

CAJUNS, CREOLES, PIRATES AND PLANTERS

Your New Louisiana Ancestors Format

Volume 1, Number 24

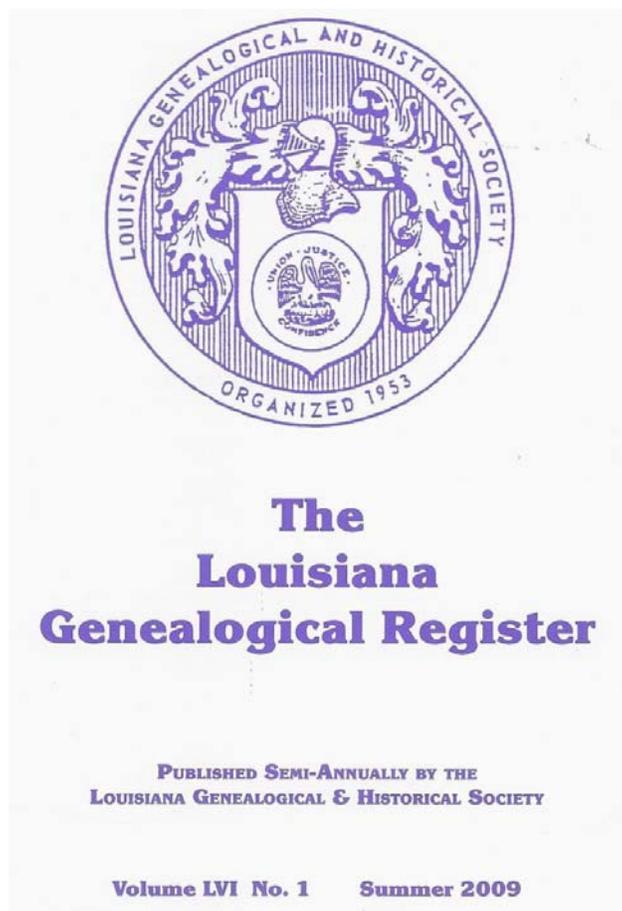
By Damon Veach



Photo by Marie Estopinal

SPANISH TOWN: John Sykes, Education Manager for the Louisiana State Museum at Baton Rouge (seen above on the porch) explains the unique architecture of a Spanish Town house during a recent walking tour of the historic Baton Rouge neighborhood. The tour was conducted during the August meeting of the Canary Islanders Heritage Society. Spanish Town was founded in 1808 in part to provide homes for Canary Islanders.

EXCELLENT PUBLICATION: Even though it is no longer a quarterly, the publication of the Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Society still ranks with the best in the country. The current issue is proof of this.



Many of the first families of Louisiana are spotlighted along with other material of interest to genealogical researchers. These items include a list of slaves on Payne Plantation (1856), cemetery listings (Mandeville in St. Tammany and the Wren Family Cemetery in Webster Parish), Goins Bible records, a wonderful Civil War diary for 1862, telephone subscribers in Monroe, Louisiana in 1883, a study of the evolution of governmental policy on headstones for fallen soldiers and sailors, a discussion of the Federal District Tax of 1798, the Stephen Henderson court record from 1848 in East Baton Rouge Parish, a look at the Louisiana Confederate pension law of 1898, Plaisance court records from Ascension Parish, successions in the Story family of St. Helena Parish, and many more miscellaneous material.

This organization is also offering a guide to 50 years of published articles in *Louisiana Genealogical Register Subject Index, 1953-2003*. It contains 182 pages, is softcover, and priced at \$20, postpaid. Only checks are accepted for this

publication. Orders should be sent to the society at P.O. Box 82060, Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2060.

Membership in this society is \$25 per year for individuals or \$30 for family dues, payable each January 1st. Back issues of the previous quarterly issues are available. You can check the group out at www.rootsweb.com/~la-lghs/.

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NEEDS INFORMATION: My great, great grandfather, John McHugh, was a private in the 10th & 11th Consolidated Regiments, Louisiana Militia under Captain Russ and Captain Samuel Leaven. He was from the Plains (later Zachary, Louisiana) and fought in the Battle of New Orleans. We know he survived the battle from a letter to his wife in which he looked forward to returning home to her and their infant son. He also remarked on the sickness in the ranks of his fellow soldiers. He apparently died shortly thereafter, but his descendents have not been able to find his date of death, cause, or place of burial. He was Catholic but the cemetery records of the Catholic Church in New Orleans have not been able to find him. Can you suggest where I might locate this information? Thanks. Joseph Carmena Jr., call (225) 925-9501 or e-mail to JCarm1724@aol.com.

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SIMONTON FAMILY: Jaclyn Keasler Helmke, 209 Henderson St., San Antonio, TX 78209 (jhelmke@sbcglobal.net) is researching the surname Simonton and allied families and is especially interested in the David Malone family of Bienville Parish in 1840. Also needed is information on Archibald (Archer) Calhoun in Bienville and Claiborne parishes from 1845 to 1860, and she would like to contact anyone with knowledge of the old Midway Church in Athens.

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AUSTRALIAN RESEARCHER: Robert B. Saunders, P.O. Box 383, Killara, New South Wales 2071, Australia is researching Lillian Frances Chinn, great granddaughter of Judge Thomas Withers Chinn, born in 1791, died in 1852. The family is thought to have had a large plantation near Baton Rouge that was burned during the Civil War.

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Mary Haggart, P.O. Box 425, Woodruff, WI 54568 would like to learn more about John T. Reeves Jr., born December 6, 1878, died April 6, 1945. He was a son of John T. Reeves Sr. (who died in 1899) and Clara Cagle. They were married ca867. John Jr. married Azile Koonce in Moss Bluff on April 11, 1912. It is not known where they lived prior to coming to Louisiana. Also needed is information on Duncan Haggart, born 1835 in Oswegatchie, St. Lawrence County, New York. He

was married in 1901 to Catherine Johnston, and they lived in Forest City, Iowa and moved to Iowa, Louisiana in 1888. Both are buried in Pine Hill Cemetery in Iowa.

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FREE QUERIES: Queries are always welcomed and published in this column format free of charge. They can be any length but should have a Louisiana connection by heritage or by residence of the researcher working on lines in other states or countries. They can be any length. Send to Damon Veach, Louisiana Ancestors, 709 Bungalow Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5337 - or to ancestorslaveach@cox.net.