City Park to be home for life-size founder statue

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BREAUX BRIDGE — Behind every successful man is often a woman even more successful. Scholastique Breaux, born almost 200 years ago and lost to history for almost as long, is such a woman.

Next month the city of Breaux Bridge will honor its founder with a life-size bronze statue in City Park, and Scholastique Breaux will no longer be lost to history.

Little is known about her early life. Historians don’t even know when she was born. But she married Agricole Breaux in 1813 in St. Martin Parish, and when he died in 1828 Scholastique was left with financial troubles. But she had the land her husband had inherited from his father, Pierre Firmin Breaux, and she had the bridge Agricole had built over the Bayou Teche.

How she devised her plan is also unknown, but in 1829, the year after her husband’s death, she drew up Plan de la Ville du Pont des Breaux — the Plan of the Village of Breaux Bridge. Then she began to sell lots.

The president of the Breaux Bridge History Hall of Fame, Kenneth P. Delcambre, pointed out that when a city is founded certain criteria apply and Scholastique met all of them. Her plan contained streets, land for a school and a church, and a detailed map of the area, including her late husband’s bridge. The legal date for the founding of Breaux Bridge, then, is Aug. 5, 1829.

At 6 p.m. Aug. 9, the statue commissioned by The Women of Breaux Bridge, an organization lately sprung up dedicated to preserving the memory of Scholastique, will be dedicated. Celia Soper of Lafayette is the sculptor, and state Rep. Sydney Mae Durand, D-St. Martinville, will be the keynote speaker during the short ceremony.

“Like many women of the 18th century, Scholastique suffered her loss to fame by just being a woman.”