



BATISTE • LAVALAIS • SAMPSON FAMILY REUNION NEWSLETTER
www.blsfamilyreunion.com

**LET'S SHOWCASE BLS FAMILY TALENTS
 AT THE 2018 FAMILY REUNION
 IN AVOYELLES PARISH
 JULY 20 – 22, 2018**

Visit www.blsfamilyreunion.com for real time information or contact members of the 2018 BLS Committee

INCLUDED IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- PLANNED 2018 REUNION ACTIVITIES
 (Primary Family Reunion activities will be held at the Paragon Hotel and Casino in Marksville, Louisiana)
- REGISTRATION FORMS FOR THE TALENT SHOWCASE (PAGE 4), AND THE REUNION (PAGE 5)
- HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION
- INFORMATION ABOUT PARAGON CASINO AND LOCAL ATTRACTIONS.

HEY FAMILY:

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER FOR THE FAMILY REUNION. COMPLETE AND MAIL THE REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT BY MAY 31, OR UNTIL JUNE 30TH REGISTER AT THE BLS FAMILY REUNION WEBSITE. CONTACT CHAIR, ROSA MILLANG AFTER JUNE 30TH.

FAMILY MEMBERS ARE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR TRAVEL AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS, AND ENCOURAGED TO COMPARE MILITARY, GOVERNMENTS, AAA AND AARP RATES BEFORE MAKING RESERVATIONS

PLANNED 2018 BLS FAMILY REUNION ACTIVITIES

2018 DATE	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Friday, July 20	PM - Registration, Hospitality, Meet & Greet, Oral History, Music, Dance and Little Zydeco	PARAGON CASINO
Saturday, July 21	AM - Free Time, Possible Tour of Indian Mounds	MANSURA, MARKSVILLE, PARAGON CASINO & SURROUNDING AREA
	EARLY PM - Group Photo, Driving Tour	
	PM - Walk the Red Carpet, Dinner, Dance, Raffles, Honors, and Talent Show	PARAGON CASINO PARAGON CASINO
Sunday, July 22	FAREWELL BREAKFAST	PARAGON CASINO

WE HAVE WRITTEN CONFIRMATION: Mansura's Mayor will attend the Reunion Dinner. In addition plans are in development for a group tour of the currently under construction Train Depot & Learning Center, a museum. We're hoping for a guided tour even if the work is not yet completed in July.

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THE 2018 REUNION COMMITTEE - ROSA "VON" MILLANG, CHAIR - RVMILLANG@AOL.COM
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HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

* Rates are subject to local taxes, currently 13%.

I. FOR PARAGON HOTEL AND CASINO MENTION CODE: BLSJ20G 711 Paragon Place, Marksville LA 71351 T: (318) 253-1946 An additional \$1 Resort Fee will be assessed per room, per night.

THE PARAGON CASINO PROVIDES A SHUTTLE TO AND FROM THE CASINO 24 HOURS A DAY AND WILL PICK UP AND DROP OFF FROM HAMPTON, TERRACE INN AND THE RANCH HOUSE.

Room rates are applicable to the following dates and must be reserved with a valid Credit Card.

<u>Friday and Saturday (July 20-21)</u>	<u>Rate *</u>
Standard Guest Room	\$ 129.00
Deluxe Atrium Guest Room	\$ 237.00

\$30 will be added for a third person sharing a double room. Children 17 years and under may share the same room with parents at no additional charge. Guests will be asked to present a valid credit card or a \$50 cash deposit upon arrival in order to provide them with charge privileges during their stay.

RESERVATION PROCEDURE: Reservations are welcome by direct phone call to special group reservations at [\(800\) 642-7777](tel:8006427777) and /or fax to [\(318\) 240-6601](tel:3182406601). Refer to the Batiste, Lavalais and Sampson Reunion- BLSJ20G.

The Paragon recommends arrival after 4:00PM for check-in; checkout is 11:00AM. They will make an effort to accommodate early arrival, but there is no guarantee due to the nature of the hotel business.

A CREDIT CARD GUARANTEE: Equal to the first night's charge for each accommodation is due with each reservation request. The deposit becomes non-refundable if the guest does not arrive, or cancels less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to arrival.

RESERVATION RELEASE DATE: June 29, 2018 – All unsold rooms remaining in our block after this date will be returned to general inventory on **JUNE 29, 2018**. All reservation requests received after the June 29th are accepted on a space available basis at the discretion of the group reservations manager.

PARAGON RV PARK AND CABINS: BOOKING FOR RV PARK OR CABINS START 4 MONTHS IN ADVANCE - NO GROUP RATE

RV PARK: Over 200 spaces with casino shuttle service just a call away) **1 BEDROOM CABINS:** With Wi-Fi, kitchenette, and full bath. Limited number of 2 bedroom cabins.

A SPECIAL OFFER FROM THE PARAGON FOR REGISTERING OUR MEMBERS IN THE PLAYERS CLUB. Each member will receive a VIP Players Club Card, and when 30 points is reached \$10 of free play will be credited to the member's card. To participate please send Chairperson, Rosa 'Von' your name, address and birth date before June 29th. The 2018 BLS Committee Members may also call you.

II. FOR HAMPTON INN & SUITES MENTION CODE: BLS 6896 Hwy1 Mansura, LA 71350 T: 318-253-7576 F: 318-253-7699 Call-in # 318-253-7576 www.marksvillesuites.hamptoninn.com

Room rates are applicable to the following dates only and must be reserved with a valid Credit or Debit card.

<u>Thursday, Friday and Saturday (July 19-21)</u>	<u>Rate</u>
King	\$ 119.00
Double Queen (2 Queen Beds)	\$ 129.00
King Suite (1 King Bed & Sofa Bed)	\$139.00

CANCELLATION POLICY: To avoid a cancellation fee of the first night's room and tax reservation must be canceled by 6:00pm on 7/17/2018 Guestrooms will be held in the block until 6:00pm on 7/5/18 (if block is not already sold out). Free hot breakfast. Free high-speed and Wireless Internet; Hilton Honors points & airline miles.

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III. FOR OTHER LOCAL HOTELS - NO GROUP RATES:

TERRACE INN - 915 Tunica Dr. W, Marksville, LA 71351 T: (318) 253-6528 Queen - \$59.98 (incl. tax) King - \$78.83 (incl. tax)	RANCH HOUSE - 5406 LA-1, Marksville, LA 71352 T: 318-253-9507 Queen - \$65 (tax not incl.) King - 60 (tax not incl.)
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PARAGON CASINO AND OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS - Gaming, indoor tropical pool, spa, cinema, golf and live entertainment, Kids Quest, NEW Cyber Quest, Atrium alligator habitat and feeding show, AND stories and songs of the Tunica-Biloxi Legend-Keepers and the Tunica-Biloxi Nature Trail.

THANK YOU BONFIRES ON THE BEACH YOUTH PROGRAM

TAMICO BROWN-SIMMONS, SPONSOR OF THE APRIL NEWSLETTER!!

THANK YOU LORISA CHRISTIAN FOR THE HOME AND OFFICE ADDRESS BOOK SOFTWARE!

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

ABOUT THE 2020 BLS FAMILY REUNION: COUSIN PATRICK "PAT" BATISTE ENCOURAGES TIMELY OBTAIN PASSPORTS. FOR HELP CONTACT PAT AT (323) 839-1310 & PATJULESBATISTE@YAHOO.COM

DEADLINES TO REGISTER: REGISTER FOR THE REUNION BY MAIL UNTIL MAY 3, AND ONLINE BY JUNE 30 AT THE BLS FAMILY WEBSITE. THE REGISTRATION FORM IS ON PAGE 5.

THE BLS NEWSLETTER HEARS FROM FAMILY:* **The BLS newsletter committee values family input. Thank you for your review and comment. Our future generations are the beneficiaries.

FRED & MARY TILLMAN WROTE: "Although we will not be coming to Mansura, (the place of my birth - in my grandparents' house (Paul/Mary Victoria Lavalis Sampson), I do like to get the information...please (continue) to send me things... to keep me up to date with my "Roots." **Do not forget me!** Family calls me 'Dot' - but my name is Mary. Keep sending us things - Please keep me on the mailing list!!"

EDITOR'S REPLY: *Thank you Fred and Mary. We won't forget you! It's the sole reason why we commit our time and talents to this effort. May God continue to bless you Fred and Mary!*

VERONICA MCCUNE TEXTED: Concerned the 2018 Reunion Logo and writing style of the newsletter articles may be copyright infringements.

PARTIAL REPRINT OF EDITOR'S REPLY: *Thanks, Veronica. Your concerns are valued and always carefully considered! The 2018 BLS Committees stands by its writings and logo as unique.*

MARY ANN LACEFIELD EMAILED: That Newsletter #10 stated the English purchased Louisiana. She reminds us that Thomas Jefferson purchased it from France (led by Napoleon Bonaparte) in 1803 for \$15,000,000 USD; and added 827,000 square miles doubling the size of the United States; and included all of the states of Oklahoma, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, and parts of states of Louisiana, Texas, Minnesota, Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota, and a small piece of land that is now Canada.

PARTIAL REPRINT OF EDITOR'S REPLY: *Thank you Mary Ann. Your input is always valued. It benefits future research projects the BLS nonprofit want to engage to research and preserve the history, heritage and culture of the families of Avoyelles Parish. It is our shared commitment to tell that unique story. The reference to English was an over emphasis on the origins of the peoples represented by the purchase, the language spoken, not necessarily the country, region or person. Identifying Thomas Jefferson perhaps more accurate would have shifted away from that unique part of who we are as descendants of Avoyelles Parish. In any event: Good Catch!*

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CLARICE LEVY SENT EARLY ISSUES OF THE BLS NEWSLETTER: Did you know the first issue of the BLS Family Reunion Newsletter published September 25, 1987 under the leadership of Clarice Levy? She sent some of the early publications to share in future Newsletters.

CONTINUED PRAYER FOR RECOVERING FAMILY MEMBERS:

Jules Batiste, known as Uncle (Cousin) Jules, son of Lena and Jules Batiste, is recovering nicely from a recent stroke. He says his mobility is gradually returning.

Clabert Batiste, as Uncle (Cousin) Steve Batiste, is doing well, mobile and dancing despite some pain after treatment for cancer in his lower back. He says his goal is "To live to 101, but if God takes me before that, Praise the Lord." His birthday is July 2 and he looks forward to this year's family reunion.

REGISTER AND SEND A DIGITAL PERFORMANCE TO SHOWCASE YOUR TALENT

--WE WANT FAMILY FRIENDLY PERFORMANCES--

WE'VE GOT VOLUNTEERS! WILL YOU PARTICIPATE? Your submission is authorization for non-compensated performance and inclusion in the 2018 BLS Family Reunion DVD.

SEND THE FOLLOWING AND DIGITAL PERFORMANCE TO THE BLS TALENT SHOW COMMITTEE AT:
 RILEY AUSTIN-ROCHESTER - RTHRESARO@GMAIL.COM OR LORISA CHRISTIAN - LMILLANG@GMAIL.COM

OR BY MAIL: TALENT SHOW COMMITTEE, BLS 2018 FAMILY REUNION, P O BOX 182 ACTON, CA 93510;
 OR TELL US AT THE BLS WEBSITE INCLUDING THE MEANS TO CONTACT YOU.

Describe your talent(s) briefly: All genres welcomed, visual and performing.

YOUR NAME: _____	INSPIRED BY: (Name & relationship e.g. mom, dad, cousin, ancestor(s), or other	AMATEUR OR PROFESSIONAL SPECIALIZATION : (TYPE OF INSTRUMENT OR SPECIALIZED PERFORMANCE e.g. drums, piano, blues, jazz, praise singer/dancer...	SUBMITTED FOR: . DVD, and . 2018 REUNION . 2020 REUNION (INCLUDE ALL APPLICABLE)
YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION: _____ IDENTIFY YOUR TALENT BELOW (Circle All Applicable)			
INSTRUMENT			
SINGER			
DANCER			
CHEERLEADER			
SPOKEN WORD			
STORYTELLING			
PAINTER			
ACTOR			
COMEDIAN			
CARTOONIST			
OTHER (DESCRIBE BRIEFLY			

CONTINUING CONNECTIONS: A LOOK BACK

BLS NEWSLETTER REPRINTS PRESERVE FAMILY IDENTITY AND CELEBRATE HERITAGE

"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.." By Aisha Sarvana
A PARTIAL REPRINT FROM JANUARY 2018 BLS NEWSLETTER ARTICLE BY ROSA "VON" MILLANG

**JOHN BATISTE SENT THE 2018 REUNION COMMITTEE A PICTURE OF THE FAMILY CREST.
 - WATCH FOR IT IN FUTURE ISSUES OF THE BLS NEWSLETTER -**

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2018 BLS FAMILY REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

**UNTIL MAY 31, SEND CHECK, MONEY ORDER
OR CASHIER'S CHECK PAYABLE TO ROSA
MILLANG, WITH BLS IN THE MEMO**

**MAIL THIS FORM AND PAYMENT TO:
ROSA MILLANG, BLS,
P O BOX 182, ACTON, CA 93510**

REGISTRATION AND PAY UNTIL JUNE 30 ONLINE AT WWW.BLSFAMILYREUNION.COM

I. FAMILY MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

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

II. PAYMENT OPTIONS: FULL PAYMENT BY MAIL OR AT BLS WEBSITE

AFTER MAY 31, FULL PAYMENT ONLY, NO DEPOSIT OR PARTIAL PAYMENT ACCEPTED.

FULL PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION FEES AND T-SHIRT ORDERS ARE PAYABLE BY MAIL NOT LATER THAN 05/31/2018 OR BY JUNE 30TH AT THE BLS WEBSITE

INCREMENTAL PAYMENT FOR REGISTRATION FEES AND T-SHIRT ORDERS MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY MAIL NOT LATER THAN MAY 31ST, OR BY JUNE 30TH AT THE BLS WEBSITE. CONTACT ROSA MILLANG AFTER JUNE 30TH.

PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE:

Age 11 and above \$100.

Age 10 and under \$75.

NAME OF FAMILY MEMBER	AGE	REGISTRATION FEE
TOTAL REGISTRATION FEES		

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 PAID (FOR ALL T-SHIRTS ORDERED)		

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

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEES	\$
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID (FOR ALL T-SHIRT ORDERS)	\$
GRAND TOTAL PAYABLE BY CHECK,/MONEY ORDER/CASHIER'S CHECK ; OR PAY ONLINE AT WWW.BLSFAMILYREUNION.COM	\$

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THE BLS NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:*

Riley Rochester - Managing Editor & Lorisa Christian - Assistant Managing Editor

Contributing Editors: Gertrude Williams and Mary Ann Lacefield

DON'T FORGET YOU CAN HELP: With Special Events; Offset the cost of the Newsletter Publication or Mailing; Chair or participate in planning future Reunions; Volunteer for the BLS Nonprofit; Research our lineage; Write news articles about the Family/Ancestors, and Avoyelles History.



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

BLS 2018 FAMILY REUNION
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