The home and gardens of the Alexandre Mouton House was the beautiful setting for the first annual Vignettes - The Art of the Tabletop fundraiser. Vignettes provided the opportunity to connect with old friends and to meet new ones. The fundraiser was brought together for area designers, retailers, party planners, and "host extraordinaire" to showcase their talents using the Alexandre Mouton House as the backdrop. Vignettes reveled in the occasions we all celebrate. Individual scenes set in warm and inviting styles celebrated the rich heritage that makes South Louisiana entertaining such a legend.

Vignettes revealed the reasons to celebrate friends and families sharing the common goal of supporting the mission of the Alexandre Mouton House: to educate, inspire, preserve and culturally enrich the people of South Louisiana. Twenty-two tabletops were artfully displayed inspiring all in attendance. Our guests leisurely strolled through the Alexandre Mouton House viewing the unique tablescapes before being treated to a picnic lunch in its lovely garden.

Underwriters
Knight Oil Tools
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Patrons
Merilyn and George Crain

Table Sponsors
Darrellyn Burts
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A Special Thanks
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Picnic Lunch
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Prêt à Poser
Renaissance Market
Root
Teche Gift Shoppe
Two in Faith
A Note from the President

Dear Friends of the Museum,

Thank you, dear Friends of the Museum for your continued support and interest in the Alexandre Mouton House. Your help enables us to operate and maintain this lovely historic treasure for the enjoyment of countless visitors from Acadiana and all over the world.

This year has been filled with many old traditions along with some remarkable new adventures as well. The Lafayette Public Library has once again partnered with our Museum in hosting the popular speaker series held at the Lafayette Museum. The Preservation Alliance of Lafayette featured the Alexandre Mouton House in their Annual Preservation Celebration and History Walk and generously shared the proceeds of the event with the Museum.

The Museum’s annual Christmas celebration was expanded to include a large outside tent to accommodate a band, refreshments, and additional guests. A new event, Vignettes 2014-The Art of the Tabletop was introduced in the Spring and was a huge success. More than 300 guests enjoyed the elegant display of themed tabletops and dined in perfect spring time weather on the home’s back lawn under its massive oak trees.

This has been an exciting year for the hard working Museum Board of the Alexandre Mouton House. Their dedication of time, talent, and treasure, combined with your generous support helps to preserve this historic landmark and allows future generations to reflect on life in 19th century Lafayette.

Ann Clark, President
Lafayette Museum Association

Period Camellia Garden

Early in the spring, we planted a Period Camellia Garden. We chose 12 camellias that would have been planted in Governor Alexandre Mouton’s yard at the time he lived on the property. The patents went as far back as 1792. The camellias included Pink Perfection, Elegans Chandler, Kumakasha, Governor Mouton, Alba Plana, Adolph Audusson, Tricolor, Lady Clare, Lady Vansittart, Purple Dawn, Prince Eugene Napoleon and Debutante. The owners of Mizell’s Camellia Hill Nursery in Folsom, Louisiana were very helpful in the research for this project.

The Governor Mouton Camellia

Drainage Improvement Project

For some time, the museum has been in need of drainage improvements around the perimeter of the house. This Drainage Improvement Project will protect the integrity of the foundation in two ways. One, by mitigating standing water under the house and, two, by preventing the very large live oak trees from sucking moisture out of the soil under the house, both adversely affecting the foundation. In addition, keeping excess water away from the house adds to the prevention of termite infestation.

Eden Scapes, Inc. completed Phase I of our Drainage Improvement Project which consisted of Sub-Surface Drainage, installing 12" catch basins, French drains with river rock, tying in downspouts and running 4" PVC pipe to the road.

We have not yet funded Phase II, which is to install a Moisture Barrier around the house to prevent the trees from adversely drying out the soil under the house. This could ultimately shift the foundation of our very old house, if left unattended.

Preservation Alliance

The Preservation Alliance of Lafayette presented “Vintage Picnic in the Park and History Walk” on Sunday March 23. The event was a fundraiser to raise monies to help promote the Alexandre Mouton House. Homes and historic sites were visited by all participants. A reception was held at the Alexander Mouton House. The “Sweet Cecilias,” a trio of musicians, entertained the guests and the members of Les Vingt Quatre served wine and desserts.

Pictured are Yvonne Mitchell, Ann Clark, Jay Dardenne, Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana, Louise Gannucheau and Gail Dellart.
Whistle Stops Exhibit

On Sunday, October 13th, the Alexandre Mouton House/Lafayette Museum and the Lafayette Public Library System presented "Whistle Stops," the last lecture in the speaker series for 2013. "Whistle Stops" was the story of the amazing journey of orphans who came by train from New York to Louisiana in the early 1900s. Flo Inhern and Margaret Briley, members of the Louisiana Orphan Train Society talked about the establishment of the New York Foundling Hospital and how the "orphan train" began. They shared stories about many of the orphans who came to Louisiana. They also talked about the museum to honor the Louisiana orphan train riders that has been established in Opelousas. A very special guest at the lecture was Alice Kern Bernard, an orphan train rider and believed to be the last surviving rider to Louisiana. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Antique Maps Exhibit

We are happy to report that our Sunday lecture series has attracted "filled to capacity" crowds. Our series has included a lecture on antique maps given by Mr. Walter Dobie, a local well-known geologist on July 28th. Mr. Dobie spoke on early maps and surveyors, focusing on early Louisiana. Pictured are Ramona Mouton, Walter Dobie, Fran Kellner, and Kathy Mulloy, Lafayette Public Library representative.

Civil War Exhibit

During the spring of 2013, in conjunction with a Civil War Encampment, Brad Broussard and R. J. Boutte participated in Living History Days. They presented a program entitled "Voices From the Past: Letters and Artifacts from Civil War Soldiers." Many interesting items were displayed for viewing. Shown in photo are: Brad Broussard, Lafayette Public Library representative Kathy Mulloy, R. J. Boutte, and museum member Ann Marie Hightower.

Quilt Exhibit

A quilt exhibit celebrating National Quilting Day was held at the museum on March 15-16. The Quilters’ Guild Acadienne, the largest quilt guild in Louisiana, exhibited 112 quilts. On Sunday afternoon, guests were treated to three presentations by guild members. The first presentation was "Underground Railroad Quilts." Betty Foti told the story of how African American slaves used a quilt code to navigate the secret routes to safety. Jerrie LeBlanc and Patsy Breaux explained the meaning behind quilt blocks from the Civil War. Their speech was entitled "Civil War Quilting." Jonelle Archibald presented "Home of the Brave Quilts." She told how Acadiana quilters are honoring fallen heroes of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan by presenting homemade quilts to their families. After the program guests were treated to punch and cookies. This program was presented by the Lafayette Public Library, the Lafayette Museum, and the Quilters’ Guild Acadienne.

Warren Perrin Lecture

On March 9, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Perrin arrived at the museum in authentic 18th century Acadian attire creating quite a stir among the many attendees. The lecture on "Acadia: Then and Now, A People’s History" was a lively one with both Mr. and Mrs. Perrin participating in the presentation.

Mr. Perrin is a prominent Lafayette attorney and was one of the founders of the Acadian Museum in Erath, Louisiana. He has been past president of CODOFIL and is the foremost preservationist and historian of Acadian culture. He has published two books entitled Images of America: Iberia Parish and Images of America: Vermillion Parish. He has also published Acadian Redemption: from Beausoleil Broussard to the Queen’s Royal Proclamation. Soon to be published is Acadia Then and Now: A People’s History, compiled and edited by Warren Perrin and Mary Broussard Perrin.
To our Donors, Patrons and Friends

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

The Lafayette Museum Association wishes to thank the many friends listed below. With their generous support, our city has this repository for its historic artifacts and documents.

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Memorials

Memorial gifts to the Alexandre Mouton House have honored the memory of:

- Dr. and Mrs. Edgar P. Breaux
- Jacqueline Mouton Coussan
- Camille Johnson Foret
- Dr. James Odom
- Trula Russek
- Dr. John Straub
- Helen Boudreaux Venable

Yes! I want to be a “Friend” of the Alexandre Mouton House / Lafayette Museum at the following level:

- Friends, $35 - 99
- Special Friends, $100 - 249
- Patrons, $250 - 499
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* A donation of $500 or more includes 2 complimentary tickets to our annual Christmas Gala.

Name(s) as you would like to be listed:

[ ]

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Make check payable and mail to: Alexandre Mouton House

1122 Lafayette Street

Lafayette, Louisiana 70501

One hundred percent of your donation is tax deductible, as no goods or services are received in return for your donation.
Annual “Christmas at The Alexandre Mouton House” Party

The tradition of Christmas at the Alexandre Mouton House continued this year. It was a great success! The sights and sounds of the holiday spirit filled the air of the Lafayette Museum, which was beautifully decorated by selected local florists. Each room of the home was transformed with greenery and ornaments in celebration of the season. Tea girls passed traditional favorites such as Virginia and Fran Yongue’s Breaux Bridge hamburgers and Clarice Burch’s bacon sandwiches. In addition to the delicious and varied homemade food prepared by our members, guests enjoyed entertainment by Patsy Bienvenu under a welcoming tent in the backyard. A popular new addition at the bar was Old Fashioned cocktails prepared to perfection. Old friends met new ones and all shared the common goal of supporting Lafayette’s Alexandre Mouton House. Everyone went home with wonderful memories of an enjoyable holiday evening.

Thank You!
The Lafayette Museum Association sincerely thanks the following for their help with the Museum Christmas Party.

Florists:
A Flower Loft
Fabian’s for Flowers
The Gardenaire
Theresa Guidry and Mark Blanc
Kim Veillon—It’s a Wrap
Ted Viator & Associates

Sponsors:
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