This is a cemetery
Deaths are recorded...Families are reunited
Memories are made tangible...and...
Love is undisguised...This is a cemetery.
Communities accord respect...
Families bestow reverence
Historians seek information...and...
Our heritages are thereby enriched.
Testimonies of devotion, pride and warmth...
are carved in stone to pay warm tribute to
accomplishments and to the life...
not the death...of a loved one.
The cemetery is a homeland for memorials that
are a sustaining force of comfort to the living.
A cemetery is a history of a people...
a perpetual record of yesterday...
And a sanctuary of peace and quiet today.
A cemetery exists because every life
is worth living...and remembering...
always.

—Author Unknown

Louisiana Purchase Bi-Centennial
1803 - 2003

Verse from Our Past

ST. LANDRY CATHOLIC CHURCH CEMETERY TOUR
"Tracing the Roots of Our Ancestors"

TOUR DATES:
April 5 & 6
(April 5: door opens at 7 and 8 p.m.)
April 12 & 13
April 26 & 27
May 3 & 4
September 27 & 28
(September 27: door opens at 7 and 8 p.m.)
October 4 & 5
October 11 & 12
October 18 & 19
Draes subject to change.

TOUR TIMES:
Saturday: 9 - 12 a.m. (one tour per hour)
Sunday: 12 - 3 p.m. (one tour per hour)
Evening Tours: 7 & 8 p.m.

COST: $10 per person
15 persons per tour

Opelousas Museum & Interpretive Center
315 N. Ave. St., Opelousas, LA 70570-6201
Tel: 337.948.3394  1.877.948.3394  www.opelousasmuseum.com
Sue Deens, Director, mndeens@hotmail.com
Monday-Saturday 9-12 a.m. 3-5 p.m. Closed Sunday
Admission: Donations accepted. Group tours by appointment.
When people were buried in the family plot, families believed that some family member would always carry on the tradition and maintain the cemetery. But as the years passed, the land was sold out of the families and the new owners pulled up crosses and markers, plowed the grave under, or built houses on top of these cemeteries. Those that did survive were vandalized. Some caring land owners, if they had a cemetery on their land, respected the families buried there and continued to maintain these sites. In the parishes of St. Ignatius and Evangeline, there are 125 known lost or abandoned cemeteries that have been found so far, but there is an untold number that will never be found. And that is a shame. These graves tell a different story. Their histories are silent but you can hear them if you take the time to listen. Their crumbling memories are a lifeline for those that seek. Put the two together and the fascinating stories of the lost or abandoned cemeteries are told.