The cemeteries of Louisiana are a significant part of the state’s history. They tell the story of those who laid the foundation for Louisiana as it exists today. A visit to Locust Grove State Commemorative Area provides an illustration of the small family cemeteries which were a part of most plantations. Several generations of family members are buried here. Strolling through the historic graves encourages reflection on the courage, determination and dedication of the early settlers in Louisiana.

**Locust Grove State Commemorative Area**

The small site at Locust Grove, with only 27 plots, represents an era in Louisiana's romantic history. The cemetery is all that remains of what was once Locust Grove Plantation, owned by the family of Jefferson Davis’ sister, Mrs. Anna E. Davis Smith. In the summer of 1835, the future Confederate president brought Sarah Knox Taylor Davis, his wife of only three months, to the plantation for a visit. Both contracted malaria, and Mrs. Davis, the daughter of General Zachary Taylor, died at the age of 21. Her grave is situated among those of the other Davis family members.

Buried near Sarah Davis is Brigadier General Eleazor W. Ripley, a veteran of the War of 1812.
State Commemorative Area

A native of New Hampshire, General Ripley distinguished himself in the 1813 campaigns in upper New York. He resigned from the army in 1820 to relocate to New Orleans and establish a law practice. After moving to West Feliciana Parish, he was elected to the State Legislature and then to Congress, where he served from 1835 until his death in 1839 at the age of 54.

The cemetery was deeded to the Office of State Parks in 1937 by the heirs of Mrs. Anna E. Davis Smith.

Special Programs

Several times a year, special events and programs take place at Locust Grove. For example, genealogists and preservationists will enjoy grave-rubbing demonstrations and instruction. Veterans may wish to take part in memorial ceremonies scheduled during the year.

Contact Audubon State Commemorative Area, near St. Francisville, for details.
Nearby Attractions:

**Audubon State Commemorative Area**  
(South of St. Francisville on LA 965)—The nearly-200-year-old Oakley House is where John James Audubon drew inspiration and sketched many of the birds found in his famous *Birds of America*. The visitor may tour the house-turned-museum, formal gardens, an outside kitchen building and barns, walk the trails and enjoy a picnic lunch at the large pavilion nearby.

**Centenary State Commemorative Area**  
(East College and Pine Street in Jackson)—This is the former site of Centenary College. Visitors may tour the old West Wing dormitory or a professor's cottage and learn about the history of education in Louisiana. A Confederate cemetery is located on the grounds.

**Port Hudson State Commemorative Area**  
(US 61, 30 minutes north of Baton Rouge)—This 909-acre site encompasses part of the Port Hudson Battlefield Civil War Site. Featured are six miles of hiking trails, 1½ miles of trenches, a museum and interpretive programs. Fort Desperate, a primary Confederate position, is accessible by a concrete walkway and elevated wooden boardwalks.

**Tunica Hills Wildlife Management Area**  
(14 miles northwest of St. Francisville on LA 66)—Day-hiking, wildlife viewing, birding and hunting (in season) are featured across 3,366 acres of rugged hills, bluffs and ravines.

**Historic Town of St. Francisville**  
(North of Baton Rouge on US 61)—The Historic District includes 140 structures encompassing churches, antebellum homes, townhomes, cemeteries, and dozens of antique and gift shops.

**Historic Town of Jackson**  
(North of St. Francisville on LA 10)—The Historic District covers two-thirds of the town and features more than 120 structures including banks, shops, homes, churches and warehouses.

**Historic Town of Clinton**  
(North of Baton Rouge via LA 67)—The town is known for its historic architecture, including Lawyers Row, the East Feliciana Parish Courthouse, and charming Victorian and antebellum homes.

**LA Scenic Bayou Byway**  
The Byway in this area takes you through some of the historic "Florida" parishes in English Louisiana known for the British influence in their architecture and cultural traditions. Follow US 61 and historic LA 10 (once known as the Choctaw Trail) to quaint historic towns, charming bed and breakfasts, country drives, profuse native wildflowers in season, excellent birding, cycling and interesting antique shops.

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Locust Grove State Commemorative Area
(P.O. Box 546, St. Francisville, LA 70775
504-635-3739 or 1-888-677-2838) is located four and a half miles northeast of St. Francisville in West Feliciana Parish, one mile north of Louisiana Highway 10 and west of US Highway 61. According to the deed of the property, members of the family may still be buried here. The most recent interment was in 1982. There is no staff on the site, but further information is available at Audubon State Commemorative Area.