

CAJUNS, CREOLES, PIRATES AND PLANTERS

Your New Louisiana Ancestors Format

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ARCHIVES NEWS UPDATE: The National Archives is working with local officials to pilot a web archiving model which will ensure important online information is preserved for future generations. Currently, they work in partnership with the Internet Memory Foundation (IMF) to archive central government websites, but its remit does not extend to cover all the local government or community websites.

This pilot will run in seven local authority archives and cover more than 20 local authorities where staff will be trained on how to develop a curated web archive for their area and will be provided with free support from the National Archives and the IMF for the duration of the pilot.

Oliver Morley, Chief Executive and Keeper of the National Archives has stated that they are working to share the expertise they have built up in archiving government websites with local archive services throughout the country, thus empowering them to create web archives of their own which will provide a digital history of their communities. The pilot will help create a template for procuring web archiving services and guidance on best practices to help archive services around the country.

In parallel with this work, they are also conducting an automated web crawl of local authority and NHS sites in the next two years to capture a wide variety of locally-held information which includes datasets which are not currently preserved.

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MORE RESEARCH BOOKS: Several more books have been added to the new releases of the Genealogical Publishing Company of Baltimore Maryland. This is one of the country's top publishers of genealogical books, and many reprints and other books can be found at their other departmental complex, Clearfield Company.

Of particular interest to those who are really doing a lot of work on the internet is a book by Drew Smith called *Social Networking for Genealogists*. This book, which was mentioned in a previous format and important enough to mention again, describes the wide array of social networking services that are now available online and highlights how these services can be used by genealogists to share information, photos, and videos with family, friends, and other researchers. Each chapter guides you through a unique category of social networking services using genealogy-related examples. From blogs and wikis to Facebook and Second Life, the author shows you how to incorporate these powerful new tools into your family history research.

Specifically, you'll find chapters devoted to the following social networking services:

- Blogs

- Collaborative editing
- Genealogy-specific social networks
- General social networking (Facebook)
- Message boards & mailing lists
- Photos & video sharing
- Podcasts
- RSS feeds
- Sharing personal libraries
- Tags
- Virtual worlds
- Wikis

Destined to become a classic, this book is about the type of social networking that has been made possible by the development of international computer networks, the availability of network access to most homes (especially broadband access), the creation of websites dedicated to particular kinds of networking (posting photos, viewing and commenting on videos, seeing what books friends have in their libraries, etc.), and the ease of participating in these sites without having to be a computer expert. More to the point, this book is intended to identify those kinds of social networking sites and services that will be of the most interest to genealogists.

Smith is an academic librarian with the University of South Florida in Tampa and is an expert in digital genealogy. This book is available for \$24.45 postpaid and can be ordered directly from Genealogical Publishing Company, 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore, MD 21211-1953.

The second book is *Annotated Transcriptions of Currituck Wills (to 1760)* by John Anderson Brayton. This annotated collection of Currituck County wills begins with an informed Introduction describing, among other things, the origins of Currituck records, the transfer of Knotts Island, Virginia, to Currituck, and the liberties taken by will scribes in the reconstruction or shortening of Currituck surnames.

Working in the Norfolk and Princess Anne County probate records, as well as in those of Currituck itself, compiler Brayton limited his attention to wills signed before 1760 or found among the loose papers of the North Carolina Secretary of State. Of perhaps greatest interest throughout the volume, Brayton annotates the contents of the wills with genealogical commentary about testators or others mentioned therein, or with cross-references to other documents in the volume. *Annotated Transcriptions of Currituck Wills [to 1760]* refers to upwards of 4,000 early Currituck County forebears.

It sells for \$48.00, postpaid.

The final offering from this company is a double volume of material published in one volume. It is rather expensive at \$95.50 (postpaid) but well worth it. Perhaps it can be added to major genealogical library collections in your city.

When they came to America, German immigrants left behind a trail of records familiar to everyone in genealogy, from births, marriages, and deaths to citizenship and census records, and from land and tax records to emigration records. The key to German genealogical research, of course, is to find out where these records are located, but since there are more than 2,000 national, state, and local repositories in Germany, to say nothing of church repositories and other private archives, such an undertaking is daunting if not downright impossible. There is a knowledge of these records, but what good are they if they can't be found? And these records stretch back to the Middle Ages, encompassing family history sources so vast in number and so scattered that the mind reels.

To overcome this challenge, a Brigham Young University project was launched in 1996 to identify the records of German emigrants by cataloguing the relevant record holdings in all the public and private archives in the Federal Republic of Germany. This book is the direct outgrowth of that ambitious project. Under the supervision of Professor Raymond Wright, approximately 2,000 national, state and local government archives, as well as private archives, were surveyed. Questionnaires were mailed to archivists asking them to identify their archives' jurisdictions and to describe the records housed in their archives and the services provided by their staff. The returned questionnaires, supplemented by Internet searches, were used to create summaries of each archive's jurisdictions, holdings, and services. The result of this massive survey, published here, is an exhaustive guide to family history sources in German archives at every level of jurisdiction, public and private. Anyone searching for data about people who lived in Germany in the past need only determine which archives today have jurisdiction over the records that were created by church or state institutions.

The questionnaire sent to German archivists asked specifically for information about each archive's collections of vital records, religious records, military records, emigration records, passport records, censuses, and town and county records. Archivists were also asked to describe any published guides or inventories to their collections. Compiled in book form, the answers appear here in chapters dealing with the federal archives (*Bundesarchive*), religious archives, and the various archives in each of Germany's sixteen states (*Lander*), including town (*Kreisstadte*), city (*Stadtarchiv*), and county archives (*Kreis*).

To facilitate the location of records in each archive or repository, the book is arranged in the following manner: Within each state chapter all entries are arranged in alphabetical order by the name of the city in which the archive is located. The first part of each chapter contains listings of state archives; next, all city and regional archives are listed. Church archives with jurisdictions within the state are in the third section, while the fourth section lists family archives. Last, all other archives in the state for which a questionnaire was returned, or a website found, are listed.

For each of the 2,000 archives, information is provided under the following headings:

- Name and Address of the Archive (including phone, fax, e-mail, and Internet)
- Jurisdiction of the Archive
- Organization of the Archive's Records
- Published Guides or Descriptions of Collections
- Emigration Records
- Records of Churches or Religious Communities
- Civil Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths
- Civil Registration of Residents
- Records of Cities, Towns, and Districts
- Censuses
- Military Records
- Records from Former German Communities Now in Other Countries

Designed to answer the researcher's most frequently asked questions regarding the type of records that exist and where such records can be found, this massive compilation holds the key to genealogical research in Germany. Comparisons abound, but *Ancestors in German Archives* closely resembles *Ancestry's Red Book* in that it is an all-in-one directory to genealogical sources in all repositories in all places in one country. In this case, of course, it is a one-stop guide to genealogical sources in Germany, and it is clearly the most indispensable finding-aid ever published on the subject. Most importantly, it answers the fundamental questions about the very existence of genealogical records in Germany and paves the way for successful research.

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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.