

CAJUNS, CREOLES, PIRATES AND PLANTERS

Your New Louisiana Ancestors Format

Volume 1, Number 26

By Damon Veach

ARKANSAS RECORDS: Where genealogists gather, records are uncovered. The adage is certainly true this week as hundreds of genealogists descend on the Little Rock Statehouse Convention Center in Arkansas as part of the 2009 Federation of Genealogical Societies annual conference. In anticipation of this conference, many volunteers have donated thousands of hours online to create a free online database to hundreds of thousands of historic Arkansas marriage records. The records date from 1837 to 1957. The online database includes a searchable index linked to digital images of the original marriage certificates. The volunteer project is 26 percent complete. The first fruits of the effort can be searched at FamilySearch.org (click Search Records, and then click Record Search pilot).

The free online collection currently includes 442,058 records linked to 199,431 digital images of the original marriage certificates. The records represent the counties of Ashley, Baxter, Boone, Chicot, Clay, Crittenden, Desha, Drew, Fulton, Jackson, Johnson, Lee, Logan, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, Nevada, Perry, and Pike.

FamilySearch partnered with the Arkansas Genealogical Society (AGS) to create indexes to county marriages registered in Arkansas between 1837 and 1957. Jan Davenport, 1st vice president of AGS, worked closely with FamilySearch to create the project and help solicit volunteers to index the digital images using FamilySearch's online indexing program. To date, 20,559 volunteers have helped produce the first sets of indexed data and images now available online.

FamilySearch is the global leader of online indexing. It launched its online indexing program in 2008, and tens of thousands of volunteers donate time online helping to index historic records like the Arkansas marriages collection. FamilySearch currently has 65 online indexing projects underway.

For this project, FamilySearch is creating digital images of the county marriage records and online volunteers worldwide then use FamilySearch's web-based indexing tool to view the digital images and extract the desired information from the image. That data is then processed and published online in free searchable indexes linked to the digital images.

Volunteers need only Internet access to contribute to this historic effort. A unique quality-control process ensures a highly accurate, finished index. Each document is transcribed by two different online indexers. Any discrepancies in their two extractions are then forwarded to a third volunteer—an arbitrator—who makes any needed corrections between the two interpretations. A typical downloaded "batch"

(group of records) will take a volunteer about 30 to 40 minutes to complete. The indexing utility has built-in tutorials and helps.

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FAMILY CONNECTION: Judy Ahrens (504-831-9262) needs more information on great, great, great grandfather, Paul D'arcantel of Thionville, France. He was born May 19, 1768 and died in New Orleans on December 21, 1821. His father was Nicolas D'arcantel, who married Dona Marguerite de San Maxent in Thionville, France on April 24, 1759. Ahrens is trying to determine if she has a connection to Don Gilberto Antonio de San Maxent, a notable in Spanish Louisiana.

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PICTURE FROM THE PAST: Anthony Sanchez, Pvt (Later, 2nd Lt.) Donaldsonville Artillery, CSA, is shown in the picture below. He's on the right. The other individual is unknown. For more info on this picture and the Sanchez family, contact JCarm1724@aol.com.



If you would like to see more old pictures posted in this format, just send them along with an explanation about the individuals in the pictures, and they will be used as space permits.

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CLASSES SCHEDULED: Genealogists should always keep an eye out for available educational opportunities. GenClass.com, an online provider of several genealogy courses, is offering a "Back to School Special" on any of its courses throughout the months of September and October. Regularly priced at \$34.50 per course, all courses offered in September and October will be available at just \$29.50.

GenClass courses are single-month courses, and consist of eight lessons, two per week. During this time, class chats or forums may be used by the instructor. The instructor is also available via email to students for answering questions.

The following courses are available from GenClass:

SEPTEMBER 2009 (Classes started September 1, 2009)

"African-American Genealogy - Part 1 (Beginners)," Learn techniques for tracing your African-American ancestors from the present back to 1870. INSTRUCTOR: Michael Hait

"Canadian Research - Internet Resources - Part 1," This course does more than get you started. It takes you deep into some of the country's best records - many on the Internet. INSTRUCTOR: Pat Ryan

"Family Tree Maker 2009 - Advanced," Advanced features, like books, trees, reports and web sites. INSTRUCTOR: Cindy Rowzee

"Finding your Female Ancestors," Do you have elusive female ancestors in your family tree? This course will show you how to track them down! INSTRUCTOR: Lisa A. Alzo

"Jumpstart your Genealogy!" Just where do you start if you are interested in your family tree? - detailed instructions. INSTRUCTOR: Lisa A. Alzo

"Lost Friends and Family Investigative Class," Detailed search advice and assistance on the methods to use for successfully tracing "lost" relatives and friends. INSTRUCTOR: Linda Rakita

"Native American Genealogy," Learn how to start your research for your Native American Ancestors. INSTRUCTOR: Barbara Bengé

"Northeastern United States Genealogy," Research in the NE states is fundamental to the trees of many Americans. INSTRUCTOR: Cindy Rowzee

"Salt Lake City: Part 1 - the Largest Genealogical Library in the World!" Access

the largest genealogical library in the world. Perform searches, knowledgeably; and understand what you've found. INSTRUCTOR: Pat Ryan

"Scottish Genealogy," This extensive class will provide a detailed description of what you need to know to track your Scottish ancestry. INSTRUCTOR: David W. Webster

OCTOBER 2009 (Classes start October 1, 2009)

"Adoption Investigative Class," Detailed search advice and assistance for successfully locating and reuniting adoptees and birth families. INSTRUCTOR: Linda Rakita

"African-American Genealogy - Part 2: Before 1870 (Intermediate)," Learn techniques for tracing your African-American ancestors prior to 1870, including identifying enslaved ancestors and their former masters. INSTRUCTOR: Michael Hait

"Australian and New Zealand Genealogy," Learn how to research your Australian and New Zealand family, even from a distance. INSTRUCTOR: Kerry Farmer

"Canadian Research - Internet Resources - Part 2," Part 2 builds on Part 1 and advances your research using the most helpful records – with lots of practical search tips, tricks, and advice. INSTRUCTOR: Pat Ryan

"Jumpstart your Genealogy!" Just where do you start if you are interested in your family tree? - detailed instructions. INSTRUCTOR: Lisa A. Alzo

"Salt Lake City: Part 2 - the Largest Genealogical Library in the World!" Access the largest genealogical library in the world. Continuing on from Part 1, this course takes you into the sections that most people never use - and what a mistake that is! INSTRUCTOR: Pat Ryan

"Write Your Family History Step-by-Step," How to write your own family history, - a detailed and step-by-step guide. INSTRUCTOR: Lisa A. Alzo

For more information or for online registration, go to <http://www.genclass.com>.

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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.