

CAJUNS, CREOLES, PIRATES AND PLANTERS

Your New Louisiana Ancestors Format

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IMPORTANT PROGRAM: Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane has set its Annual Meeting for Sunday, September 18, 2011, at the Embassy Suites Hotel on Constitution Avenue in Baton Rouge. This year's program will delve into some of the best online genealogical resources today.

Athena N. Jackson, Project Manager – Digitizing Louisiana Newspapers, will discuss LSU's newspaper digitization program, funded by a National Endowment for Humanities grant. Her presentation, *Yesterday's Louisiana News in Today's Times: The Online Edition, Digitizing Louisiana Newspapers Project*, will take a look at the background of the program and describe the process of digitizing newspapers. She will also demonstrate how to use the Library of Congress Chronicling America website (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>), where digitized versions of historical newspapers from around the country are found. She will give specific examples showing how genealogists can get the most out of this website.

Mike and Suzanne Schexnayder, Directors of the Baton Rouge Family History Center, will present *What's New at FamilySearch*. In addition to giving an introduction to the FamilySearch website, they will cover the Family History Center Portal and a plethora of new features including the Indexing program and the Research Wiki. A new online microfilm ordering feature will also be explained.

Finally, Judy Riffel will present *Researching French Departmental Archives Online*. She will demonstrate how to find and use the websites of the French archives that have digitized and put their records online in the past few years.

Many of Le Comité's publications, including books and back issues, will be deeply discounted for this one day only.

Registration for the meeting begins at 1 p.m. and the program starts at 1:30. It is free to Le Comité members. Non-members may join at the door for \$20.

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MEETINGS SCHEDULED: The Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society is one of the most active groups in the state. The latest issue of *Kinfolks* has just arrived, and it again shows how they continue to present such informative materials in their quarterly publication. Their next regular meeting will be held on Saturday, September 17, 2011 at 10 a.m. in the Carnegie Meeting Room of Southwest Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Library in Lake Charles.

The program at the meeting will be “A Family Heritage Sequence – to Gather, Preserve, Sustain, and Make Relevant.” It will be presented by Bernadette Ponton and Renee Reina. If you would like to also reserve November 19th on your schedule, the program will be by Carolyn Thibodeaux on the Sabine Pass Lighthouse.

Of particular interest in this issue was a summary of the program presented in May by Jim Bradshaw on the Great Flood of 1927. It was definitely informative and certainly timely when compared to the threat of possible flooding in 2011. Michael Jones also contributed information on several Confederate veterans, more gleanings from early police jury minutes were given, and veterans of the Miller and Theigen families were discussed.

This issue also had more cemetery listings, items from newspapers, and many, many miscellaneous items of interest to genealogical researchers. Be sure to check out a copy in your local library or join the group and receive this publication as part of your subscription.

Membership in this society is \$12 for individuals or \$17 for couples. The address for this group is SWLGS, P.O. Box 5652, Lake Charles, LA 70606-5652. On the internet, check them out at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~laslgs/swlgs.htm.

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QUARTERLY PUBLICATION: *Crossroads* is another nice quarterly covering Allen Parish and put together by the Allen Genealogical and Historical Society in Kinder, Louisiana. Membership in this group is \$15 per year and includes the publication.

They also have a number of other publications available - congregational church records, cemetery listings, ancestor charts, and other items of interest to researchers. There are over 20 of these publications ranging in price from \$6.00 to \$25.00.

Of particular interest in this issue is information on the McGee family, burials in the McGee Cemetery submitted by Harold Harmon, and ancestor chart for Olan McGee. Another ancestor chart is of Alien (Lillian) Courville.

Further information on this group can be obtained from them at P.O. Box 789, Kinder, LA 70648. Each issue of their quarterly has an index.

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EXCELLENT NEWSLETTER: The *Morgan-Chapman Family Newsletter* always contains interesting information on this family lineage. This issue contains data and pictures of Charles P. Chapman, a missionary to Colombia and Ecuador. Chapman

was the son of John Edward Howd Chapman and Frances Parnal Marvin. He was born in Amite, Louisiana on August 29, 1869 and died in Colombia, South America on March 25, 1952.

Chapman was married first to Mary Johnson and had a son, Wilbur James Chapman, whose story appeared in an earlier issue of this publication. His second wife was Elena Wolf, and her picture is included in the brief sketch about his life.

Marvin Chapman Morgan of the U.S. Army is also one of the descendants who gets a special writeup in this issue. After his service was complete, he returned to Baton Rouge. This was a very nice explanation and description of a man's service to his country and one that is honorable and patriotic.

In addition to a 90th birthday wish to Jane Morgan Trapp of Kennesaw, Georgia, this little newsletter contains personal letters, recipes, and a reminder that on Saturday, June 30, 2012, this family will celebrate their Reunion Number Sixteen.

The *Morgan-Chapman Family Newsletter* is published by Chapman Morgan, 3656 Linda Lee Dr., Santa Maria, CA 93455-2619. The e-mail address is chapmanmorgan@verizon.net. Subscription rate is only \$5.00 per year payable to Chapman Morgan.

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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.