

CAJUNS, CREOLES, PIRATES AND PLANTERS

Your New Louisiana Ancestors Format

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By Damon Veach

CUBAN PAPERS: The Papeles Procedentes de Cuba of the Archivo General de Indias in Spain offer a wealth of genealogical material to Louisiana researchers. The Cuban Papers, as they are commonly called, contain Spanish military and governmental records relating to many aspects of life in Louisiana and the surrounding area. Many documents from this collection have yet to be translated and published.

Over the years, *Le Raconteur*, has featured countless articles based on material found in the Cuban Papers. The latest issue (June 2011) contains two of four early registers of passports granted by the Louisiana governor to individuals in Louisiana. The first is a list of passports to leave Louisiana for the years 1769 to 1771 and the second is a list of passports, permissions, and licenses granted for the year 1770. Future installments will cover the years 1771 and 1772.

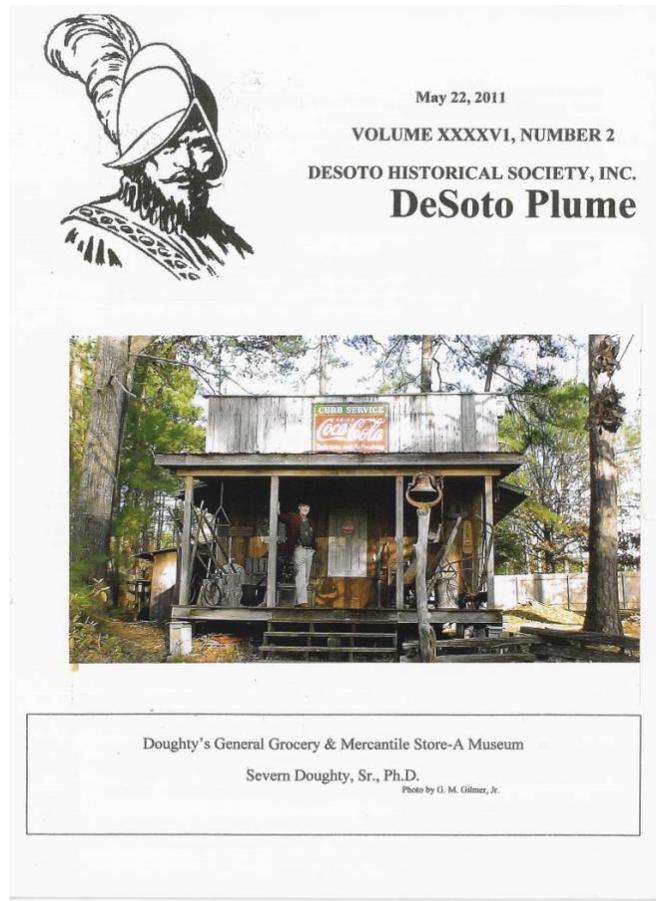
Most of the passports from this time period were granted to individuals to leave Louisiana to go to France or Santo Domingo. Permissions were granted to travel within the province to conduct business or handle other matters while licenses were granted to hunt, fish, chop lumber, or gather other needed resources. These registers have never before been published, something subscribers to *Le Raconteur* have come to appreciate in this publication.

Other articles of interest include Henry Miller Shreve's 1827 letter on Mississippi River navigation, extracts from the *Iberville Gazette* for 1835 and 1852, an 1851 letter from Natchitoches to C.F. Dranguet, abstracts of some miscellaneous St. Landry records, 1899 extracts from the *Evangeline*, and a listing of the Rapides Militia for 1793. The last installment of St. Bernard Catholic Cemetery #2 in Breaux Bridge is also included.

The June issue is available with the 2011 membership in Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane. To subscribe, mail \$20 to Le Comité at P.O. Box 1547, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, or visit their website at www.lecomite.org to download a membership application.

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HISTORIC BUILDING: It is a credit to those individuals who strive to save a part of our past through numerous preservation efforts.



A good example of this type of preservation occurred at the last meeting of the DeSoto Parish Historical Society in Mansfield. They meet quarterly, and this meeting was at Doughty's General Grocery and Mercantile Store, which is now a museum. The picture on the cover of the latest *DeSoto Plume* is of Severn Doughty Sr. standing on the porch.

One of my earlier column in this series tells another story of how time stands still with an old store that I visited in Claiborne Parish. It is a credit to families and individuals who preserve these bits of the past so that future generations can enjoy them. If there is a preservation group in your part of Louisiana that continues to take care of old properties like these two stores, it would be wise to check them out. Once gone, they can never be replaced.

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HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS: Exploring historical newspapers just got a little easier – and cheaper! With a National Endowment for Humanities grant to digitize 100,000 pages of Louisiana newspapers (dating from 1860 to 1922), LSU is sharing

this free resource that enables keyword searching of about 60 titles from every region in the state.

An introduction to the Digitizing Louisiana Newspapers Project will be given at the Goodwood Library in Baton Rouge on Thursday, June 9th, from 2 to 4 p.m. The presentation will include background on the title selection and status of the grant, search tips for many topics that can be found in the collection, and a genealogist's approach to using these papers. Participants will also have the opportunity for hands-on training.

Speakers are Athena Jackson, Digitizing Louisiana Newspapers Project (DLNP) Manager; Michelle Johnson, former DLNP-Graduate Assistant; and Judy Riffel, genealogist. The presentation is free and open to the public.

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ACADIAN RECORDS: The latest issue of *Acadian Genealogy Exchange Newsletter* just arrived. Editor and publisher Janet B. Jehn always does a fine job coordinating and displaying records that researchers appreciate. It's published twice a year from her home, 3265 Waylman Branch Rd., Covington, KY 41015-4601, and subscription is \$17 per year in the U.S. and \$20 outside the U.S.

If you have Acadian ancestors, this is the publication for you. In fact, you may want to ask your local libraries to order back issues for future research. Lots of interesting items are in this particular issue, such as Charles Joseph Richard genealogy, Carles Mius dit d'Azy genealogy, census records of Attakapas in 1777, Broussards in Alabama, Gautrot/Gaudrau connection, ancestors of Albina Pellerin, Pierre Sire genealogy, and much, much more. This is just a small portion of the material in this issue.

Contact Jehn and see about subscribing, or at least search for copies in any major genealogy library.

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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.