



BATISTE • LAVALAIS • SAMPSON FAMILY REUNION NEWSLETTER

[www.blsfamilyreunion.com](http://www.blsfamilyreunion.com)

**\*\*\* LATE EDITION\*\*\***

**BLS IS HEADED FOR AVOYELLES PARISH  
MANSURA, LOUISIANA  
JULY 20 – 22, 2018**

***ENJOY PERPETUAL SEASONS OF PEACE, PROSPERITY AND PURPOSE***

*...THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S HOPE FOR THE BLS FAMILY IN THIS 2017 SEASON AND BEYOND...*



*Thank you Rosa "Von" Millang and Lorisa Christian for  
designing the 2018 BLS Family Reunion Logo*

**FAMILY MEMBERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS. NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE FOR REDUCED RATES FOR THE PARAGON CASINO RESORT INN AND THE HAMPTON INN; MARKSVILLE, LOUISIANA. HOTEL REGISTRATION INFORMATION WILL BE IN THE JANUARY 2018 ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER.**

THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER INCLUDES A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE REUNION CHAIR, ROSA "VON" MILLANG, COSTS OF REUNION REGISTRATION AND T-SHIRTS, AND THE REGISTRATION FORM. FUTURE NEWSLETTERS WILL COVER AMENITIES OFFERED AT THE PARAGON AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE FAMILY REUNION.

**THE 2018 REUNION COMMITTEE** - ROSA "VON" MILLANGE, CHAIR - [RVMILLANG@AOL.COM](mailto:RVMILLANG@AOL.COM)  
SHARON LOGON, ADVISOR - [PASTORSHARON@ACTSCC.ORG](mailto:PASTORSHARON@ACTSCC.ORG) ; VICTORIA BULLARD - [GVBULLARD@YAHOO.COM](mailto:GVBULLARD@YAHOO.COM) ;  
LORISA CHRISTIAN - [LMILLANG@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LMILLANG@GMAIL.COM) ; JACQUE EVANS HAILES - [SUNNYEE53@YAHOO.COM](mailto:SUNNYEE53@YAHOO.COM) ;  
ALLYSON LAVALAIS - [ALLAVALAIS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ALLAVALAIS@GMAIL.COM) ; GWEN PATRICK - [GWENPATRICK7@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GWENPATRICK7@GMAIL.COM) ;  
RILEY AUSTIN-ROCHESTER - [RATHERESARO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RATHERESARO@GMAIL.COM) ; LORRAINE SAMPSON - [LORSAM777@YAHOO.COM](mailto:LORSAM777@YAHOO.COM)

**WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:** PATRICK "PAT" BATISTE REMINDS US TO TIMELY OBTAIN PASSPORTS FOR THE 2020 FAMILY REUNION. CONTACT PAT FOR HELP AT (323) [839-1310](tel:839-1310) OR [PATJULESBATISTE@YAHOO.COM](mailto:PATJULESBATISTE@YAHOO.COM)

**THANK YOU LINDA FELDER FOR SPONSORING THIS BLS NEWSLETTER!**

**BUILDING FAMILY, CELEBRATING HERITAGE**

© BLS Reunion Committee (No part of this publication may be copied/reproduced without express written consent)

## CONTINUING CONNECTIONS -----by 2018 Reunion Chair, ROSA "VON" MILLANG

"INDIVIDUALS ARE CONSISTENTLY CRAVING FOR IDENTITY AND DISTINCT TRAITS THAT ALLOWS THEM TO STAND OUT AND BE UNIQUE. MANY OF US SEEM TO FORGET THAT CULTURAL ROOTS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF UNIQUENESS. KNOWING WHERE YOU CAME FROM, TRADITIONS, AND CUSTOMS CREATE THE ROOT OF FINDING OURSELVES. CULTURE PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SHAPING OUR PRINCIPLES AND MORALS. CULTURE IS WHAT TIES A COMMUNITY TOGETHER AND MAKES ITS DISTINCTIVE." BY AISHA SARVANA

**I AM GETTING MORE AND MORE EXCITED** about our 2018 BLS Family Reunion. In part because of the excitement and sense of community I have experienced attending past reunions. I always leave feeling like I entered a unique community driven by our culture, ethnic diversity and sense of traditions.

Arguably, at no time in history has a Nation's history begun on the foundation of such cultural diversity of governments, global regions, histories, cultures, and religions as there were in the Americas. That same diversity dominated the early history of the territory of Louisiana when once it was considered America's melting pot. Avoyelles Parish, Mansura and other surrounding areas, and the Batiste Lavalais Sampson (BLS) descendants will always be one microcosm that reflects that cultural diversity. Our BLS reunions remind us that we are connected to nearly everyone in Mansura, and by extension to the world.

**THERE'S A UNIQUE IDENTITY!** Everyone who seeks to retrace our ancestral roots find that we are traditionally descendants of the indigenous, the Spanish, the European, the African, the French/French-Canadian, and the Nordic. It's why our 2018 Reunion Committee has had animated discussions around connecting our legacy to our future. Cultural diversity is our DNA. The BLS Reunions give us pause to understand that our shared cultural diversity is the result of centuries or perhaps millenniums of generational assimilation of traditions and customs.

Our ancestors were descendants of indigenous peoples of the bayou lands surrounding the Red and Mississippi Rivers. When the Spanish came we assimilated. When the French ruled our people assimilated and spoke French (patois). When the English purchased the territory our ancestors learned to speak English. Having a second language was often common when America had an influx of immigrants and many held on to their language and culture and passed it on. We did not. But just think, our ancestors spoke the languages of the indigenous, the Spanish, African tribes (of which there were many), French Canadian, and probably others. Unfortunately, later generations continued assimilation, but preserving the language(s) of cultural diversity was not a priority. Speaking a second language was really no big deal! But we do maintain many of the customs. During reunions we share the same family jokes, festive meals, wives-tales, and common expressions arising out of our multicultural traditions. We've heard the same stories about the same people even though we reside everywhere on the globe.

**THAT'S OUR FAMILY IDENTITY!** Our identity is based on phenomenal assimilated cultural diversity. Reunions help us preserve it for future generations. And so, I urge family, especially our younger generation, to attend the 2018 Reunion. Come and see where our cultural diversity all began. You'll meet the elders and make friends with cousins from all over the world.

A summary of scheduled activities for the 2018 Reunion Activities follows. Look for the complete calendar of events in coming issues of the Newsletter. Remember to visit [www.blsfamilyreunion.com](http://www.blsfamilyreunion.com) for real time information about the reunion or you can contact a BLS committee member if you have questions.

2018 DATE	PLACE	ACTIVITY
Friday, July 20	Paragon Casino	Hospitality & Registration
Saturday, July 21	Paragon Casino	Dinner, Dance and Talent Show
Sunday, July 22	Paragon Casino	Farewell Breakfast

**VOLUNTEERS ARE ENCOURAGED**

HELP WITH SPECIAL EVENTS. SPONSOR THE COST OF NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION OR MAILING. CHAIR OR PARTICIPATE IN PLANNING A FUTURE REUNION. WORK IN FURTHERANCE OF THE NONPROFIT. RESEARCH OUR LINEAGE. WRITE NEWS ARTICLES ABOUT YOU, FAMILY/ANCESTORS, AND AVOYELLES HISTORY.

**WIN PRIZES DURING THE FAMILY REUNION**

BY JANUARY 15, 2018, COMPLETE AND MAIL YOUR FAMILY REGISTRATION WITH MINIMUM DEPOSIT OF \$65;  
OR REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE AT [WWW.BLSFAMILYREUNION.COM](http://WWW.BLSFAMILYREUNION.COM).  
PRIZES INCLUDE: \$129 PARAGON ROOM ACCOMMODATION, AND \$65 OR \$50 GIFT CARDS

**BUILDING FAMILY, CELEBRATING HERITAGE**

© BLS Reunion Committee (No part of this publication may be copied/reproduced without express written consent)

**2018 BLS FAMILY REUNION REGISTRATION FORM**

**PAYMENT CAN BE BY: CHECK, MONEY ORDER  
OR CASHIER'S CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO  
ROSA MILLANG, WITH BLS IN THE MEMO**

**MAIL REGISTRATION AND CHECK TO:  
ROSA MILLANG, BLS,  
P O BOX 182, ACTON, CA 93510**

**REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT MAY ALSO BE MADE ONLINE AT WWW. BLS FAMILY REUNION.COM**

**I. FAMILY MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION**

<b>NAME</b>	
<b>ADDRESS</b>	
<b>CITY, STATE, ZIP</b>	
<b>HOME/CELL PHONE</b>	
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>	
Provide names of your oldest known matriarch (M) and Patriarch (P)	BATISTE _____ (M) _____ (P) LAVALAIS _____ (M) _____ (P) SAMPSON _____ (M) _____ (P)

**II. PAYMENT OPTIONS: (1)NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT FEE (2) FULL OR INCREMENTAL PAYMENT**

**A NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF \$65 PER FAMILY MUST BE PAID BY JANUARY 15, 2018.  
A FAMILY'S TOTAL REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE OFFSET BY THIS DEPOSIT.**

FULL PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION FEES AND T-SHIRT ORDERS MAY BE MADE AT ANYTIME BUT NOT LATER THAN 05/31/2016

INCREMENTAL PAYMENT FOR REGISTRATION FEES AND T-SHIRT ORDERS CAN BE MADE BEGINNING JANUARY 31, 2016, BUT MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY 05/31/2016

**PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE - TO BE OFFSET BY FUNDRAISERS:  
Age 11 and above \$100. Age 10 and under \$75.**

NAME OF FAMILY MEMBER	AGE	FULL OR PARTIAL PAYMENT AMOUNT
INSERT \$65 DEPOSIT/FAMILY, OR TOTAL OF FULL OR PARTIAL PAYMENT		

**III. T-SHIRT ORDERS**

**A. YOUTH PRICE: S/M/L - \$11 B. ADULT PRICE: S/M/ L/XL - \$13 C. 2X L/3X L - \$15 D. 4XL/5XL - \$16**

NAME	SIZE	AMOUNT PAID
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE FOR ALL T-SHIRTS ORDERED		

**IV. TOTAL TO BE PAID BY CHECK, MONEY ORDER, OR CASHIER'S CHECK**

TOTAL DEPOSIT/REGISTRATION FEES	\$
TOTAL T-SHIRT ORDERS	\$
GRAND TOTAL PAYABLE BY MONEY ORDER/CASHIER'S CHECK AS REQUIRED ABOVE; OR PAY ONLINE AT <a href="http://WWW.BLSFAMILYREUNION.COM">WWW.BLSFAMILYREUNION.COM</a>	\$

**BUILDING FAMILY, CELEBRATING HERITAGE**

© BLS Reunion Committee (No part of this publication may be copied/reproduced without express written consent)

HEY FAMILY, HEAD INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER AND READ CHAIRPERSON, ROSA "VON" MILLANG'S ARTICLE. TO EXPERIENCE THE SAME REACTION AS OUR COUSIN.

**"WOW! I ENJOYED READING THIS LETTER FROM OUR COORDINATOR! IT REACHED INSIDE ME AND STIRRED UP FORGOTTEN HISTORY AND PRIDE! WHAT A BLESSING THAT WE WILL RELIVE AND RECONNECT AND "RE-LOVE" WHO WE WERE, ARE, AND WILL BE!" .....Gwen Patrick**

**THE BLS NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:**

Riley Rochester - Managing Editor

Contributing Editors: Gertrude Williams and Mary Ann Lacefield



(Rosa "Von" Millang and  
Lorisa Christian designed Logo.)

BLS 2018 FAMILY REUNION  
P O BOX 182  
ACTON, CA 93510

**BUILDING FAMILY, CELEBRATING HERITAGE**

© BLS Reunion Committee (No part of this publication may be copied/reproduced without express written consent)