Sincerely,
Ellis
Ellis Gautier

Commemorating the U.S. Civil War Sesquicentennial in Louisiana

From Our Director
Greetings!

Summer has simmered down and we welcome the beautiful fall weather. We kicked off the fall season by wishing the Town of Addis a very happy 100th birthday.

The history of Addis is now on display at the West Baton Rouge Museum as one way to help mark the historic anniversary. Kids (big and small) will enjoy the tremendous working train model in the Brick Gallery that complements the train history of Addis. The exhibit, House and Home, this fall offers an array of hands-on displays and videos that help us answer the age-old question, "What makes a house a home?"

The museum now has a printed tour booklet for all the historical buildings, in French! A big thank you goes to staff members, Gwenn Laviolette and Angelique Bergeron, who meticulously translated the tour from English to French and planned the illustrations. The color booklet is available to all tourists who would enjoy taking the tour with a French narration, weekdays and weekends. Another exciting museum publication, "The 20-Year High History of Cohn High School: The Only High School for African Americans in West Baton Rouge," came off the press this summer. The 13-page illustrated booklet was made possible with grants from DOC DHL, Inc. and LEH Rebirth Grant. The research was done by LSU intern Jenna Steward. Free copies are available at the museum. Copies have been sent to our parish library, the EBRP Library, and to the libraries at Southern University and LSU. Congratulations to volunteer Frank Forest for his "Unsung Hero" award from the Excalibur Club of Baton Rouge for his volunteer work at the WBR Museum, the WBR Historical Association, the Addis Museum, and the Old Governors Mansion. Congratulations to our friend, Lauren Davis, chief curator for the Secretary of State's Office, for her award from the Louisiana Association of Museums.

The line-up for programs this fall includes a much sought after bus trip opportunity on October 15 as part of the programming for the "House and Home" exhibit. Participants will view prominent historic houses on Esplanade Avenue and others in the Crescent City's most historic neighborhoods. In November, we all look forward to the ECD Lecture Series on November 15. Local artist historian, Susan Hymel, will present, "Angela Gregory's New State Capitol Art." This special lecture includes the unveiling of the permanently installed relief portraits by Angela Gregory, which were originally commissioned for the exterior of the new state capitol building in 1932. The handsome cypress display cabinets made especially for these artworks, which are permanently displayed in the museum's front entrance, was made possible with a grant from the Pelotier Foundation. In December, we are thrilled to partner with the Manship Theatre to present Grammy Award Winner Michael Doucet of BeauSoileil to headline this year's holiday Open House on Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 1pm. Please check out the calendar in this issue for a full list of the fall programs and exhibits.

As I write this letter to you, so many museum and HA volunteers and staff are gearing up for the 20th annual SugarFest! Yes, "20 Sweet Years" celebrating the sugar harvest in West Baton Rouge!

See you at the museum.

Julie
Julie Rose, Ph.D.
Director
10th Annual Christmas in July Card Party Nets $3,458

We appreciate the wonderful show of support from the WBRHA Card Party Committee, HA Board members, 122 card players, volunteers and friends in making the 10th annual Christmas in July Card Party a resounding success! Attendees played bridge, bourse, regular canasta, hand and foot canasta, pokeno, sequence, and Shanghi rummy. The total profit was $3,458 which included proceeds from the 50/50 raffles, and the raffle of a gift basket donated by Kim Callegan. Special thanks to Event Chairperson Lorry Trotter who was assisted by her husband Bill Trotter and Lunch Chairperson Evva Wilson. Other Card Party Committee members were Babs Babin, Joyce Barbier, Jane Brou, Kim Callegan, Sara Grady, Alice LeBlanc, Ruth Stanley. Assisting with lunch were Carolyn Blanchard, Toni Brantley, Fannie Easterly, Alice LeBlanc, Ann Lemoine, Debbie Price and Janet Simoneaux.
Kim Fourroux Callegan

WBR Historical Association Volunteer

Kim Fourroux Callegan, a lifelong resident of West Baton Rouge Parish, is one busy lady! She is an active community volunteer, business owner, and retiree. As one of five children, she grew up watching her parents Earl ‘Jay’ and Beryl Fourroux be very involved in their children's lives and helping others in the community, church, schools, and scouting.

She is married to Kerry Callegan and their family includes Tyler and Jeanne Rock, Brennan and Kacie Rock, Kristen and Devin Payne, Clint and Dana Callegan, Chase and Ashley Callegan, and Courtney Callegan. They are the proud grandparents of 6 grandchildren – Taylor, Alyse and Aaron Rock, and Ayden, Alayna, and Ainsley Callegan.

Kim is the owner of Jay Street Properties, LLC and retired from ExxonMobil Corporation last year with over 33 years of service. The first nine years of her ExxonMobil career were spent in the Refining Division at the Baton Rouge Refinery, six years in the Marketing Division at the Port Allen Lubricants Plant, and the last 18 years in the ExxonMobil Global Services IT Division as a Senior Systems Analyst and Internal Processes Coordinator.

She was a founding member of ExCITE (ExxonMobil Community Involvement Through Employees) Board, which is the umbrella organization for all ExxonMobil employee volunteer programs in the Greater Baton Rouge area. Kim also spent many volunteer hours working on Saturday recycle collections, United Way Campaigns, and with local United Way organizations.

Currently Kim is serving her second 3-year term as a member of the Board of Directors of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association and also serves as Hospitality Chair. Additionally she is the President of the West Side Women's Club and serves as yearbook chairman for the WBR Garden and Civic Club. As a 10-year member of the American Business Women's Association, Kim was past Business Associate of Year, Vice-President, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Hospitality Chair, and presently serves as Membership Chair. Additionally she is a member of West Baton Rouge Senior Spirit and a member and past President of Keep West Baton Rouge Beautiful Board of Directors.

Kim is a member of Holy Family Catholic Church and serves as a Bereavement Team Leader. Other interests include over 20 years of league tennis; gardening and received the Louisiana Master Gardener's Certification last year; jewelry and wreath making; and cross-stitching. Callegan also enjoys creating floral arrangements from flowers in her yard.

No matter how you look at it, Kim Callegan is one active lady who is committed to her community, church, and family.

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Blast From the Past Summer Camp
The West Baton Rouge Museum hosts the exhibition, *100 Years of Addis*, which opened on September 19, 2015 and runs through November 15, 2015 to help mark the centennial anniversary of the founding of the Town of Addis. While the developing railroads brought a community to settle the area as early as 1882, Addis, which was named for Texas Pacific Railroad official J.W. Addis, was not incorporated until September 1, 1915. Today the population of the town nestled along LA 1 in West Baton Rouge Parish is just over 4,000 residents and is growing.

The history of Addis is directly tied to the history of railroads in the parish. The railroad has been important to the growth of Addis, as many of the first buildings were built for the railroad and the business it brought to the town. The first mayor of Addis was a railroad man, George Booksh, as were many of the village administrators for decades.

Photographs and stories from the past 100 years of Addis history will be on display. The exhibit also features a grand 2-Rail O Scale model railroad on loan from the Greater Baton Rouge Railroaders. This 8x14 foot exhibit highlight was designed by Steve Griggs and Jim Buchtel using many recycled components.

**Great Gift Idea**

*The History of West Baton Rouge Parish: People, Places, Progress* will be sold at SugarFest on October 4, at the West Baton Rouge Museum grounds. It is also available at the WBR Museum gift shop, 845 North Jefferson, Port Allen, during regular work hours. The cost of the book is $27.25 for the general public and $23.98 for WBR Historical Association members. For additional information, call Alice LeBlanc at (225) 336-2422, ext. 10.
**Curator’s Corner**

**Never a Dull Moment**

We often laugh here at the museum when people tell us how nice and quiet it must be to work at a museum because you never know what type of project will come through the door.

Recently Harry L. Laws and Company donated a collection of about 100 volumes of records from the Cincclare mill. These registers will be a wonderful addition to the collection and will offer insight into the sugar industry in West Baton Rouge Parish. However, the large collection of ledgers presented a few logistical issues. The registers had been stored in a building without air conditioning on the Cincclare grounds for years. We had to first clean the books and address the mold and bugs before the books could be added to our permanent collection. With the help of our friends in Special Collections at LSU’s Hill Memorial Library, Mr. Kirby Guerin, David Martin, and I transported the volumes to LSU. The donation of books, which the three of us packed into storage bins and wrapped in heavy plastic so that they were air and moisture tight, could be placed into the walk-in freezer at LSU’s Hill Memorial Library. The wrapped volumes sat in the freezer at LSU for approximately one week to ensure the death of all bugs and mold. Then the volumes were brought to the WBRM campus where we could monitor their temperature and gradually step them up to room temperature. Today, the volumes are clean and ready to be accessioned into the collection.

Progress is well underway to install the seven “faces” made by Angela Gregory into the main entrance in the museum. The “faces” are models Gregory made for the stone versions of the relief portraits she designed for the new State Capitol building in 1932. The new display cases made by Shakewood Cabinets, and the installation of the artwork has made for not so quiet days around the museum, but we can’t wait to unveil the finished installation of all 7 “faces” at the ECD lecture this fall!

**Collections**

The WBRHA Accessions Committee met in August to discuss recently donated items. Thank you to the following donors for the items accessioned into the Permanent Collection:

- Barry Brewer and the Port Allen Volunteer Fire Department for a collection of papers pertaining to the creation and activities of the Port Allen Volunteer Fire Department;
- JoAnn Busse for an oil on ivory miniature portrait of Francois Mathieu Lefaux (c.1815) and a necklace with twin cameo portraits of twin sisters in the family of Louisiana Governor P.O. Hebert (these will be on display in the upcoming “19th Century Portraits” exhibit);
- Jim and Mary Helen Charleville for 2 tintype portraits from Allendale Plantation;
- Jane Chenevert for the Victorian Renaissance chair and sofa which belonged to her grandmother Leonora Aillet Sharp (now on display in the Ailet House);
- Frank Foret for the Boy Scouts of America Revised Handbook;
- Harvey Hill for the metal engraving tools which were used on the City of Baton Rouge ferry upon its arrival in 1916;
- Becky LeBlanc for the framed American flag which was presented to her family upon the death of her father, Alfred LeBlanc, Sr., the longest surviving WWI veteran from West Baton Rouge Parish;
- Stephen Spohrer for a scrapbook containing photographs, news clippings, and brochures from the Port Allen Lock construction (His father, Henry, was head of construction); and
- The West Baton Rouge Parish School Board for an 1879 Assessor’s list and a 1917 War Message.

The WBRM houses the WBRHA’s Permanent Collection, as well as the Education Collection and a Research Library. These collections support our primary interpretive themes, including:

- Sugar Plantation History
- Rural Life in WBR Parish
- Urban Development within the Parish
- Local Folklife
- River Life
- Military and Political History

If you have something you would like to donate to the Historical Association’s Permanent Collection, please contact Angélique Bergeron, Curator at 225-336-2422 x11 or email Bergeron@wbrmuseum.org.

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**2015 Historical Association Board of Directors**

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<tr>
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**2015 Officers**

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<td>Elisa Tubbs</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
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Calendar of Events

Oct. 4, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm: SugarFest

October 7, noon: “I Always Do My Collars First” talk and documentary screening with filmmaker, Conni Castille, who follows four dynamic Cajun women as they go about daily life demonstrating how the simple ritual of ironing weaves its way throughout the fabric of family life and their sense of identity. Free.

October 14 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.

October 15: Day Bus Trip, Historic Architecture of New Orleans Tour. Experience New Orleans by learning about the historic architecture on this narrated bus tour with the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans. The tour includes the Warehouse District, the Vieux Carré, Bayou St. John, Charles Avenue, Esplanade Ridge, Mid City, Carrollton, and the Garden District. Bus leaves the museum at 7:00 am and returns by 5:00 pm. $95 fee includes lunch. Registration required. 225-336-2422 x15.

October 16, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm: Halloween Event

November 1, 2015 to January 17, 2016: The Portrait, the Artist and the Patron; 19th Century Louisiana Portraiture. Portraits offer us a window into the past through the painted and photographed representations of those who inhabited 19th century Louisiana. From Edmund Brewster’s portrait of Pere Antoine de Sedella, c. 1820, to portraits by Selina Bres from the 1890s, the exhibit examines the art of portraiture in Louisiana. The exhibit features master works from the Historic New Orleans Collection, the Paul and Lulu Hilliard Museum, as well as private collections, and includes American and European artists such as Thomas Sully, Matthew Harris Jouett, Louis Antoine Collas, Jean Joseph Vaudechamps, Jacques Amses, Adolph Rinfack, Jules Lion, George Harrison Hite, and George Peter Alexander Healy.

November 8, 1:00 pm: Veterans on Parade, museum opens at 12:30 pm

November 15, 2:00 pm: ECD Lecture Series, “Angela Gregory’s New State Capitol Art”. This special lecture includes the unveiling of the permanently installed relief portraits sculpted by Angela Gregory that were originally commissioned for the exterior of the new state capitol building in 1932. Seven of the eight pieces are now part of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association’s permanent collection. Art historian, Susan Hymel of the Angela Gregory Art, LLC, will present a lecture about Angela Gregory and the artist’s pioneering work, and about the art of Selina Bres Gregory, Angela’s mother, who influenced Angela as an artist. Refreshments will be served. Free.

November 21 through January 3: A Charlie Brown Christmas turns 50. The exhibit, curated by Lauren Hawthorne, marks five decades of the beloved cartoon characters created by Charles Schulz featured in his enduring animation film.

December 12, Saturday, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Holiday Open House: Performance by Grammy Award Winner Michael Doucet of Beau-Soleil, performing traditional and original music rooted in the folk tunes of the Creole Louisiana. This special performance is made possible by Manship on the Move with grant from Union Pacific Railroad. Enjoy an afternoon full of holiday music, warm cider and gingerbread refreshments, holiday craft making, Charlie Brown Christmas 50th anniversary cartooning fun, visit with Papa Noel, and everyone's favorite “Find the Elves” at the West Baton Rouge Museum. Free.

CURRENT LIST OF FRIENDS

Thomas W. Acosta, Jr.
American Gateway Bank
Dana A. Ayo
Babs B. Babin
Joyce & Kenneth Barbier
Baton Rouge Community College
Michael & Jan Becnel
Marlene Benedetto/Hubbens ***
Claire L. Bergeron
Lorraine & Gordon Bergeron
Tom Bernard
Carolyn Blanchard
Mike & Pat Blanchard
Sue & Sid Blanchard
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Bonanno
Barry & Susan Brewer
Jane Brou & Family
Jim & Barbara Burton
Kim & Kerry Callegan
Kym & Tony Cashiola
Jim & Mary Helen Charleville
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Cou-Yon’s BBQ-Port Allen
Criterion Catalysts & Technologies, L.P.
Glen Daigle
Dexco Polymers LP
The Dow Chemical Company
Linda Lowe Erie
ExxonMobil
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Sara & George “Skipper” Grady
Jason Hammack/Court Street Café ***
Jeff Guidry/Edward Jones
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Lee & Michelle Hart
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Hugh’s Place, Inc.
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Judge Alvin Landry
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Bobby & Ruth Stanley
Clay Stewart/State Farm Insurance
Mike & Ellen Tauzin
Lorry & Bill Trotter
Al & Cathy Troy
Margot G. Turk
J. Kenneth Washington
West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce
West Baton Rouge Convention & Visitors Bureau
West Baton Rouge Garden & Civic Club
West Side Women’s Club
Westside Homeschoolers
Zeta Tau Alpha Baton Rouge LA Alumnae

Welcome New Friends:
Marlene Benedetto/Hubbens
Jason Hammack/Court Street Café
Bob & Connie Smith

New Members & Patrons:
Keith & Julie Bergeron
Dorene Mayeux

*** Denotes New Friends Member
Donations were received for the following Memorial Funds:

Acquisitions Memorial Fund
Gerry Charleville – Babs Babin

Ethel Claiborne Dameron Memorial Fund

Frank Carruth III Children’s Fund
Harold Reitz, Jr. – Gary & Cindy Hallam

General Memorial Fund
Henry E. L. LeBlanc – Pat LeBlanc Alford

Museum Memorial Fund

Restoration of Arbroth Mercantile Store
Mary Miles Coe Higgins Walker – Jo Bussie
Margebell Bramlette Steward – Jo Bussie

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 acknowledgment 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 CLAIRBONE 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)

Make checks payable to West Baton Rouge Historical Association, and mail to 845 North Jefferson Avenue, Port Allen, LA 70767.