Elaine Wright displays some of the crystal in the dining room of the Blue Rose Museum in Crowley. Wright owns and operates the museum along with her husband.

Acadia’s ‘Blue Rose’ features bountiful trove of antiques

By CAROL MOORMANN
Special to The Advocate

CROWLEY — Nestled among rice fields five miles south of Crowley is a hidden treasure trove called the Blue Rose Museum. Both the museum itself and its bountiful contents are awe-inspiring.

The museum is actually the Blanchet-Romero House. The Acadian-style house, which was built around 1848 by Olivier Blanchet, is made of handmade bricks, Louisiana cypress and mud and moss with square nails and mortised and pegged construction.

Owners Elaine and S.L. Wright added a two-story back wing because the one-story dining room and kitchen wing had been destroyed.

In 1964 the house, with its mud and moss walls intact, was moved 50 miles from near Youngsville to its present site, and in 1965 was opened to the public as a museum.

Blue Rose was sold to the late Frances and Salmon L Wright in 1964 by one of the later owners, a Youngsville resident named George Scranton.

Because of Frances Wright and her many searches and tenacity, the museum has become a showplace of much renown.

To Frances, filling the museum was a labor of love.

The name “Blue Rose” was given to the home by the Wrights as a memorial to Salmon’s father, the late Sol Wright, who made rice history by propagating the Blue Rose variety of rice and putting it on the market for area farmers in 1912.

The first historical marker in Acadia Parish can be seen on the grounds in front of the museum.

The Louisiana State Historical Marker honors Sol Wright and his many varieties of rice, including the Blue Rose.

It was dedicated at the 1968 International Rice Festival by the Louisiana Farm Bureau and the Louisiana Tourist Bureau.

The old home is full of every imaginable collectible and antique. Each has its own unique place and meaning in history, and many boast entertaining stories.

On entering the museum, there is a baby’s cradle. A story told by descendants of the Blanchet and Romero families living in the area is that, when Union soldiers entered the home during the Civil War, the Blanchet twin babies were lifted from their cradles and the cradle mattresses were slit in search of hidden gold.

The cypress paneling on the front of the porch and on the downstairs walls is original, as are the mantels and the old glass windows downstairs.

On one of those windows a name is carved. The story says that the woman had received a diamond engagement ring and had carved her name, Irma Romero, on the window.

Some pieces in the home belonged to President Zachary Taylor and his family.

Owner Elaine Wright said the most historical piece is the Lincoln bed that belonged to the President and his family.

Owner Elaine Wright said the most historical piece is the Lincoln bed that belonged to John K. Lincoln, a Confederate soldier and cousin of President Abraham Lincoln. The bed is made of rosewood and comes from Kentucky.

The bed is the same as the one in the White House. Wright laughed and said her family took a picture of her son’s dog, Mookie, sitting in the bed and sent it to Millie, the dog who resided in the White House during George Bush’s presidency.

“We got a card back from the White House with a picture of Barbara Bush and Millie,” Elaine Wright said.

There are oodles of antique dolls and old magazines. There is a bride’s box which dates back to stagecoach days and was replaced by modern-day overnight bags.

There is crystal and pieces of Sheffield silver.

The list of collectibles is endless. And if that isn’t enough, there is a large warehouse near the museum housing several antique cars along with a bright yellow Piper Cub airplane suspended from the ceiling.

The museum is open to the public by appointment only. There is a $4 admission charge and group rates are available.

For more information, call (318) 763-3086.