

CAJUNS, CREOLES, PIRATES AND PLANTERS

Your New Louisiana Ancestors Format

Volume 1, Number 23

By Damon Veach

SEMINAR SCHEDULED: The Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Library, Libraries Southwest, Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society, and Friends of the Library, Calcasieu Chapter, are sponsoring an excellent seminar to be held on October 17, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lake Charles Civic Center, Contraband Room. The title of this seminar is Branching Out in Genealogy.

These groups of genealogists are among the most active in the state, and their program for this October meeting is very good. Their speaker is Carolyn Earle Billingsley, a research consultant and lecturer with almost thirty years experience in both genealogical and historical research, editing, writing, teaching, and lecturing.

Billingsley is a graduate of the Samford University Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research Course 5: Genealogy as a Profession. She is the author of *Communities of Kinship: Antebellum Planters and the Settlement of the Cotton Frontier*, published by the University of Georgia Press in 2004. Numerous articles and book reviews have been written by her and published in historical journals and genealogical publications. She also has degrees from the University of Arkansas.

Some of the topics for discussion at this seminar are: communities of kinship (a new theory for genealogy); history lost – history found; the reality of researching your Indian ancestors; and Melungeons and other mixed race groups. The registration fee is \$25 and includes a reception at the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Library on Friday evening. Vendor displays will also be available. Box lunches will be provided to those who register by October 3, 2009.

The emcee for this seminar is John Sellers, a fifth generation native of Texas who has done genealogical research since 1985. He graduated from Texas Tech University and received his teaching certificate in history from Texas A&M University/Commerce. His favorite area of research is in courthouses, and he has visited those in several southern states with extensive research in Texas and Louisiana. He has spoken at numerous genealogical conferences and has been a faculty member for the Angelina College Genealogy Conference since 1999. He has also been invited to lecture at the Samford University Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research in 2009.

Any further questions concerning this seminar can be directed to Shirley Burwell at 337-721-7110, or by e-mail to gen@calcasieu.lib.la.us.

MORE ABOUT CALCASIEU: The Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Library is located on the first floor of the Carnegie Memorial Library Building, 411 Pujoe Street in downtown Lake Charles. The library contains a treasure of genealogical and historical resources available in the form of books, microfilm, compiled family records, and electronic databases. Staff members are available to assist patrons. A kitchen area with a soft drink machine, refrigerator and icemaker is available for use by patrons.

Libraries Southwest exists to promote and enhance libraries and library services in Southwest Louisiana. Member libraries include parish libraries in Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Evangeline, Jefferson Davis, St. Martin, and Vernon parishes. Frazar Memorial Library (McNeese University) and the Northwestern State University – Leesville Library are also included. Services include a reciprocal borrower's agreement that allows card holders from any member public library to use the services of any other member public library.

The Southwest Louisiana Genealogy Society was formed in 1973 following an overflow attendance at a genealogy workshop organized by the Lake Charles Public Library. Meetings are held in the Carnegie Memorial Library meeting room on the third Saturday of January, March, May, September and November, with programs to instruct and interest genealogists. Members receive the quarter journal, *Kinfolks*.

The Friends of the Calcasieu Parish Public Library is a non-profit group of citizens that work together to help the public library better serve the community. Memberships and contributions fund the group. The Friends believe that the library is a vital center of communication that affects the quality and advancement of education.

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KINFOLKS: The latest issue of this genealogical publication is filled with outstanding data including topics such as Irish immigration, Orphan Train Museum, yellow fever epidemics, Sabine River ferry tales, burials from Our Lady Star of the Sea Cemetery and Highland Memorial Gardens Cemetery, and many other interesting items.

Members of the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society receive this publication as a part of the membership dues. This is \$12 for individuals or \$17 for family memberships. Back issues are also available if you are interested in obtaining them. Send memberships to the society at P.O. Box 5652, Lake Charles, LA 70606-5652.

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PUBLICATION ANNOUNCED: St. Francisville is a picturesque town in West Feliciana Parish, and it is graced with historic homes, gardens, churches, and

cemeteries. The beautiful Grace Episcopal Church and Cemetery are framed by majestic oaks draped with Spanish moss. Adjacent to the Episcopal Cemetery is the equally historic Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery.

As early as the 1780s, Catholics from Pointe Coupee Parish were crossing the Mississippi River to bury their dead on the high land at Bayou Sara. The early cemetery, however, fell into disuse and the land was used for grazing cattle and as a dairy farm. In 1969, an effort was made to reclaim the land and return it to its former use as a cemetery. A small fenced section to the far left of the cemetery contains a collection of neatly arranged worn and broken markers lying flat on the concrete. Some are only fragments while others are so worn that only portions are legible. The oldest markers found here date from 1815 to 1820.

The September issue of *le Raconteur* contains a complete transcription of all the tombstones found in Mount Carmel Cemetery as of the spring of 2006. Previous issues contained transcriptions from Grace Episcopal Cemetery.

Other articles of interest in this issue include a listing of baptismal records from First United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge from 1851 to 1900, an addenda to *Genealogical Selections from the Acts of the Louisiana Legislature* for 1810 to 1867, and short items pertaining to the Nezat, Duffel, Catlett, Wheeler, and Fridge families.

This issue is available with a 2009 membership in Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane.

This group is also holding its annual meeting on Sunday, September 27th, at the Louisiana State Archives on Essen Lane. Robert de Berardinis of Houston, Texas, will give a presentation entitled "Navigating the Midwest, Mississippi Valley, and Gulf Coast, 1581-1821, with the Cuban Papers" and Judy Riffel will speak on "Unlikely, Uncommon, and Unexpected Genealogical Sources at the Louisiana State Archives." Many of the society's numerous publications will also be discounted this one day only.

The meeting, which begins at 1 p.m., is free to members. Non members may join at the door for \$15. If joining by mail, send \$20 to Le Comité at P.O. Box 1547, Baton Rouge, LA 70821. For more information on this active group, visit their website at www.lecomite.org.

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QUERIES: All queries are welcomed for publication in this format. They can be any length but should have a Louisiana connection by heritage or residence of the researcher who may be interested in other areas of the country. Submittals should be sent to ancestorslaveach@cox.net or directly to Damon Veach, Cajuns, Creoles,

Pirates and Planters, 709 Bungalow Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5337. This is a free service.