

D.A. VARNADO STORE
MUSEUM
936 PEARL STREET
P.O. BOX184
FRANKLINTON, LA 70438

D.A. VARNADO STORE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

September 2023 through August 2024



It's easy to believe in angels when you see kind-hearted and dedicated volunteers, being a great example to all of us.

The Board Members of the D.A. Varnado Store Museum want you to know just how appreciated all of you are for volunteering! We wish to recognize the following clubs who selflessly donated their time and energy to our museum:

Quilters Club

Shasta Club

Waverley Club

Franklinton Garden Club

Winbury Club

Rotary Club

Winterset Club



Various Volunteers

YOU ARE ALL SO APPRECIATED!

Individuals, clubs, police, fireman, teachers, and students have given tirelessly to assisting our museum in various ways. The Board Members of the D.A. Varnado Store Museum would like to say, **"THANK YOU!"**. We value your time and effort given to us at the Museum. We welcome anyone who would like to give some of their time to us in various ways as a volunteer. If you know of a group, individual or club who would like to Host at the Museum, please let us know. The museum is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m. till 4p.m.



If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mary Jo Poole at Leader Printing or at home by calling (985) 839-2261 for more information.

Our non-profit organization depends on memberships, donations, and

fundraisers to meet our usual expenses of operation in maintaining the museum while helping to preserve our history in Washington Parish for now and future generations. We are asking those of you who are members, to assist in letting others know of our foundation in hopes of obtaining new members. Attached to your newsletter is a 2024 Membership Application. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so at your earliest convenience.



EXHIBIT NEWS

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

"The History of the Washington Parish Fair"

The Washington Parish Fair exhibit features a large gathering of various fair posters, past photographs of the parish fair, catalogs, historic fair documents, daily programs that

includes information regarding the playground, down by the Branch, and the Main Stage, the Mile Branch Settlement catalogs and much more.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Our Annual Membership Meeting will be on September 24, 2023, at 2 p.m., held in the Museum's Annex. Your voice on the future of the Museum is of great importance. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER



"Holiday Time"

The **Holiday Time** exhibit will cover all the holidays that fall between Thanksgiving and the New Year. This exhibit will feature Christmas Village, tableware, China, old toys, decorations, and games, Santa Figures,

an old-fashioned Christmas tree, collections of nutcrackers, angels, and nativities. New Year's Eve party materials and items about Hanukah, Kwanza and other holidays will be exhibited.

"Museum's Christmas Festival"

The Museum's biggest fund-raiser of the year is the **Christmas Festival**, held on the first weekend of December, in the Commercial Building at the Fairgrounds. This festival is held in conjunction with the Pioneer Christmas, Christmas Parade, a Dixie Stampede, etc. There will be art, crafts, food, visits with Santa (you take your own pictures, but would appreciate a



donation), raffles, and entertainment.

"Teddy Bear Tea"

Teddy Bear Tea is a fun event held in the Museum Annex for youngsters ages 4 to 10. We celebrate with Christmas Carols, visit with Santa, gifts for mom

and dad for each guest and other goodies. The Teddy Bear Tea will be held on the weekend following the Christmas Festival. Due to limited seating, please make sure you call Mary Jo Poole at (985) 839-2261 and reserve your seat.

January - February



"Quilts Old and New"

We have a wonderful display of "Quilts Old and New". Quilts that date as far back as the turn of the 19th century. An amazing sight to see the craftsmanship of the past in comparison to the newer techniques.

Quilt Seminar

The quilt seminar is usually held at the end of February (date to be determined). There will be an

announcement on our website and on Facebook with the dates, time, and contact information. The seating is limited so reserve your spot as soon as possible.

Should you have any questions regarding the seminar, you can reach Jackie Smith at (985)839-9756.

March - April



"Student Art Show and Sale"

Washington Parish Schools' (home schools, private schools, and public schools) art students participated this year in the largest number of art pieces we have ever had to exhibit. Many students sell their wonderful art pieces. Our participation with the art exhibit, is strictly by donations provided by businesses and the public. All money donated to the Student Art goes directly to the school's art department

and the student's placement voted upon.

The student's art is viewed by an independent artist from another parish. There are three levels of the art exhibited and voted on which is K thru 5th, 6th thru 8th, 9th thru 12th. The artist will give placement in each level as follows: 1st, 2nd, or 3rd placement, Honorable Mention, Best of Show and Viewer's Choice winners. This exhibit is a must see. Wonderfully talented students and teachers!

May - June



"Salute to the Military"

In accordance with Memorial Day, we celebrate those who have served and have paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives for our country with a Memorial Day program.

Continuing with the memory of history



as well as our military exhibit in the museum, we have Civil War Reenactors as well as WWI and WWII displays and character presentations in the Museum Annex as well in the green space behind the annex building. These reenactors are opened for Q&A.

July - August

TO BE ANNOUNCED

RENTAL OF ANNEX

Information regarding events or annex rentals, contact the Museum at (985)795-0680 during our business hours. on Saturday, 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. and on Sunday, 1 p.m. till 4 p.m. Thank you!

A LIL TASTE OF HOME

Charlene's Tartar Sauce

- 1 cup mayonnaise
 - 1 ½ tablespoon dill pickle relish
 - 2 tablespoons finely chopped.
sweet onion
 - 1 teaspoon Worchester sauce
 - 1 teaspoon finely chopped capers
- Mix, then chill.

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

Our mission for the D.A. Varnado Museum is the preservation and promoting of our heritage in Washington Parish History now and for future generations. We strive toward our goals of serving as an educational resource in the preservation and promoting of the cultural heritage of our area and displaying exhibits which change every two months.

Our building is on the U. S. National Register of Historic Places since 2001. We are very fortunate to have maintained the building until now. As you are all aware, our museum remains opened because of the kind donations of visitors along with memberships and fund raisers. The monies, up until now,

that are collected through the kind donations, are dedicated to the yearly care, operation, and maintenance of the Museum. We are now in dire need of restorations from the wear and tear throughout the 115 years or so that the building has been in existence. In maintaining its registry on the U. S. National Register of Historic Places, the restorations to the building must be done in the same way housing / buildings were done in the days of the past. With that in mind, we are requesting donations of any amount towards preserving and restoring the many big repair expenses. Should you decide to help in this restoration, enclosed you will find a donation form. Your tax-deductible donation is greatly appreciated.

A TID BIT OF HISTORY

HOW DID THE UNITED STATES GET OUR
PRESENT CONSTITUTION?

Not as easy as it sounds, Thomas Jefferson didn't just happen to sit down with nothing to do and say, "I'll think I'll write up a constitution for this new country". At the time of the writing of the United States Constitution, Jefferson was in France serving as the American Ambassador. (Sally Hemings was also there with him.)

The idea of self-governing was unheard of at that time (1783). There was hard fought American

independence, but the leaders of the Thirteen Original States didn't know what to do next. The English king had been defeated. Now what?

The Thirteen Original States were: Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Rhode Island, and North Carolina.

There were few legal documents written giving authority to anyone other than the king. (Divine Rights of Kings.) Several ideas of self-governing documents existed. All were directed to certain groups, specifically for noblemen that allowed them any kind of rights or privileges. All such documents excluded women, free men of color, yeoman farmers, slaves, indentured servants, or convicted criminals.

Legal documents such as the Magna Carta (1215) or the Mayflower Compact (1620) were types of governing documents, Government leaders (circa 1780's) did not have access to these types of agreements.. The first self-governing legal document used as a constitution was the Articles of Confederation, an agreement composed by the Founding Fathers established as a type of national government. The Articles of Confederation established a loose association of the states.

Main Points:

- Officially gave a name to the group of states, became known internationally as the United States of America.
- Each state retained its own sovereignty.
- The union of combined states were responsible for helping to protect other states from attack.

The Articles of Confederation failed as a national constitution because it was crafted to keep national government as weak as possible (No king or president or priest could interfere.) There was no strong central government; no power to enforce laws no judicial branch for settling legal/criminal disputes, no national court system, any changes, or amendments to the Articles required a unanimous vote by all states to be enacted into law. The Articles of Confederation created a loose confederacy of sovereign states with a weak central government, leaving most authority with each sovereign state.

Governmental leaders began to realize just how unworkable and weak the Articles of Confederation style of constitution was. In the summer months circa 1783, after limping along with this arrangement for a time, a group of state leaders decided to eliminate the Articles of Confederation and call all the states to send representatives for a "Constitutional Convention". This time in history was a constitutional crisis. A strong central government with a strong constitution was again in itself a revolutionary concept! Reasons why this style of constitution was so dynamic: A) This written legal document to be called a Constitution was an absolute first, this was the era of Divine Right of Kings, and any/all governmental power and authority was meant only for the first-born son of a king. So, if your father was not a king you were fat out of luck! Even the second born son or any of the daughters were not accorded any power or authority.

So, it was decided to change the style of government in these newly independent states

calling itself an independent sovereign nation. So now in the summer circa 1783, there were 55 delegates sent by each sovereign state. Of these, 39 delegates signed the completed document. Rhode Island did not send delegates.

There were many disputes, disagreements, arguments, maybe even a few fistfights and duels at dawn to formulate our present Constitution. During this summer of anger, heat, and determination four delegates from each state (excluding Rhode Island) assembled and argued and debated. A committee then took all the paperwork and decisions and wrote down in a legal format all the work that had been created. The main goals of the newly created Constitution:

- Form a more perfect union.
- Establish justice.
- Ensure domestic tranquility.
- Provide for the common defense.
- Promote the general welfare.
- Secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity....

"Do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Governmental leaders, such as James Madison, Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, Gouverneur Morris, Elbridge Gerry, John Adams, and many others gathered and agreed to what they thought as the final document. But there was a dissension and refusal to agree on this document. One of the reasons for the dissent was over rights between the small states: Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Delaware, and the other small states and the large states: Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and the Carolinas. Small states thought they would be overrun and

shoved aside, that their rights would be disregarded and the large states with bigger populations and larger income would have too much power. Therefore, the small states refused to sign and ratify the new constitution. A tentative compromise, a legal document written to outline what authority was allowed to the large population states but also took into consideration the governing powers of the small states the Bill of Rights which guaranteed certain powers and authority to the states. Included on the Bill of Rights were freedom of religion, speech, freedom of the press, right to assembly, and right to petition. There was the right to trial by jury in civil cases, freedom from excessive bail, cruel or unusual punishment, other rights of the people (one man, one vote), and certain powers reserved to the states (state militia). Other rights guaranteed to all people: right to bear arms, protection from the national military from housing soldiers in civilian homes, and freedom from unreasonable search and seizure. Remember, "We the people" did not include women, yeoman farmers, slaves and indentured servants, free people of color, or anyone that was anything less than free white male property owners over the age of 21.

The small states accepted and signed the Constitution with the completed Bill of Rights because it provided for a republican (representative) style of government in which the political power rests with the public and their duly elected representatives. They are governed by a political ideology centered on citizenship in a state organized as a republic. The United States government provides for a federal constitutional republic with majority rule, absence of monarchy, a rule of law.

After the Constitution was accepted and ratified, a copy was sent to each state and to the District of Columbia, handwritten by William Lambert and Benjamin Bankston.

Our Constitution does not have the words "democracy" or "God" written in it. Our form of government is a Republic with duly elected governmental representatives, separation of church and state, and individually written powers and rights of each state.

Research and presentation done by:
Beth Bankston

Time of operation:
Saturday 10 a.m. till 4 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. till 4 p.m.
(Subject to close on various holidays)

PHONE #985-795-0680

EMAIL:

VARNADOSTOREMUSEUM@YAHOO.COM
Subject

WEB:

WWW.DAVARNADOSTOREMUSEUM.CO

FACEBOOK:

THE VARNADO STORE MUSEUM