



WEST
BATON
ROUGE
MUSEUM



845 N. Jefferson Avenue, Port Allen, LA 70767

MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

Contact: Toni Brantley, Public Relations Assistant
Brantley@wbrmuseum.org

May 20, 2015

Telephone: (225) 336-2422 x16

www.westbatonrougemuseum.com

Lunchtime Lecture:

We All Wore Black: Mourning Dress at the End of the Civil War

July 9, 2015 at the West Baton Rouge Museum

Port Allen: The West Baton Rouge Museum will host a lunchtime lecture featuring Jenna Kuttruff, Ph.D. for a **lunchtime lecture on Thursday, July 9, 2015 at noon**. She will present a lecture entitled, “**We All Wore Black: Mourning Dress at the End of the Civil War.**” This lecture is in conjunction with the current exhibit at the museum, “When the Cannons Fell Silent: Sesquicentennial of the End of the American Civil War.”

Dr. Kuttruff is the Louisiana State University Beverly Griffin Shea Alumni Professor and Head of the Department of Textiles, Apparel Design and Merchandising. She is involved in a long-term research project on the study of nineteenth century burial dress based on archaeological evidence from Louisiana.

Mourning dress functioned to identify the mourner, show respect for the dead, elicit the sympathy of the community, match the mourner’s somber mood and serve as a barrier against unwanted intrusions on private feelings. Although the fabric had been associated with mourning in Europe since the mid-1500s, black crape was not solely associated with mourning in the U.S. until the 1850s when many families dealt with the losses of friends and family members during the Civil War. By the 1880s, black Parramatta along with black crape became the outward symbol of late nineteenth century grief. The complex mourning practices began to change following the Civil War and it was World War I that finally brought an end to nineteenth century mourning practices.

Admission is free and visitors are welcome to bring bag lunches. For more information, visit www.westbatonrougemuseum.com or call (225) 336-2422 x 15. The West Baton Rouge Museum is located at 845 N. Jefferson Avenue in Port Allen.

###