

CAJUNS, CREOLES, PIRATES AND PLANTERS

Your New Louisiana Ancestors Format

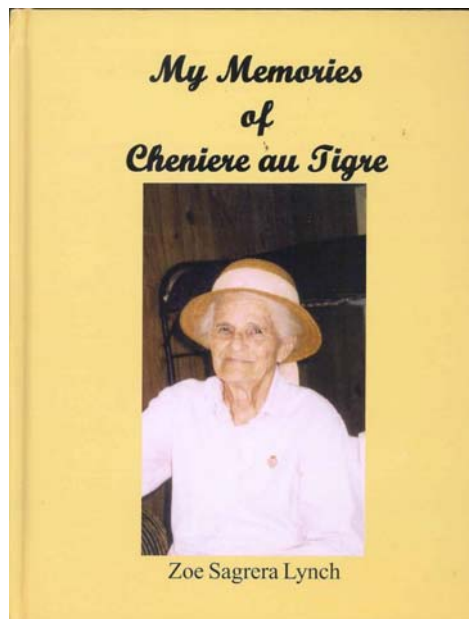
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By Damon Veach



HONORING ZOE: Funeral services were held on Saturday, September 4, 2010 at a 1:00 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial in La Chapelle de Martin & Castille for Mary Zoe Sagrera Lynch, age 92. She passed away on Thursday, September 2, 2010.

A longtime resident of Lafayette, Mrs. Lynch owned and managed Orchid Gardens for over 55 years and wrote a book on her life growing up in Cheniere Au Tigre and continued her husband's life's work raising ducks and geese. She was an avid conservationist and was a supporter of the rehabilitation of wildlife and protecting Louisiana's Coastline as well as the re-establishment of the whooping cranes in Louisiana.



Mrs. Lynch was a member of the St. Genevieve Catholic Church Community, a member of the Catholic Daughters, Women's Club of Lafayette, Lafayette Garden Club and numerous organizations. She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. In lieu of flowers donations were asked to be made in Mrs. Lynch's name to the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center, 2206 Johnston Street Lafayette, LA 70503-2752.

Her book is one of the best of its kind and is a lasting tribute to the memory of this very special lady. It is available from Claitor's Publishing. Just check out their listing of genealogy books and add it to your collection.

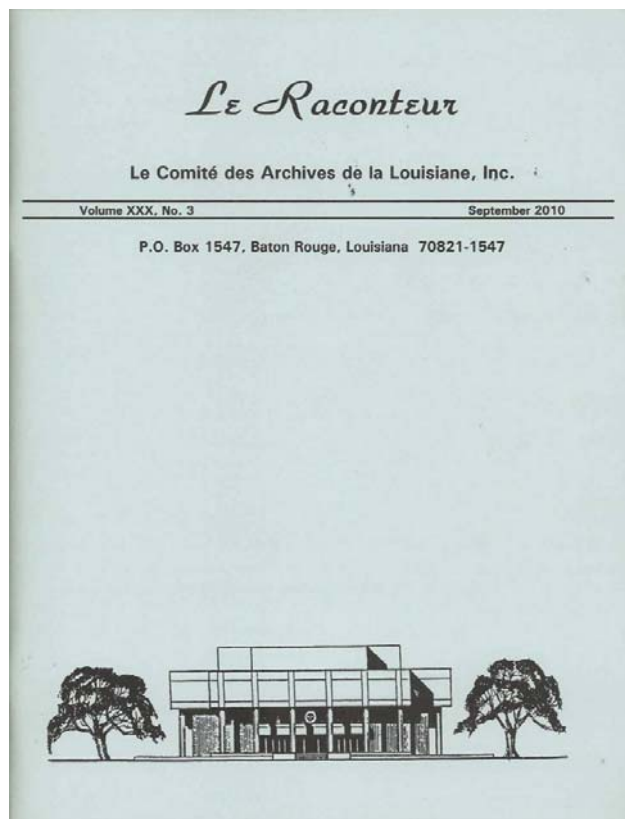
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ANNUAL MEETING: Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, September 26, at the Embassy Suites, 4914 Constitution Ave., in Baton Rouge. Registration begins at 1:00 p.m. and is free to members. Non-members may join at the door for \$15.

This year's main speaker will be Barry Jean Ancelet, co-editor of *Dictionary of Louisiana French: As Spoken in Cajun, Creole, and Native American Communities*. He will speak on his new book which was recently published by the University Press of Mississippi. Ancelet is Granger & Debaillon Endowed Professor of Francophone Studies and Folklore at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He has given papers and published articles and books on various aspects of Louisiana's Cajun and Creole cultures and languages.

Judy Riffel will also give a presentation on Louisiana Spanish Land Grants. Riffel is a professional genealogist and has compiled numerous books and articles on Louisiana genealogical sources. She is also editor of Le Comité's print journal, *Le Raconteur*, and electronic newsletter, *E-Communiqué*.

The society will also display its publications for sale. Members already receive a discount on purchases, but for this one day only, they receive an additional discount.



For thirty years, *Le Raconteur* has been in the forefront of publishing the best information out there to further your research goals in the state of Louisiana. In recent years, it has been to Riffle's credit and the work that she and others have done to bring forth such an excellent genealogical publication. This comes with membership in the society, and it contains all previously unpublished materials of interest to researchers.

Le Raconteur now ranks as perhaps one of the best of its kind in the country. The quality is there. The quantity is there. And the price is definitely right.

For a copy of the seminar program, visit the society's website at www.lecomite.org. You can also write to them at P.O. Box 1547, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-1547.

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SAYING GOODBYE: When Leroy Ellis Willie passed away on Saturday, September 11, 2010, the genealogical world lost one of its most thorough and accurate researchers. With a passion for getting it documented correctly, he always spent that extra time and effort to present his findings to all in the best form that he could. He took the time to do it right the first time and didn't mind telling others when they presented something incorrectly. He was somewhat of a perfectionist, but when it came to genealogical preservation efforts, there just was no one any better at what he tried to accomplish.

I've known Leroy for many years, and we have had quite a few conversations over the years. He always amazed me with his knowledge of Louisiana's early history, and I have reviewed many of his books. We had planned to get together at his home and just have an old-fashioned sit-down conversation about all things genealogical and historical in our lives. That never took place.

Leroy Ellis Willie was born on February 10, 1914 in Folsom and lived in Baton Rouge most of his life. He was the first in his family to receive a college degree, this being from LSU in 1939. He was married to Marie Davidsaver Willie, who preceded him in death, but they celebrated 62 years of love and companionship. Leroy was a member of many genealogical and historical societies, and he supported many more groups doing similar projects in preservation. He served with distinction in World War II and earned six medals and a clasp for his naval service.

After retiring in 1976, he started his family history quest which led to many involvements with organizations and publishing of materials about the family. In 1982, he wrote "Willey, Core, Bennett and Other Ancestors" and followed this with a number of other books and papers about Louisiana history. This kind and generous man will be remembered for his work and for his devotion to family and friends.

Rest in peace, my friend. Rest in peace.

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FREE SERVICE: Correspondence to this column should be directed to Damon Veach, Cajuns, Creoles, Pirates and Planters, 709 Bungalow Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5337. The e-mail address is ancestorslaveach@cox.net. Queries and book reviews are printed as space permits, and you are encouraged to take advantage of this free service. Claitor's Publishing can serve as a distributor for self-published genealogy titles. Go to their homepage for details on how you can obtain this excellent service.