

CAJUNS, CREOLES, PIRATES AND PLANTERS

Your New Louisiana Ancestors Format

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By Damon Veach

SAVING DOCUMENTS: Most genealogists are outstanding preservationists. It takes a lot of time to search for and then record and store information found in the various research facilities around the world. Once the material is found, it is then shared through a number of ways – articles, books, publication in society quarterlies or newsletters, and, in some cases, donated to a museum or library for use by other researchers.

It is even more personal when it comes to family papers that have been handed down through generations of caring ancestors. Paper preservation requires proper storage and safe handling procedures. This means that special care has to be taken to keep the information safe from further damage. It takes a lot of effort and understanding to keep this data safe. Temperature and humidity have to be considered, and this is something that has to definitely be considered a priority.

Clean air and good circulation is important too. High heat and moisture cause the chemical process that destroys documents. Papers become discolored and brittle if not stored in the right environment. A damp environment can result in mold growth or invite pests to either eat the documents or use them for nesting material. Modern home environments offer a safe place, but basements or attics are out of the question.

Perhaps the most damaging thing to paperwork is light, especially that which contains high proportions of ultra violet, that is fluorescent and natural day light. The damage caused by this is irreversible. This promotes chemical degradation in the paper and fades the ink. It is important to store family papers in folders or boxes that will provide the needed protection from light and dust. This also means that the enclosure itself should be made of stable permanent quality materials that will not contribute to the deterioration of the important documents.

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FINDING INFORMATION: There are many archives and museums around the world that preserve important historical and genealogical material. As discussed in a previous column, each state in the U.S. has an archives facility. Some of these seem to be better than others, but the bottom line is that care is being given to save as much as possible and to provide researchers with access to the material. This is why so much importance has been given to the various ways of making the material available to the public without damaging the original documents.

Whether you are searching for information in state facilities or even in private research areas, you always have the National Archives to turn to when it comes to the earliest of records here in the U.S. It is a privilege to be able to do work here, and just being able to view the massive storage areas is a remarkable experience, something that I had the opportunity to observe several years ago. Then the Library of Congress comes to mind as another amazing accomplishment of preserving early records.

Once you know where to look for materials, you have a network of archival facilities that offer a wealth of material available to further any genealogical or historical research. It is like starting at the top and working down, but as genealogists have learned from personal experience, doing family research is just the opposite. It is necessary to take that individual approach and start at the bottom and work up. That is why starting with known family data is so important. It then becomes a stair step up to libraries, archives, and then to the national level and even to foreign archives.

Of course, once the basics have been determined, research can be a joy in Salt Lake City at the Mormon Archives. However, this is just one phase of research, and many people may never be able to visit here but can still glean materials through an exchange program with local Mormon facilities. This will be discussed later.

Right now, I want to focus on all the national facilities where much genealogical and historical material is located. Each one contains a story in itself, but the following is a list of the locations of major national research facilities in the U.S. You can check out each one individually in person or through internet availability. The list includes the following:

National Archives in Washington, DC

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20408

Available services: Archival Research Room, Microfilm Research Room, "National Archives Experience" - The Rotunda, The Public Vaults, The William McGowan Theater, The Lawrence F. O'Brien Gallery

National Archives at Anchorage, AK (Pacific Alaska Region)

654 West Third Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501-2145

Available services: Archival Research Room, Microfilm Research Room, Records Center, Records Management

National Archives at Atlanta, GA (Southeast Region)

4712 Southpark Blvd., Ellenwood, GA 30294

Available services: Records Center, Records Management

National Archives at Atlanta, GA (Southeast Region)

5780 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, GA 30260

Available services: Archival Research Room, Microfilm Research Room

National Archives at Boston, MA (Northeast Region)
Frederick C. Murphy Federal Center 380 Trapelo Road Waltham, Massachusetts
02452-6399
Available services: Microfilm Research Room, Records Center, Records Management

National Archives at Chicago, IL (Great Lakes Region)
7358 South Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60629-5898
Available services: Archival Research Room, Microfilm Research Room, Research Room, Records Center, Records Management

National Archives at College Park, MD
8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001
Available services: Archival Research Room, Records Management

National Archives at Dayton, OH (Great Lakes Region)
3150 Springboro Road, Dayton, OH, 45439
Available services: Research Room, Records Center, Records Management

National Archives at Dayton-Miamisburg, OH (Great Lakes Region)
8801 Kingsridge Drive, Dayton, OH 45458
Available services: Records Center

National Archives at Denver, CO (Rocky Mountain Region)
Denver Federal Center, Building 46, Fifth Street and Center Avenue, Denver, CO
80225
Available services: Genealogy Microfilm Room, Records Management

National Archives at Denver, CO (Rocky Mountain Region)
Denver Federal Center, Building 48, Fifth Street and North Avenue, Denver, CO
80225
Available services: Textual Research Room, Records Center

National Archives at Fort Worth, TX (Southwest Region)
2600 West 7th Street, Suite 162, Fort Worth, TX, 76107
Available services: Archival Research Room, Microfilm Research Room

National Archives at Fort Worth, TX (Southwest Region)
1400 John Burgess Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76140
Available services: Archival Research Room, Records Center, Records Management

National Archives at Kansas City, MO (Central Plains Region)
400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO 64108-4306
Available services: Archival Research Room, Microfilm Research Room, Records Center, Records Management

National Archives at Laguna Niguel, CA (Pacific Region)
24000 Avila Rd., Suite 3513, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677
Available services: Records Management

National Archives at Lee's Summit, MO (Central Plains Region)
200 Space Center Drive, Lee's Summit, MO 64064-1182
Available services: Records Center, Research Room

National Archives at Lenexa, KS (Central Plains Region)
17501 West 98th Street, Lenexa, KS 66219
Available services: Records Center, Research Room

National Archives at New York City, NY (Northeast Region)
201 Varick Street, New York, NY 10014-4811 (Entrance on Houston Street, between Varick and Hudson)
Available services: Archival Research Room, Microfilm Research Room, Records Management

National Archives at Northeast Philadelphia, PA (Mid Atlantic Region)
14700 Townsend Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19154-1096
Available services: Records Center, Research Room, Records Management

National Archives at Philadelphia, PA (Mid Atlantic Region)
Robert N.C. Nix Federal Building, 900 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19107-4292
(Entrance is on Chestnut Street between 9th and 10th Streets)
Available services: Archival Research Room, Microfilm Research Room, Records Management

National Archives at Pittsfield, MA (Northeast Region)
Silvio O. Conte National Records Center 10 Conte Drive Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201-8230
Available services: Microfilm Research Room, Records Center, Records Management

National Archives at Riverside, CA (Pacific Region)
23123 Cajalco Road, Perris, CA 92570
Available services: Archival Research Room, Microfilm Research Room, Records Center

National Archives at San Francisco, CA (Pacific Region)
1000 Commodore Dr., San Bruno, CA 94066-2350
Available services: Archival Research Room, Microfilm Research Room, Records Center

National Archives at Seattle, WA (Pacific Alaska Region)

6125 Sand Point Way, NE., Seattle, WA 98115-7999

Available services: Archival Research Room, Microfilm Research Room, Records Center, Records Management

National Archives at St. Louis, MO

9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Available services: Archival Research Room

National Personnel Records Center (Civilian Records)

111 Winnebago Street, St. Louis, MO 63118-4199

Available services: Records Center, Research Room, National Personnel Records Center

National Personnel Records Center (Military Records)

9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Available services: Records Center, Research Room, National Personnel Records Center

Washington National Records Center

4205 Suitland Road, Suitland, MD 20746

Available services: Records Center, Research Room

Herbert Hoover Library

210 Parkside Dr., West Branch, IA 52358

Available services: Presidential Library and Museum

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

4079 Albany Post Rd., Hyde Park, NY 12538-1999

Available services: Presidential Library and Museum

Harry S. Truman Library

500 W. U.S. Hwy 24, Independence, MO 64050-1798

Available services: Presidential Library and Museum

Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

200 SE. Fourth Street, Abilene, KS 67410-2900

Available services: Presidential Library and Museum

John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library

Columbia Point, Boston, MA 02125-3398

Available services: Presidential Library and Museum

Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum

2313 Red River St., Austin, TX 78705-5702

Available services: Presidential Library and Museum

Richard Nixon Library, California
18001 Yorba Linda Boulevard, Yorba Linda, CA 92886-3903
Available services: Presidential Library and Museum

Richard Nixon Library, Maryland
8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001
Available services: Presidential Library and Museum

Gerald R. Ford Library
1000 Beal Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2114
Available services: Presidential Library and Museum

Gerald R. Ford Museum
303 Pearl St., Grand Rapids, MI 49504-5353
Available services: Presidential Library and Museum

Jimmy Carter Library
441 Freedom Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30307-1498
Available services: Presidential Library and Museum

Ronald Reagan Library
40 Presidential Dr., Simi Valley, CA 93065-0699
Available services: Presidential Library and Museum

George Bush Library
1000 George Bush Drive West, College Station, TX 77845
Available services: Presidential Library and Museum

William J. Clinton Library
1200 President Clinton Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72201
Available services: Presidential Library and Museum

George W. Bush Presidential Library
1725 Lakepointe Drive, Lewisville, TX 75057
Available services: Presidential Library and Museum

U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO)
U.S. Government Printing Office Superintendent of Documents 732 North Capitol
Street NW Washington, DC 20401
Available services: Affiliated Archives

Library of Congress
Prints and Photographs Division James Madison Bldg., Rm 337 101 Independence
Ave, S.E., Washington, DC 20540-4730
Available services: Affiliated Archives

**Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service
HABS/HAER Div National Park Service 1849 C Street NW Washington, DC 20240
Available services: Affiliated Archives**

**Oklahoma Historical Society
Oklahoma Historical Society Research Division 800 Nazihzuhdi Drive Oklahoma
City, OK 73105
Available services: Affiliated Archives**

**Pennsylvania State Archives, Bureau of Archives and History, Pennsylvania
Historical and Museum Commission
State Archivist Bureau of Archives and History 350 North Street Harrisburg, PA
17120-0090
Available services: Affiliated Archives**

**New Mexico State Records Center and Archives
State Records Center and Archives, 1205 Camino Carlos Rey, Santa Fe, NM 87507
Available services: Affiliated Archives**

**University of North Texas Libraries
1506 Highland Avenue, Willis Library, Denton, TX 76203
Available services: Affiliated Archives**

**United States Military Academy
Jefferson Hall Building, 758 Cullum Road, West Point, NY 10996
Available services: Affiliated Archives**

**United States Naval Academy
William W. Jeffries Memorial Archives, 589 McNair Road # A, Annapolis, MD
21402-5029
Available services: Affiliated Archives**

**Yellowstone National Park Archives
Yellowstone National Park Heritage & Research Center, Old Yellowstone Trail S,
Gardiner, MT 59030
Available services: Affiliated Archives**

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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.**

