



## What's New 2024

### *Natalie Scott: New Orleans' Modern-Day Renaissance Woman*

To be featured March 9th  
at the  
**LANG Women's  
Symposium**



The men of the Renaissance sought to develop skills in all areas of knowledge, in physical development, social accomplishments, and the arts. It was said, "A man can do all things if he will"; a sentiment that has carried down through the centuries and found purchase with all of the pioneers of the 20th century, both male and female. One such pioneer, a daughter of renaissance philosophy, was Natalie Scott. Scott proved that "man AND WOMAN can do all things if he or she will". She was a teacher, writer, fundraiser, crusader and nurse in two world wars!

Having spent her formative years on the Gulf Coast and in New Orleans, she energetically used her intellect and drive to join the Red Cross after graduating from Newcomb College (which was in itself quite progressive for young women). Her service in the Red Cross during WWI earned her the French Croix de Guerre, making her the only American woman to win that award. For most women, such heroic activities would be enough for a lifetime, but not for Natalie Scott.

Upon her return to the States she dove into restoring the crumbling French Quarter and building a robust arts and cultural scene.

Having gained experience and fortitude during the first World War, Natalie returned to the Red Cross for WWII at the age of approximately fifty years old! Not one to lay idle she returned to the U.S. after serving and built a successful artist's colony in Taxco, Mexico where she also empowered and cared for the local poor. Natalie's life is one of adventure and action filled with growth, knowledge, heroism and compassion. She fits the very definition of "renaissance" woman.

A few pieces of her personal collection will be on display at the Jackson Barracks Museum for the March 9th "Women's Symposium", a LANG sponsored conference to identify and discuss issues facing women in the military and provide mentoring, assistance, and resources to help women navigate unique areas of their military careers. We are grateful to Cynthia Henderson Scott who donated the collection to us last year. After the conference it will be on display at Training Center Pineville near Alexandria which is home to Natalie Scott's family. Join us in honoring Natalie and all of the women of her time who proved that "a woman can do all things if she will"!

# NEW IN THE COLLECTION



Our most recent acquisition is an American civil war naval cutlass. The short sword was made for use in the Confederate Navy in the first year of the civil war. The brass handle is made in the style of a Roman gladius displaying fish scales which were popular during the 19th century. The ball pommel bears an American eagle with shield on either side. The blade is marked by the manufacturer Thomas Griswold & company from New Orleans, Louisiana and was manufactured between 1861 and early 1862.

Henry Thomas and Arthur Breese Griswold of New Orleans were arguably the finest Confederate sword makers of the war. Originally the firm of Hyde & Goodrich, in August, 1861, the firm was dissolved and reconstituted as Thomas, Griswold & Co. They were located at Canal and Royal Streets and continued operations until the city fell to Federal troops in the Spring of 1862.

What we look for on these cutlasses are the scaled brass grips, modeled after the U.S. Model 1841, but lacking the three vertical rivets on the U.S. version. Instead, the Thomas, Griswold grips have a slight dimple where the U.S. rivets had been, indicating that a U.S. grip had been used as a pattern. Also, the crudely formed eagle indicates a second generation casting that did not completely “take” in the mould. We are very happy to have this rare and unique piece of local history to share with our visitors in the Civil War/Reconstruction Exhibit.



## Upcoming Events

### January

**22nd** - *History of the Battle of New Orleans*  
 Reception and Lecture, 6 pm, at Jackson Barracks

### February

**5th** - *History of St. Bernard 1817 - 1861*  
 Reception and Lecture, 6 pm, at Jackson Barracks

### March

**9th** - *2024 Women's Symposium*  
 8 am - 4 pm, at Jackson Barracks





## Historian's Corner

# The National Guard is How Old!?!



*"The First Muster.." Don Troiani, Courtesy of National Guard Bureau*

People are often surprised when they hear that the National Guard is the oldest component of the US Military. It is the modernized continuation of the state militia system, which made up the largest contingent of the American military in the 18th and 19th centuries. Prior to the Revolution, colonial militia units served their communities, colonial governments, and as a reserve force with the British Army. The traditional date for the National Guard's "birthday" is December 13, 1636 with the "First Muster" of militia Soldiers in Massachusetts. It is not that simple, of course. As the US expanded, it incorporated territories previously held by other colonial powers that already had their own militia traditions. Louisiana had militia under both French and Spanish Administration prior to being purchased by the U.S. in 1803.

So.... just how old is the Louisiana National Guard (LANG)? There are several possible answers. The first permanent French settlement in Louisiana was Natchitoches in 1714. It was primarily an active military fortification, so militia was unnecessary. In 1718, New Orleans was founded. Legally speaking, on paper, a militia force of civilians was required. Truth is, none was organized until the colony was threatened by the Natchez tribe in 1729. The French militia, however, was poorly organized and decentralized. When General Alejandro O'Reilly asserted Spanish authority in the colony in 1770, he created a centralized, professionally trained militia, made up of the local populace. This diverse force of White Creole, Free Black, and Acadian Soldiers continued through the century.

William Claiborne, the first US governor of the acquired Louisiana territory, allowed several pre-existing units to continue, maintaining the basic structure of organization. In 1805, the territorial legislature codified the militia as an American force. In 1812, the formal addition of Louisiana as a state cemented its militia as a state-based authority. The title "Louisiana National Guard" was used in various ways by the militia, or units thereof, in the late 19th century, but does not connect to the current usage. Beginning in 1903, US Congress began a process of modernizing the militia system into what would eventually be called "The National Guard", with a command in each state and territory. So when is the birthday of the LANG? 1718? 1729? 1770? 1805? 1812? 1903? None are officially recognized, but I agree with earlier LANG Historians that the best answer is February 12, 1770. General O'Reilly created a centralized command structure that maintained continuity, even through significant change, all the way to present day. Using this date, on 12 February 2024, the Louisiana National Guard will be a spry 254 years old!



*"Alejandro O'Reilly" Aurora Lazzano, Courtesy of Louisiana State Museum*



# TRAINING CENTER PINEVILLE

Excerpt from the "Museum Feature: The Louisiana Maneuvers and Military Museum" piece published in *Army History* Fall 2023. Contributed by Dr. Jerry Sanson, professor emeritus of history and political science at Louisiana State University at Alexandria and a staff member at the Louisiana Maneuvers and Military Museum, Training Center Pineville. **You can access the full article using the QR code on the right.**



Housed in a replica World War II-style barracks located on Camp Beauregard in Pineville, Louisiana, the Louisiana Maneuvers and Military Museum tells the story of the largest General Headquarters peacetime training maneuver conducted in 1941. Third Army sponsored eleven corps-level maneuvers during World War II. The Louisiana Maneuvers ranged over the central and western parts of the state and prepared soldiers for warfare.

The museum was dedicated on 8 November 1997. The former adjutant general of Louisiana, Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr., called the museum "a great example of the military and the relationship between citizens and soldiers... at a time when men and women joined together to save their nation.: Rabbi Arnold Task, chair of the museum's initial board of directors, added that the museum honors the men and women who dedicated "so much of their lives...to service to our country."

The museum has fulfilled the missions implied by those remarks for more than 25 years. Some of the oldest artifacts at the museum include an 1840s British Belt Plate, a Louisiana Militia colonel's uniform, a cannonball from the Civil War Red River Campaign, and the battle flag of the Madison Artillery. Other exhibits honor Native American Code Talkers, African American units including the 761st Tank Battalion, the Women's Auxiliary Corps, and the Army Nurse Corps—all of which participated in the maneuvers. There is also an outdoor vehicle park where you will find Tanks, Anti-tank, Artillery, Engineer and wheeled vehicles! The museum is open Tuesday - Friday 9 am - 5 pm and weekends by appointment.



WWI era Camp Beauregard Gates



761st Tank Battalion Exhibit

## Staff Spotlight

Last December we were pleased to present, Curator **Stan Amerski**, The **Louisiana Military Department Service Award** for **twenty years** of service to the Louisiana National Guard Museums. Stan is the one individual who was a major driving force in bringing a revived "Post Katrina" Museum to fruition. He continues to provide technical and professional assistance as well as design and fabrication development required in each exhibit to tell our story.





**CARVE IT IN BRICK**

*With a brick at the Louisiana National Guard Museum, you can create a lasting tribute to loved ones who served their country. These fathers and grandfathers, sons and daughters, husbands, wives, friends and neighbors served our great nation and state – they deserve a memorial that will last for generations to come.*

Make Checks Payable to: Louisiana National Guard Foundation  
 6400 St Claude Ave  
 Pay Securely Online: New Orleans, La 70117  
<https://langfoundation.org/donate/> (504) 278-8024  
 bev.a.boyko.nfg@army.mil

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Your gift of \$150 will be recognized as a lasting tribute that will become part of the Museum with 3 lines of type on a special 4” x 8” brick placed in the courtyard of the Louisiana National Guard museum at Jackson Barracks.

*Print your text in the blocks below – One character per block including spaces.*


**Text Ideas:** “In memory of...”, “The \_\_\_\_\_ Family”, “Service dates...”  
 “Your Name & Rank”

\*The Louisiana National Guard Foundation is a non-profit corporation. Your donation may be tax deductible, please consult with your accountant. For your tax records our 501c (3) IRS number is 81-4410016.



Louisiana Maneuvers and Military Museum  
Camp Beauregard, Pineville, LA

*Wall of a Thousand*

As a tribute to the Veterans of Central Louisiana, the Louisiana Maneuvers and Military Museum presents the “Wall of a Thousand”. This exhibit features plaques honoring those who served; sponsored by family, friends and loved ones. Each plaque displays the name and rank of the veteran, the sponsor, and a brief service history.

To sponsor a veteran, please enclose a donation of \$75.00 with the completed form below.

Louisiana Maneuvers and Military Museum  
Wall of a Thousand

Name of Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Honored Veteran**

Name and Rank of Veteran: \_\_\_\_\_  
Branch of Service and Unit: \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional Information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form and your check or money order to:  
Friends of the Louisiana National Guard Museums  
6400 St. Claude Ave  
New Orleans, LA 70117  
(318) 641-5733 or [langmuseumfriends@gmail.com](mailto:langmuseumfriends@gmail.com)

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