

**A National Parish Homecoming:
Celebrating Isle Brevelle's
Faith & Heritage**



**SAHS
TOUR GUIDE**

TREASURES OF THE ISLE

November 8, 2014

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Make History!

Experience a once-in-a-lifetime chance to explore and celebrate the historic treasures of the Isle community founded in Faith. Many parishioners are opening their hearts and homes for this special 300-year celebration.

Isle Brevelle links to the earliest settlers of the Louisiana territory. One example is the Badin- Roque House, circa 1770, which is truly a “one-of-a-kind” treasure in Louisiana!



November 8, 2014

The St. Augustine Historical Society (SAHS) proudly sponsors this Natchitoches Tri- Centennial event hosting rare tours and a parish celebration of Faith, Heritage and History !

Between 9 am and 4 pm - tour and explore over a dozen SAHS-designated “*Treasures of the Isle*” and other area attractions like Melrose & Magnolia plantations.

At 5pm - the parish community will gather together at the historic St. Augustine Catholic Church for a traditional Catholic Mass by our Pastor and spiritual leader, Father Thomas Paul. The Church was recently placed on the National Register as a traditional cultural center, beginning as a plantation chapel in 1803 on the property of founder and patriarch, Nicolas Augustin Metoyer (1768 – 1856).

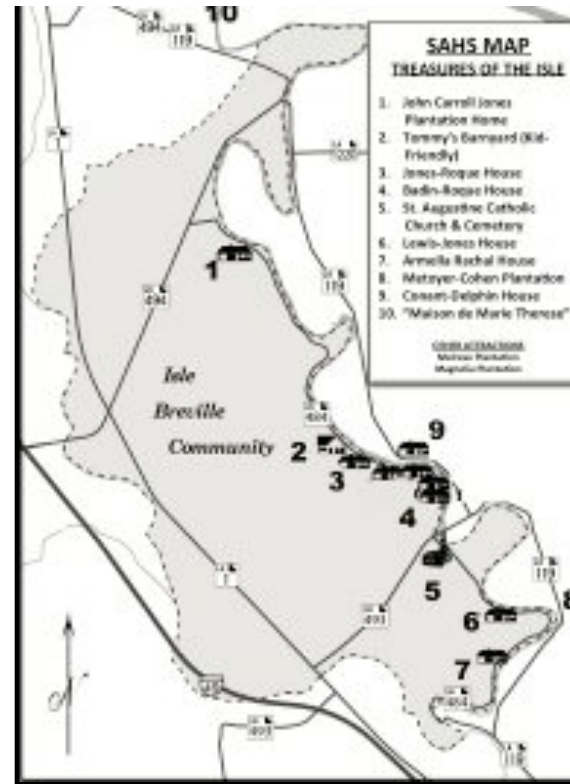
At 6 pm, the community and guests will enjoy a “homecoming celebration” in the parish hall featuring traditional foods and entertainment.

Finally, I give great appreciation to Angela Fontenot Jones and Sarah Marie Jackson who helped make this **SAHS Tour Guide** available for your journey through the history, heritage and faith of Isle Brevelle!

Sincerely,

Mark

Dr. Mark Guidry
President, SAHS



1. John Carroll Jones Plantation Home



This plantation home, located at **374 Hwy. 484**, is owned by FJ & Nicol Metoyer Delphin. Historical records show that it was built by François Roubieu who died in 1849. His plantation home passed to his daughter Pauline who married Dr. Thomas Jefferson Flanner Sr.. in the mid-1900s. The John Carroll Jones plantation would pass to outside owners but, in the last decade or so, it was reclaimed and beautifully restored by descendants. Open: 9 am – 4 pm.

**2. Tommy's Barnyard
“Kid-Friendly”**



The barnyard of Tommy & Kathie Roque at **1468 Hwy 484**, is a kid-friendly place where kids can learn about farm animals, where eggs come from, and more. Here, Tommy Roque teaches the art of “feeding the birds” to youngster, Ethel Marie Guidry. Open: 10 am – 4 pm

3. The Jones-Roque House



Continuing south on Hwy 484 is the Jones-Roque House - a classic example of a French Creole cottage. Built in 1845, the Jones House is one of only a few intact Creole cottages - single-story buildings raised only a few feet off the ground. Constructed primarily of cypress and *bousillage*, the home is connected to the history of St. Augustine Catholic Church. The front columns of the house were constructed with wood salvaged from the first church of this congregation.

The house was moved and restored by Dr. Tammy Roque in 2002, and the restoration remained faithful to the building's original appearance, except that the columns could not be saved. Today, the house retains a place of prominence in the Cane River Creole community of Isle Brevelle. Open 9 am – 3 pm.

4. The Badin-Roque House

*** CHRISTMAS PICTURES HERE ***



Perhaps the oldest structure in Isle Brevelle (circa 1770), the Badin-Roque House (1996 Hwy 484) has a building style known as *poteaux-en-terre* (posts-in-ground), popular amongst early French settlers between the years 1769 and 1785. The simple one-story cottage has *bousillage* walls, an outdoor kitchen, and a spacious porch under its overhanging roof.

The house was originally on the property of community founder and patriarch, Nicolas Augustin Metoyer. It was once used as a convent for Catholic nuns from France and later used as a residence. In 1979, the St. Augustine Historical Society purchased the house, eventually operating it as a historic site on the National Register. Open 9 am – 4 pm.

5. St. Augustine Catholic Church & Cemetery

(Aerial by Don Cummins www.donairphotography.com)



St. Augustine Catholic Church (2262 Hwy 484) is the cultural center of Cane River's historic Créole community. What began as a plantation chapel on the

property of Nicolas Augustin Metoyer in 1803 is now the spiritual and social center of the Cane River Creole community on Isle Brevelle. St. Augustine is celebrated as the first church built by and for free people of color in Louisiana. The church and cemetery were recently placed on the **National Register of Historic Places as a Traditional Cultural property**. Open for tours of church, portrait/tomb of Augustin, & Cemetery: 9 am – 4 pm.

6. The Lewis Jones House



Owners Pat and Angela Jones will offer tours of this one-story frame Creole plantation house (2648 Hwy 484) with *bousillage* infill built in the 1840s. A date of 1847 is inscribed under the stair leading to the attic. Although alterations have made in the twentieth century, this house remains one of the most important examples of Creole architecture in Natchitoches Parish. The characteristic Creole floor plan and decorative details survive largely intact. Once the home of Lewis Jones, son of Carroll Jones, Sr.. This home is presently owned by a Jones descendent. It has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Open 10 am – 2 pm.

7. Armella Rachal Home



At 3144 Highway 484, this maison sursolles and *bousillage* one story frame house has a hipped roof and

interior brick chimney. Built ca. 1835, it is an excellent example of the vernacular French colonial house style. At one time the house was used as both a residence and a store run by Tante Comète and Nonc Zoel Rachal. It is believed this home may have been that of Francois Metoyer, “the strong man.” Miss Armella’s neice Diane will host tourist 10 am – 2 pm.

8. The Metoyer-Cohen Plantation



Dr. Rand S. & Darlene Metoyer will host tourists at 4397 Hwy 119. The plantation lies on the site of the Spanish land grant issued to Dominique Metoyer 1796 who was a successful and wealthy planter. His land would later be divided among his seventeen children. During the 1800s, it served as the landing point of the 24 four mile ferry. The immediate area was a stopover for stagecoaches. Stores, a saloon, and billiard hall were established to meet the needs of those passing through. It was also known to be a gathering point for horse racing. The plantation was purchased by the Cohen family around 1900. The home was purchased by current owners in 2004 and was extensively renovated. Open 12:00 - 4:00pm

9. The Conant-Delphin House



Owned by Delphin Family Properties LLC, this one-story, frame home at 3073 Hwy 119 was built by John Joseph Conant, ca. 1892, on land inherited from his father, Jean Florentine Conant. He was a direct descendent of Suzanne Metoyer, the twin sister of Augustin Metoyer. John Joseph Felician Conant married Marie Antoinette Metoyer (February 2, 1893) and they moved into their home on Thursday, August 24, 1893. Theresa Delphin Morgan will host a Garden Tea Party (weather permitted) and Open House from 9am - 4pm with Coconut & Pecan Cake for sale by Vera Severin. Open 9 am – 4pm.

10. “Maison de Marie Therese”



The “Maison de Marie Therese” sits on the 1780s-1816 homesite of the 68-acre land tract given to Coincoin by Claude Thomas Pierre Metoyer. The house is a Creole cottage and is on the National Historical Registry. Archaeological and architectural studies dispute its date of construction. Dr. Tom & Laura Albert arranged this first public showing of the house since 1999. (NOTE: The site and house are both primitive. No bathrooms. No handicap access. Follow signs from corner of HWY 494 and Cedar Bend Rd. Parking along the grass top John E. Prudhomme Rd.). Open 9 am – 3 pm.

Produced in November 2014 by the St. Augustine Historical Society (SAHS) for the “Treasurers of the Isle” tours – part of the tri-centennial national parish homecoming. The mission of the SAHS is to preserve the history & heritage of St. Augustine's Parish Community on Isle Brevelle. Voluntary tax-deductible donations help preserve the community's unique history and heritage, including a project to restore the tomb of the community founder and patriarch.

For more information see:

<http://www.staugustinehistoricalsociety.com> or
<https://www.facebook.com/StAugustineHistoricalSociety> or
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