The Tiles That Bind:
Mosaic Family Shields
in the Eternal Flame Garden

Genealogy Workshop
January 30, 2013
Tiles That Bind, 2003-2009

In support of the Acadian Memorial’s Mission to memorialize the nearly 3,000 Acadians who found refuge in Louisiana, the Mosaic Family Shields represent family names, their history, and genealogy of Acadian settlers.

Currently, there are 37 mosaic shields.
Why Family Shield?

**Visual Symbolism**
- Identification
- Achievements
- Geography
- Occupation
- Religion
- Politics
- Culture

**Historical Significance**
- Ancestral ties
- Significant Characters
- Region of Origin
- Legacy
- Faith
- Service
- Endurance
Family Names

Arceneaux
Babineaux
Benoit
Bernard
Blanchard
Boudreaux
Bourque
Breaux
Broussard
Comeaux
Cormier
Daigle
Doiron

Dugas
Duhon
Dupuis
Granger
Guédry
Guilbeau
Guillott
Hebert
Landry
LeBlanc
Leger
LeJeune
Louviere

Martin
Mouton
Poirier
Richard
Roy
Savoie
Sonnier
Theriot
Thibodeaux
Trahan
Vincent
Top Center Plaques:
First Elected Acadian Louisiana Governor, Alexandre Mouton
First Female Acadian Governor, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Bottom left & right, around flame: symbolism in scrollwork & trees frame crests
What is a Family “Shield”? 

coat-of-arms 
heraldry 
insignia 

armorial 
genealogy 

family badge 
crest 
shield 
blazon
Heraldry

The profession or art of creating, granting, and blazoning of arms and ruling on questions of rank and protocol. Developed out of the need to identify participants in combat, especially after the development of steel/iron armor and helmets that hid faces and other identifying features.
Scottish Mottos

Crest (personal badge)
Helm (nobility rank)
Coronet (royalty rank)
Supporters (local animals)

Shield
Field (background)
Colors & Metals
Ordinary (shapes)
Charges (symbols)

Order (ex: DAR/SAR)
Motto
Field or Background

Metals
- Or
- Argent
- Gules
- Azure
- Vert
- Sable
- Purpure

Colors

Furs
- Ermine

Vair
Ordinaries

- chevron
- saltire
- cross
- pale
- chief
- fess
- bend
Charges or Symbols
Doiron

**Origin:** Rietstap Armorial General

**Blazon:** Silver; three red roses, stemmed and leaved green, two and one.

**Description:** The arms are of Jacques d'Oiron (1555), baron of Ajain, France, who was said to have been originally of Oiron in Poitou, France. There is a connection between the families of Jean Doiron of Port Royal, Canada and a descendant of Jacques d'Oiron.
Trahan

Origin: Rietstap Armorial General

Symbolism: With a right arm of silver issuing from a cloud of the same color, holding three golden laurel branches and accompanied at the upper third by two golden stars. Azure: Like the clear blue sky. This color represents perfection, and symbolizes aspiring towards a high ideal in victory and success. Silver Right Arm: Refers to the army; stands for honor in duty. Laurels: Since ancient times, the laurel has been a tribute to the victorious, the triumphant, and the glorious. It is the symbol of immortality because it remains green through the rigors of winter. In symbolic language, it signifies favor and consideration. The Romans crowned their victorious generals with it at celebrations of triumphs. In addition to being awarded for military feats, it was also given in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in peace. Gold: A symbol of generosity and glory. It stands for strength, depth of spirit, of faith, of purity, and of steadfastness. Also denotes love and wisdom. Stars: Since long ago, stars have been the symbol of hope. They represent the ideal that every man must forget himself in life and towards which he must strive. They also symbolize night and eternity.
Origin: Canadian Heraldic Authority

Symbolism: The daisy - a "marguerite" in French, alludes to the Christian name of the wife of the first Babineau settler, Marie-Marguerite Granger, born around 1668, who married Nicolas Babineau dit Deslauriers (ca 1653-1723), around 1689. His surname, which translates literally as "laurels", is illustrated by branches of laurels. Thus, both first ancestors are commemorated on the shield. The founding family is further enhanced by the fact that both the daisy and the laurel branches are joined together. The pioneer couple appears on the 1693 census of Acadia at Pentagouët (Castine, Maine). The couple later moved to the Dauphin River (now the Annapolis River) at Port-Royal (now Annapolis Royal in Nova Scotia). The chief (top potion of the shield depicting the National flag of the Acadians) is a first from the Canadian Heraldic Authority. It reproduces the Acadian flag adopted by the second Acadian National Convention held at Miscouche, Prince Edward Island, in 1884. Msgr. Marcel-François Richard was its most ardent proponent and the prototype of the flag, now preserved in the Musée Acadien of the Université de Moncton, was sewn by Mrs. Alphée Belliveau, née Marie Babineau. The gold star, called a mullet in English heraldry, is the "Star of the Sea", a symbol of Hope, and a principal symbol of Our Lady of the Assumption, patron saint of Acadia, chosen as such at the first Acadian National Convention, at Memramcook, in 1881. The helmet alludes to Nicolas Babineau dit Deslauriers' service as a soldier under Jean-Vincent d'Abbadie, Baron de Saint-Castin. The apples and windmill are taken from the coat of arms borne by the civic community of Soudan, in the Vienne Department of France, where Joseph Babineau, father to Nicolas, lived. His wife was Louise Bordage.
**Savoie**

**Symbolism:** The Shield: It suggests the family name by conserving the red color and the white cross of the coat of arms of the royal house of Savoie, which is also the shield of the Savoie region (Department of Savoie in la Haute-Savoie) granted to France by the treaty of Turin in 1860. The golden star is the symbol that represents Acadia. The Plow represents the profession of farmers of the first Savoie in Acadia, Francois Savoie, born in France around 1621, arrived in Acadia before 1651, year of his marriage to Catherine LeJeune. Settled in Port Royal, Francois Savoie is registered as a farmer in the 1671 census having six acres of cleared land and four livestock. The Jerusalem Artichoke symbolizes both the meeting and the integration of the European French culture and that of the American Indian. It represents the meeting of the New and the Old world and the adaptation of the first settlers in their new environment. The Jerusalem artichoke is an indigenous plant which served both as food for human consumption and for livestock. The lily flower is the appropriate symbol to recall the French and Acadian origin of the Savoie family. It was the emblem of the French royal family. The lily Flower was found everywhere in Acadia. They first appeared in 1583, on a coat of arms of cardinal Charles de Bourbon, archbishop of Rouen, and uncle of Henry IV. It had been suspended on a tree at the entrance to Minas Basin in the Bay of Fundy. The coat of arms of France, a blue seal with three Lily Flowers had been engraved in stone at Port-Royal in 1613. There are several other examples of the royal Lily Flower in Acadia during the French Regime. The Latin motto FRUCTUS EX FLORIBUS translates into The Fruit follows the Flower. It symbolizes the descendants of the pioneer couple.
Dugas

**Origin:** Reistap Armorial General, modified for this project by a group of Louisiana Dugas who are descendants of Abraham Dugas

**Symbolism:** Dugas Coat of Arms was modified with an anvil to represent Abraham Dugas, the Acadian Blacksmith/armorer of Port Royal, from whom all the Acadian Dugas are descended.
**Origin:** Designed and copyrighted by the Richelieu Leger Family Association

**Symbolism:** The red in the top right quarter of the shield, the blue in the lower left quarter and the white represent the tri-color, the flag of France, the country of our ancestors; origin. The small cross in the top left quarter represents the churches of Saint-Martin-de-le-Place, Saint Lambert-des-Levees, and Saint Michel in Fontevraud l'Abbaye, where our ancestors, Etienne, Francois, and Jean Leger, and their families practiced their Catholic faith. The large white cross traversing the center of the shield, the two light blue quarters, and the white fleur-de-lis in the lower right quarter, come from the flag of Quebec, where Jean Leger settled in the new world. The gold quill and key in the red quarter represents Jean Leger dit Richelieu, Guardian of the King's Warehouse of Quebec. The gold anchor in the dark blue quarter represents Michel Leger dit Richelieu, the sailor. The gold star represents Our Lady of the Assumption, Patroness of the Acadians, and the fact that Michel Leger dit Richelieu married an Acadian and suffered through the exile with the Acadians. The crest is a pelican which represents Louisiana, where the surviving children of Michel Leger dit Richelieu were accepted and nurtured, represented by the three young pelicans in the nest. The banner above the crest reads "N'oubliez jamais!" (Never forget!).
Symbolism: The logo for the Boudreaux / Boudreau Family Association is divided into four parts by a gold cross in the center which represents Catholic and Christian faith. The two flags represented on the logo are the Acadian flags of Louisiana and Canada. The Acadian flag of Louisiana is a tricolor flag with three fleurs de lys on a blue field which represents France, the maternal country of our ancestors; the gold castle of Castile on a red field represents Spain. It was Spain that came to the aid of the Acadians exiled in France from 1755 to 1785; and the gold star on a white field represents the patroness of the Acadians, Our Lady of the Assumption. The two other quarters of the logo have symbols of Acadiana. The Evangeline Oak represents the strength of the Acadians and their determination to survive the terrible ordeal of exile inflicted upon them by the British. The magnolia flower represents the peaceful ways and gentleness of our people.