

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

*Your New Louisiana Ancestors Format*

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**SCOTTISH GENEALOGY:** The Caledonian Society will present a seminar on Scottish Genealogy, including a presentation on the use of DNA in genealogy as well as the basics of genealogical researching, at the Bluebonnet Regional Branch on Thursday, December 1, at 6:30 p.m. The Caledonian Pipe Band will play some Scottish tunes on the patio 30 minutes prior to the start of the program.

Display cases will feature exhibits on Scottish Christmas and the unique Scottish holiday known as Hogmanay. Cassie Fedrick will also give a brief presentation on the resources available at the Bluebonnet Regional Branch Genealogy Section. For more information, call 225-763-2240.

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**A LA POINTE:** Gene Thobodeaux has come up with an interesting compilation on Francois Pitre in the latest *A La Pointe*, the quarterly newsletter of the Pointe de l'Eglise: Acadia Genealogical and Historical Society, Inc., Acadia Parish, Louisiana. Also in the latest issue is a continuation of the Acadia Parish Marriage License Index of 1917, an important look at the life of Chester Winfile Young, Ph.D., and, of course, more turn of the century biographical sketches and pictures.

These sketches include: Edward T. Hoyt, T.B. Hutts, Bernard Isaacs, Dr., Walter Allen Jenkins, Frank Joseph Klein, Frank C. Labit, Dupre LeBlanc Jr., David Levy, H. Eugene Lewis, Alexander C. Lormand, and David E. Lyons.

This current issue contains the index for the year, and it also has a listing of all the publications available for researchers. This organization has always been one of the most active in the state, and their quarterly publications show how they seek to preserve all the early genealogy and history of the area.

They can be found online at <http://rootsweb.com/~lapeghs/>. The regular address is P.O. Box 497, Crowley, LA 70527. Their next meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 12, 2011 at the Crowley branch of the Acadia Parish Library, located at 1125 N. Parkerson Avenue in Crowley, Louisiana. Guest speaker for the November meeting will be Dr. John Doucet.

Membership in this society is \$20 per year, and meetings are held on the second Saturdays of February, May, August, and November.

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**HOUMA GROUP:** Another active group of genealogical researchers can be found in Houma, Louisiana. The Terrebonne Genealogical Society (P.O. Box 20295,

Houma 70360-0295) held their last meeting on October 29, 2011. Richard Bourgeois gave complete details on the previous owners of Ducros Plantation and how long each had ownership of the plantation.

Bourgeois has owned the plantation since 1995, and he has finished some of the original plans for working on its restoration to its original glory. He has several books that show in pictures what the plantation looked like when he became the owner and the progress of his work and information on the previous owners. His grandfather was the original owner of Bourgeois Meat Market, and his cousins own it now.

Guest speaker for this meeting was Kerry Michael St. Pe, current Executive Director of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program. This is a nationally recognized effort dedicated to preserving and restoring the 4.2 million-acre area between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers in Southeast Louisiana.

Kerry grew up in Port Sulphur where the vast coastal marshes surrounding his home inspired him to become a marine biologist. His years of work in this field brought him in contact with the people, marshes, and swamps of the area which is now known as the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary. His wetland restoration work has been featured in Mike Tidwell's *Bayou Farewell, the Rich Life and Tragic Death of Louisiana's Cajun Coast*. It was also featured in a recent PBS documentary, *Washing Away: Losing Louisiana*.

For information on upcoming programs or for joining this group, contact them at the address above, or e-mail Jess Bergeron, Correspondence Secretary, [jessndot@bellsouth.net](mailto:jessndot@bellsouth.net). This group of genealogical researchers also has quite a few important publications for sale. Hopefully, most of these are in the major genealogical research libraries of Louisiana.

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**QUERY:** Daniel Oppliger, 18189 W. Weatherby Drive, Surprise, AZ 85374 would like to learn more about Felix Garcia (1803-1859). He was a state senator from 1838-1850. He also owned a plantation in St. Charles Parish and acquired land in St. John the Baptist Parish around 1832. He was married first to Francoise Massicot, and their daughter was named Aimee. His second marriage was to Mathilde Arnauld, a daughter of Jean E. Arnauld. A son, Charles L. Garcia, mother unknown, was born on November 24, 1845 in New Orleans. (Oppliger can also be reached at [danoppliger@tropicalsails.com](mailto:danoppliger@tropicalsails.com).)

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**RESEARCH CENTER:** The Louisiana Creole Research Center is located at Northwestern State University and is an excellent source when researching Creole

ancestries. The Genealogy Department continues working on a national database of Creole family histories and welcomes input from genealogists.

They are involved in cataloging as much of the documentation regarding Creole family histories as can be located, and they welcome assistance. They seek copies of family papers and photos, and their current collections contains documents such as baptismal and marriage records, funeral cards and programs, photographs, military records, letters, census records, succession papers, and other important records.

More information can be found at <http://creole.nsula.edu/>, and correspondence can be directed to Creole Center, NSU Box 5675, Natchitoches, LA 72497. Executive direct Janet Colson can be reached at [colsonj@nsula.edu](mailto:colsonj@nsula.edu).

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**NOTICE:** Claitor's is looking for someone to carry on Father Hebert's work on South and Southwest Louisiana records, and anyone interested should contact Bob Claitor at [claitor@claitors.com](mailto:claitor@claitors.com).

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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](mailto: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.