

CAJUNS, CREOLES, PIRATES AND PLANTERS

Your New Louisiana Ancestors Format

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By Damon Veach

BROUSSARD HISTORY: According to information obtained from Broussard family records, there are two separate branches – BROSSART or BROZZART. Even after years of research, the historians in the family continue to try to connect the two. Both lines are intertwined by marriages throughout the years.

In 1995, in Abbeville, Louisiana, a group gathered for coffee at Black's Oyster Bar, for the purpose of forming a Broussard Family Association. Among those present were Mayor Brady Broussard of Abbeville, Daniel Broussard (Assessor of Vermilion Parish), Errol Brent Broussard (who called the meeting), Charles Broussard, Joseph Harvey Broussard (genealogist), Edsel Broussard (CPA from Lake Arthur, La), Russell Gaspard (Clerk of Court for Vermilion Parish), Chris Segura (reporter of the Abbeville Meridional), Mitch Conover (genealogist, and member of Congrès Mondial 1994 and 1999, assigned to assisting in family organizations), and numerous Broussards.

This meeting proved successful, with the selection of Errol Brent Broussard and president along with the selection of a Board of Governors. The name chosen by this group to represent the organization was to be "Famille Beausoleil." Errol Brent Broussard immediately went to work drafting a charter for the newly formed group, and once the charter was adopted by the group, Errol Brent contacted an Attorney, Warren Perrin, to obtain a State Charter. The rest is history.

Today, as then, the goal of the "Famille Beausoleil" is to strengthen the ties of the past, to preserve the family traditions, cultures, language, and heritage that was passed on to us by the "Beausoleil Brothers" - Alexandre and Joseph Broussard - as well as the children of the other brothers who did not survive to be a part of this Louisiana adventure.

At a recent meeting, two awards were presented. This was in appreciation of all the work that these members have done over the years to promote the family history and the organization. You can check out more concerning the family history at <http://www.cafa.org/BroussardFamily.html>. This is a website that any descendant of these early Broussard families should be interested in. For more about Acadian families, you can also go to Confederation of Associations of Families Acadian - <http://www.cafa.org/>.



Above, left to right: Corwin Broussard, Kim Viator Broussard, and Richard Broussard.
Below, left to right: Corwin Broussard, Richard Broussard in center of photo seated, and Warren Perrin.



An interesting note from Mitch Conover explains Warren Perrin's outstanding contribution a little further. Perrin is the attorney who sued the Queen of England over the British attempt at genocide against the Acadians during the period 1755-1764. This is referred to as the Grand Dérangement. Perrin won the lawsuit, and

the Queen gave a public apology to all Acadian descendants. She also made an apology to the House of Commons of both Great Britain and Canada.

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SOUTHERN RECORDS: Millions of historic southern records are now on the web. FamilySearch has just announced that it has published millions of records from the South, and, of course, it is all offered free online. The collection includes both digital images and indexes.

Millions of death records from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida were the most recent additions. Viewers can search this free collection on the Record Search pilot at FamilySearch.org (<http://www.familysearch.org/>). (Click on Search Records, and then click on the Record Search pilot).

In the past 18 months, FamilySearch has been diligently publishing digital images and indexes from southern states. It is part of a worldwide initiative to provide fast, economical access to genealogical records. Fueled by over 100,000 online volunteers, FamilySearch is digitizing and indexing historical records and publishing them online.

The most recent additions are from the following collections:

- Alabama Statewide Deaths 1908 to 1974 (Index)
- Arkansas County Marriages: 1837 to 1957
- Civil War Pension Index Cards (Digital Images)
- Florida Deaths 1877 to 1939 (Index)
- Florida State Censuses: 1855, 1935, 1945 (Digital Images)
- Freedman Bank Records: 1865 to 1874
- Freedman's Bureau Virginia Marriages 1855 to 1866
- Georgia Deaths 1914 to 1927
- Louisiana War of 1812 Pension Lists (Images)
- North Carolina Deaths 1906 to 1930
- North Carolina, Davidson County Marriages and Deaths, 1867–1984 (Digital Images)
- South Carolina Deaths 1915 to 1943
- South Carolina Deaths 1944 to 1955 (Index)
- Texas Death Index 1964 to 1998 (Index)
- Texas Deaths 1890 to 1976
- Virginia Fluvanna County Funeral Home Records 1929 to 1976 (Digital Images)
- West Virginia Births 1853 to 1990 (Index)
- West Virginia Marriages 1853 to 1970 (Index)
- West Virginia Deaths 1853 to 1970 (Index)

FamilySearch has also published free indexes to the 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, and 1920 (partial) U.S Censuses. All are important resources for southern states

research. David E. Rencher, FamilySearch chief genealogical officer said, “This significant set of records fills a real need in southern states research. To be able to search vital records across the South by name and locality leverages the best search techniques and greatly improves the odds of success for those researching southern families.”

During both pre and post Civil War eras, there was general migration from the eastern seaboard, down through the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and on into Texas. “The publication of these records will begin to open up and answer many questions about family members that migrated and were never heard from again,” Rencher added.

With just a few clicks, visitors can now search millions of records online for that elusive ancestor or pore through digital images of historic documents that before this time were inconvenient and impossible for many to access because the original documents were located in an archive somewhere in the South.

“There is much more to come,” said Rencher. “FamilySearch has a large collection of records (on film) from the southern states that still need to be digitized, indexed, and made available for the public online. We are acquiring new records all the time. It’s a great time to be a family history enthusiast,” concluded Rencher.

FamilySearch is currently working on federal and state censuses and birth, marriage, death, and war records. New indexing projects include the following: http://www.familysearchindexing.org/projects/current_projects.jsf and searchable collections at <http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html> are added weekly.

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LE COMITE WEBSITE: Le Comite des Archives de la Louisiane is a non-profit group founded in 1978 to assist in the preservation of historical materials for the Louisiana State Archives. They not only have a quarterly publication (*Le Raconteur*), but they also have an electronic newsletter (*Le Comite E-Communique*). Their website is found at <http://www.lecomite.org/index.html>.

For more information on Le Comité des Archives, contact Judy Riffel at riffelj@bellsouth.net or write the society at P.O. Box 1547, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-1547. Dues are only \$15 if you join or renew prior to March 1st of each year. After that date, membership fees increase to \$20. Members also receive discounts on other publications offered for sale, and back issues of their publications are also available. Another advantage of membership is the free entry for the annual meeting which always features an important speaker and topic for discussion. This is held between September 1st and October 15th of each year. The 2009 meeting has been scheduled for September 27th at the Louisiana State Archives in Baton Rouge.

In 2006, the organization formed an African American Special Interest Group (SIG) to promote Louisiana African American genealogical and historical research. A page was created on Yahoo Groups for members to share information and to help each other with their research. All current members of Le Comité are eligible to join the SIG at no additional cost.

Le Comite purchases books, microfilm, manuscripts, and other materials for the Louisiana State Archives. Monetary donations to help defray the cost of acquiring these materials for the State Archives Research Room are welcomed. Donations to the society may also be tax deductible.

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REMINDER: On Saturday, May 30th, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., the 3rd Annual Foundations of Community Series Forum will be taking place at the Julien Poydras Center, 500 W. Main Street in New Roads, Louisiana. Experts will take you back in time to Pointe Coupee/Punta Cortada. There will be front porch stories in English and Creole to illustrate life in the second half of the colonial era. Documents from Spanish archives that have never been seen in modern times will be highlighted.

Fr. LaVerne “Pike” Thomas III with his encyclopedic knowledge of families and the book *Le Doux: A Pioneer Franco American Family* will discuss selections from his abstracts of Pointe Coupee records from 1770-1786.

For more information, contact director@creolewest.com.

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NEXT WEEK’S FORMAT: The information on DeSoto Parish planned for this week’s format will appear next week due to the importance of the material and pictures featured above which moved that parish material up a week.

Any dated materials should be submitted for publication several weeks prior to the scheduled events, and any promotional material you would like to have published here is always welcomed. Pictures are also appreciated and in many cases improve the contents of the subject material. Send this material directly to ancestorslaveach@cox.net or to Damon Veach, Cajuns, Creoles, Pirates and Planters, 709 Bungalow Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5337.