

# **CAJUNS, CREOLES, PIRATES AND PLANTERS**

*Your New Louisiana Ancestors Format*

Volume 1, Number 50

By Damon Veach

**JACKSON INFO SOUGHT:** Ron Franke ([1space1@relatrix.com](mailto:1space1@relatrix.com)) is researching his great, great, great grandfather Humphrey Jackson, who came to Louisiana with two brothers in 1808 from Belfast, Ireland. He married shortly thereafter, but his first wife died early on with no children. He then married Sarah Merriman, and they had four children in the Vermilionville area before moving to Texas with Stephen F. Austin in the original "Old Three Hundred".

Franke has learned that Jackson was in the Battle of New Orleans, but all the success he has had was in getting a photocopy of the front of what is supposed to be his service record with his name on it. He has also learned that there is an organization for the descendants of veterans of the War of 1812, which he would very much like to become a member of, along with his two sons. However, there needs to be some pretty solid documentation of the individual activities and then the lineage from that individual to the applicant.

Franke has made some extended effort to glean information that meets those requirements from Louisiana with little success. He has documentation once the family arrived in Texas but not much connecting him to his life in Louisiana and to the War of 1812 beyond that mentioned above.

He has also tried corresponding with several historical societies in Louisiana without success along with the research center in New Orleans who did provide some assistance but not in this particular effort. If any reader can help in this search for Jackson data, it would be very much appreciated.

Much information has been gleaned from Texas records. These show that Jackson (1784-1833) was a Harris County pioneer and was definitely a member of Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred colonists. He was also an early San Jacinto District official. These records reveal that he was born on November 24, 1784 in Belfast, Ireland, and his father owned flour and linen mills and was a member of the Irish Parliament that was dissolved in 1801.

Jackson was educated in law and immigrated to the U.S. in 1808. He settled at Berwick's Bayou, Louisiana and operated a sugar plantation near Vermilionville. He served as a private with Baker's Louisiana Militia regiment at the Battle of New Orleans. After his first wife died, he married her cousin. His success at running his plantation was not good because he refused to own slaves. After moving to Texas,

he built a log cabin on the San Jacinto River near the present site of Crosby, Texas. He discovered that he had settled outside the colony so he petitioned Baron de Bastrop and was granted title to a league and a labor of land. To become a legal colonist, Jackson petitioned the Mexican government to form the San Jacinto district under the control of the Austin colony. He held several elected offices, and according to the census of 1826, he was classified as a farmer and stock raiser, a widower with one servant, three sons, and a daughter.

Jackson was killed when he fell from a tree on January 18, 1833. He is buried at Crosby, and it is thought that Jackson's Bayou located in eastern Harris County is probably named for him.

Any correspondence on the Jackson family is welcomed. The address for Ron Franke is P.O. Box 456, Buda, TX 78610, or he can be reached by phone at 512-295-3911.

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**TRACING THE TRIBE:** It has been discovered that there is a Jewish genealogy blog called "Tracing the Tribe," and it is an interesting look at the early residents of the Canary Islands. Harry Stein learned of a century-old paper on Crypto-Jews in the Canary Islands, and this paper was delivered by Lucien Wolf to the Jewish Historical Society of England in London on December 12, 1910. It is a treasure chest of Jewish names and history. You can read the paper at [http://www.archive.org/stream/cryptojewsincana00wolfiala/cryptojewsincana00wolfiala\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/cryptojewsincana00wolfiala/cryptojewsincana00wolfiala_djvu.txt). Understand that you need to read this carefully because it was posted using OCR (optical recognition software), and there are many errors caused by software inaccuracies.

The blog is actually one of the genealogical endeavors of Schelly Talalay Dardashti, who has tracked her family history through Belarus, Russia, Lithuania, Spain, Iran, and elsewhere. She is a journalist, and her articles on genealogy have been widely published. In addition to genealogy blogging since 2006, she speaks at Jewish and general genealogy conferences, and co-founded GenClass.com. She is past president of the five-branched JFRA Israel, a Jewish genealogical association, and is also a member of several professional organizations. You can check out this blog at <http://tracingthetribe.blogspot.com/2009/12/canary-islands-crypto-jewish-history.html>, and the results are going to amaze you. Whether you are a descendant or not, this is a unique look at genealogy in this part of the world through this blog.

Be sure to check out all the links listed in this blog. There is a wealth of data here.

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**CANADIAN RECORDS:** The Genealogical Publishing Company has a Canadian book available now which may prove of interest to Louisianians with ancestral ties to this area. *Companions of Champlain: Founding Families of Quebec, 1608-1635* is by Denise Larson and is available in a soft-cover edition. It is priced at \$28.45, postage and handling included, and it can be ordered from GPC at 3600 Clipper Mill Rd., Suite 260, Baltimore, MD 21211.

This work actually honored the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Quebec City. It enables North Americans on both sides of the border to appreciate more fully their French-Canadian heritage. Although Champlain and his wife, Helene Boulle, did not have children, his companions did. The original 18 pioneer families who inhabited Quebec during Champlain's lifetime formed the nucleus of French-Canadian culture from which a new society sprang. They are the focal point of this book. Other important features include maps, an illustration of Champlain's 1603 astrolabe, references, five appendices, lineage and pedigree charts with citations, and a comprehensive index.

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**LGHS SEMINAR:** If you haven't already done so, it is time to reserve your place at the Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society Seminar, Saturday, April 24, 2010 at the Embassy Suites Hotel on Constitution Avenue in Baton Rouge. Three very good speakers are on the schedule, and it looks to be an interesting lineup of topics.

Gary D. Joiner will talk about the Red River Campaign and Letters and Diaries in Little to Eat. He is an assistant professor of history at LSU-Shreveport.

Susan N. Tucker is with the Tulane/Newcomb Center for Research on Women, and her topic is the lives and activities of Louisiana women during the Civil War.

The third speaker is Johanna Pate, Civil War researcher and re-enactor. The topic here is making the Civil War come alive through research.

Registrations by March 31<sup>st</sup> are \$30. After this date, it increases to \$35. For more information and to register, contact LGHS at P.O. Box 82060, Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2060.

This society also has a very nice publication called "The Louisiana Genealogical Register," and it is published semi-annually. Memberships are \$25 per year or \$30 for families. Their website is [www.rootsweb.com/~la-lghs/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~la-lghs/). Check out their publication soon.

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**TERREBONNE CONNECTIONS:** Another nice publication is “Terrebonne Life Lines.” This one comes from the Terrebonne Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 20295, Houma, LA 70360. It is published quarterly, and memberships are \$25 for individuals and \$30 for families. It is available to libraries and societies for \$22.

The regular meetings for this group are on the last Saturday of each month, except November and December. This final meeting of the year is on the second Saturday of December at the Main Branch Library in Houma. You can check them out at [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~laterreb/tgs/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~laterreb/tgs/). One of the interesting subjects in this issue was a look at entertainment in the 1930s by Gloria Gravois Hicks.

There were plenty of original records presented too such as Terrebonne Parish conveyances (Book L), Assumption births (1939), and lots of other miscellaneous data. Overall, it was quite interesting and should prove to be an important asset to anyone with ancestries reaching into this part of Louisiana – Terrebonne, Assumption and Lafourche.