

CAJUNS, CREOLES, PIRATES AND PLANTERS

Your New Louisiana Ancestors Format

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By Damon Veach

IMPORTANT RECORDS: *The Pension Roll of 1835* is the most complete roll of Revolutionary War pensioners ever published. It is an excellent reference for those individuals with ancestors defending our country during this period of our history.

Compiled by the War Department under Senate resolutions of 1834-35 from lists of pensioners who had been enrolled under all previous acts of Congress as well as from replacement records for those lists of pensioners that had been destroyed in fires in the War Department in 1801 and 1814, *The Pension Roll of 1835* contains the names and service records of approximately 60,700 soldiers, both regulars and militia. Information given for each soldier, in tabular form, generally includes rank, annual allowance, sums received, description of service, date when places on the pension roll, age, and date of death or date of the law under which the pension was granted. Also included in some instances are statements giving the names of family members.

When this monumental work was reprinted in 1968, its contents were re-arranged in four convenient volumes, one each for the New England states, the mid-Atlantic states, the Southern states, and the Mid-western states. When this work was about to be reprinted for a second time, Murtie June Clark was called upon for her assistance in indexing the material. She is widely known for her books on colonial and Revolutionary War records.

The arrangement of the 1968 reprint was retained and then the entire work was repaginated and indexed. The index (some 252 pages) appears now at the end of Volume 4. With the addition of Clark's index, this large body of source material becomes one of the finest available on the market today.

Now back in print, it is a little expensive, but it is still something that should be in all major library research collections. These paper volumes are available for \$250.00 from Clearfield Company, 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore, MD 21211. The postage for this set is \$5.50 for each volume, or \$22.00 total.

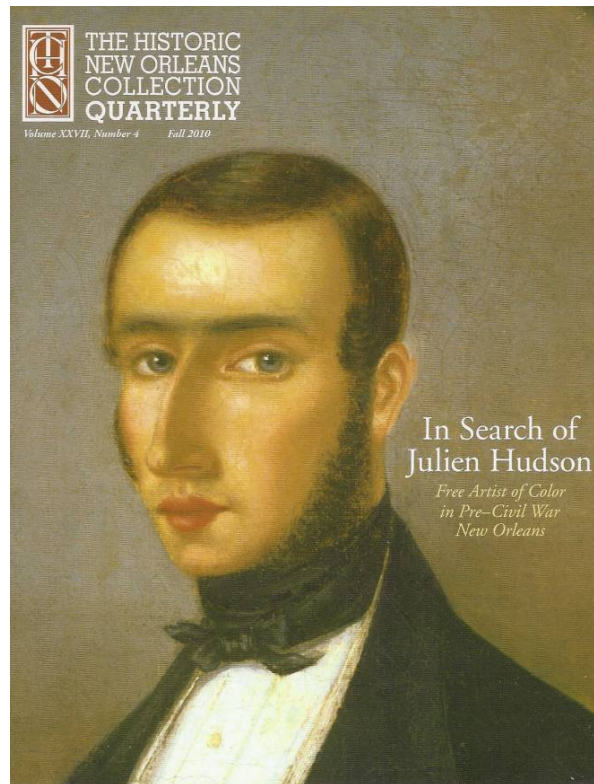
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MORE RECORDS: *Furnishing Louisiana: Creole and Acadian Furniture, 1735-1835* doesn't really fall into the genealogical category yet one can learn so much by studying those individuals responsible for creating such rare pieces of history. This is the first major book to examine the early furniture of the Mississippi River valley.

Featuring more than 1,200 color images, this magisterial study presents a comprehensive catalogue of furniture forms produced in the region along with contextual essays on cabinetmakers, the hardware and the woods, native and exotic, employed in the craft, the art of inlay, the import trade at the Port of New Orleans, and the interior of the early Louisiana home. This volume evokes an era before mass production and ease of transport of homogenized furniture design across America, and stands as a tribute to the region's cultural diversity and remarkable artistry.

The authors are Jack D. Holden., H. Parrott Bacot, and Cybele T. Gontar. Contributors include Brian J. Costello and Francis J. Puig, photographer Jim Zietz, designer Tana Coman, and editors Jessica Dorman and Sarah R. Doerries. Books are available from The Historic New Orleans Collection, www.hnoc.org, or at major bookstores.

If you are in the French Quarter, stop by The Shop at The Collection, 533 Royal Street in New Orleans. They have a wonderful collection of other titles that fall into the genealogical category. Their research center is one of the best in the country, and don't forget to check out their collection of materials. You will find it to be more than you ever expected in a research center.



THNOC also has a quarterly publication which is filled with interesting genealogical and historical information. Their final issue of 2010 discussed a number of interesting subjects including a thorough look into their new book *Furnishing*

Louisiana: Creole and Acadian Furniture, 1735-1835. The article on Julien Hudson was another excellent contribution concerning his work and family history. Hudson was the son of Suzanne Desiree Marcos, a property-owning free woman of color, and John Thomas Hudson, an English merchant, ironmonger, and ship chandler.

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EXCELLENT QUARTERLY: The quarterly newsletter of the Pointe de L'Eglise: Acadia Genealogical and Historical Society of Acadia Parish continues to be a strong voice for historical preservation and research in this part of Acadiana. The latest issue contains information on the Lejeune family of Southwest Louisiana by Gercie Daigle, and Gene Thibodeaux takes a look at Louis LeComte dit Dupre, Seigneur de Terrebonne. Again, this publication has included some biographical sketches of interest to researchers.

You can learn more about this group by writing to them at P.O. Box 497, Crowley, LA 70527 or checking them out at www.rootsweb.com/~lapehgs.

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READER INQUIRY: Kay Lemke Warden, 1440 Broadmoor Dr., Slidell, LA 70458 needs information on the Rainwater Hotel in DeQuincy, which was mainly used by railroad people. The first one was blown down, and another was built in the middle of town around 1900. The hotel was owned by Fred W. Lemke who was married to Naoma (Naomi) Hankins. Their children were: Merton, born 1904; Archie, born 1908; and Seth, born 1914 in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Seth was a twin, and the little girl was either stillborn or died soon after birth. Her name was Louisa. Her burial place is unknown.

If anyone can assist this researcher, contact her at jokav12@gmail.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. 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.