

CAJUNS, CREOLES, PIRATES AND PLANTERS

Your New Louisiana Ancestors Format

Volume 4, Number 10



Members of the Canary Islanders Heritage Society of Louisiana celebrated the Spanish tradition of "El Día de la Cruz" (the day of the cross) on the 5th of May by decorating iron crosses with spring flowers.

Those pictured left to right:

Back Row: Lynda Normand, Karen Lambert, Dianne Hartley

Front Row: Joan Aleman, Hazel Bello

Photo provided by Joan Aleman

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IMPORTANT BOOKS: There are several books that continue to be useful items to keep in personal collections. However, if the local genealogical section of your library has them on file, it isn't necessary to purchase them unless you want them for convenience when doing research at home.

International Vital Records Handbook by Thomas Jay Kemp is one of the more important ones to have access to especially when doing research at home or you don't have access to a library in your area. At one time or another all of us need copies of birth, marriage, or death certificates for driver's licenses, passports, jobs, social security, family history research, or for simple proof of identify. But the requirements and fees needed to obtain copies of vital records vary from state to state and from country to country, often requiring a time-wasting exchange of correspondence before the appropriate forms can be obtained. The *International Vital Records Handbook* puts an end to all that, as it offers complete, up-to-date information on how and where to request vital records. It also includes copies of the application forms, where available, thus simplifying and speeding up the process by which vital records are obtained.

This new 5th edition of the *International Vital Records Handbook* contains the latest forms and information for each of the fifty states and also furnishes details about records that were created prior to statewide vital records registration. In addition, it identifies vital records collections, online databases, and institutions of interest to genealogy researchers. Then, in alphabetical sequence, it covers the other countries of the world, giving, where available, the current application forms and instructions, as well as the key addresses of repositories or embassies that might help you obtain copies of vital records.

If you are doing genealogy research and are not eligible to access a restricted record, you may be able to obtain an "informational copy" of the record, which will contain all of the information found on the certified copy but will have a statement stamped on it saying that the document is for informational purposes only and cannot be used to establish identity. When a state does provide an informational copy for research, it is noted in this book. A number of searchable, free databases containing vital records are now available online, and many of these too have been noted in this book, as have specific repositories containing vital records collections that are accessible by genealogists.

The new edition of this volume is \$60.00, postage and handling included, and it can be ordered from Genealogical Publishing Company, 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore, MD 21211.

Another book from this company and a useful volume to have is *The Genealogist's Address Book*. This book is the answer to the perennial question, "What's out there in the world of genealogy?" What organizations, institutions, special resources, and websites can help me? Where do I write or phone or send e-mail? Once again, Elizabeth Bentley's *The Genealogist's Address Book* answers these questions and more.

Now in its 6th edition, *The Genealogist's Address Book* gives you access to all the key sources of genealogical information, providing names, addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers, e-mail addresses, websites, names of contact persons, and other

pertinent information for more than 27,000 organizations, including libraries, archives, societies, government agencies, vital records offices, professional bodies, publications, research centers, and special interest groups.

Based on a written survey of thousands of organizations and institutions across the country, and supplemented by information from printed and Internet sources, the new 6th edition of *The Genealogist's Address Book* has been extensively revised and updated, eliminating undeliverable addresses and defunct organizations, while adding thousands of additional sources. Besides new websites and e-mail addresses, the new edition features greatly expanded coverage of archival agencies and vital records offices, especially in the New England states and New York. In addition, it is now easier to use than ever, with all 27,000 entries divided into two easy-to-use sections.

The Genealogist's Address Book is the only comprehensive list of genealogical and historical resources available; the only book that places an exhaustive list of genealogy organizations at your fingertips, reducing searching to a matter of seconds. Since its first appearance in 1991, it has established itself as the most frequently consulted book on the genealogist's reference shelf--the one research tool that almost everybody uses. Through six editions it has proved itself indispensable for beginners and professionals alike, and if you own any of the previous editions, you'll certainly want to own this one. This one is priced at \$75.45, postpaid and from this same company.

The third book from this company that is good to have around especially for beginners is *Researchers Guide to American Genealogy*. It is priced at \$45.45, postpaid. In every field of study there is one book that rises above the rest in stature and authority and becomes the standard work in the field. In genealogy that book is Val Greenwood's *Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*.

Arguably the best book ever written on American genealogy, it is the text of choice in colleges and universities or wherever courses in American genealogy are taught. Of the dozens of textbooks, manuals, and how-to books that have appeared over the past twenty-five years, it is the one book that is consistently praised for setting a standard of excellence.

In a word, the *Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy* has become a classic. While it instructs the researcher in the timeless principles of genealogical research, it also identifies the various classes of records employed in that research, groups them in convenient tables and charts, gives their location, explains their uses, and evaluates each of them in the context of the research process. Designed to answer practically all the researcher's needs, it is both a textbook and an all-purpose reference book. And it is this singular combination that makes this one the book of choice in any genealogical investigation. It is also the reason why if you can afford to buy only one book on American genealogy in a lifetime, this has to be it.

The 3rd edition of this respected textbook incorporates recent thinking on genealogy and computers, specifically the relationship between computer technology (the Internet and CD-ROM) and the timeless principles of good genealogical research. It also includes a new chapter--since the second edition--on the property rights of women, a revised chapter on the evaluation of genealogical evidence, and updated information on the 1920 census. Little else has changed, or needs to be changed, because the basics of genealogy remain timeless and immutable. This 3rd edition of this book is a clear, comprehensive, and up-to-date account of the methods and aims of American genealogy--an essential text for the present generation of researchers--and no sound genealogical project is complete without it.

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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 can be any length, and book reviews are printed as space permits, and you are encouraged to take advantage of this free service. All genealogical/historical/preservation books are reviewed in this column format, but a review copy is necessary for this service. Another service is offered here too. 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. It is a way to get out-of-print books back into the system and definitely is a great assistance to genealogists who may need this information.