

CAJUNS, CREOLES, PIRATES AND PLANTERS

Your New Louisiana Ancestors Format

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ESTOPINAL PRESENTATION: The July 7th meeting of the Canary Islanders Heritage Society featured a presentation by author Stephen Estopinal on the role of the Spanish militia in the American Revolution. Pictured above dressed in a 1776 militia uniform and armed with an antique muzzle loading fowling piece, Estopinal explained how the Spanish army under Galvez contributed greatly to the success of the American Revolution. Acadians, Germans, Irish and Canary Islander (Isleño) settlers participated as militia and regular soldiers in the successful campaigns against the British in Baton Rouge, Mobile and Pensacola. (Photo by Marie Estopinal)

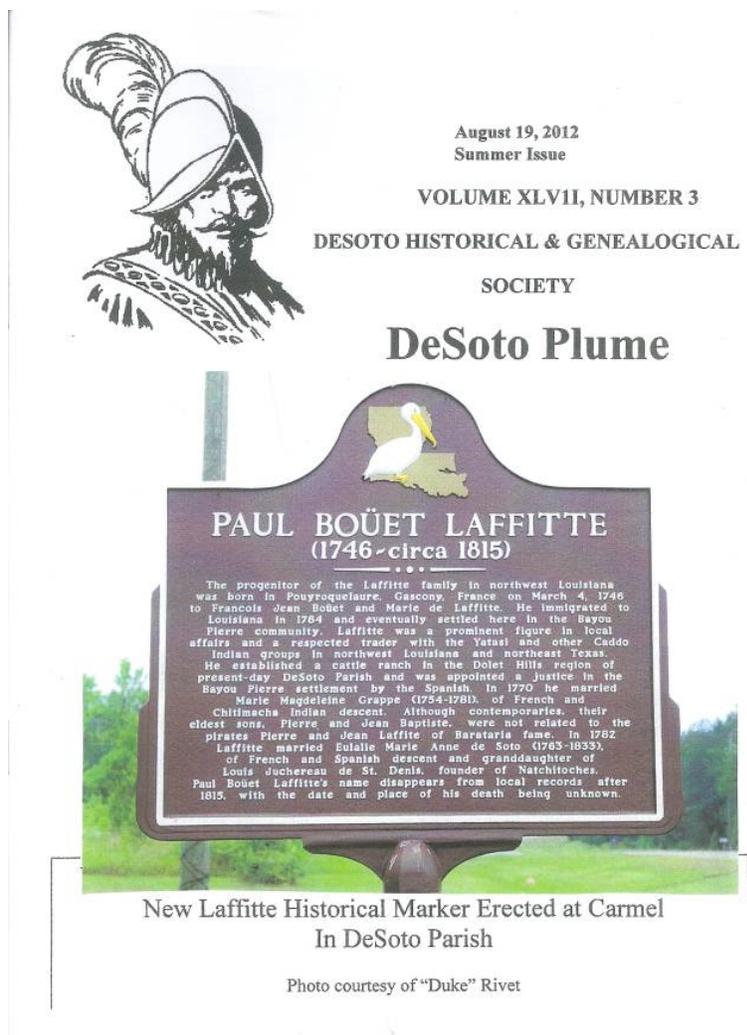
Dr. Rob Mann will be the featured speaker at the next general membership meeting of the Canary Islanders Heritage Society, 11:00 a.m. Saturday, August 4th, at the Louisiana State Archives Building, 3851 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Dr. Mann, Southeast Regional Archeologist and Assistant Professor of Research at

LSU's Department of Anthropology, will inform the Society of recent discoveries during archaeological digs at historic Galveztown in Ascension Parish.

All meetings are open to the public. More information about the Canary Islanders Heritage Society of Louisiana can be found on the web at www.canaryislanders.org. You may contact the President of the Society by email: llindsay@canaryislanders.org.

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LAFFITTE CONNECTIONS: Once again, the DeSoto Parish Historical & Genealogical Society has come up with a surprisingly great quarterly publication. This time, the issue is all about the Laffitte family.



Paul Bouët Laffitte was born in Pouyroquelaure, Gascony, France on March 4, 1746 to Francois Jean Bouët and Marie de Laffitte. He came to Louisiana in 1764 and eventually settled in the Bayou Pierre area of DeSoto Parish. He was prominent in

local affairs and a respected trader with the Yatasi and other Caddo Indian groups in northwest Louisiana and northeast Texas.

Laffitte established a cattle ranch in the Dolet Hills region of present-day DeSoto Parish and was appointed a Justice in the Bayou Pierre settlement by the Spanish. In 1770, he married Marie Magdeleine Grappe (1754-1781) of French and Chitimacha Indian descent.

Although contemporaries, their eldest sons, Pierre and Jean Laffite were not related to the pirates Pierre and Jean Laffite of Baratavia fame. In 1782, Paul Bouet Laffitte married Eulalie Marie Anne de Soto (1763-1833) of French and Spanish descent and granddaughter of Louis Juchereau de St. Denis, founder of Natchitoches.

Paul Bouet Laffitte's name disappears from local records after 1815 with the date and place of his death unknown.

One of the nice points I gleaned from this latest quarterly from this group in DeSoto Parish was the part that Dr. Jane Lucas DeGrummond played in the study of this family. She was a personal friend of mine, and I did not know that much about her work with the Laffite Study Group until I read this account.

Philip G. "Duke" Rivet has compiled a well-documented and wonderful story of the Laffitte family and played such a great part in the dedication of the marker erected in Carmel. Being a former resident of this parish, I so enjoyed seeing pictures (all in color) of people I hadn't seen since my high school days in Logansport.

The next meeting of the DeSoto Historical & Genealogical Society will be held on Sunday, August 19, 2012, 3:00 p.m. at the Carmel Community Center and Carmel Rock Chapel. Refreshments will be served at 2:30 p.m. before the meeting begins. Membership is only \$10 per year. Make checks payable to the society and send to them at P.O. Box 300, Stonewall, LA 71078. Their quarterly publication of *DeSoto Plume* is included in this subscription.

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ANOTHER PUBLICATION: The latest issue of *Terrebonne Life Lines* is another great publication from the Terrebonne Genealogical Society. Their spring issue 2012 contains some great research material. Here again is a society that produces one of the finest genealogical publications in the country. It is always filled with original material that you just can't find elsewhere.

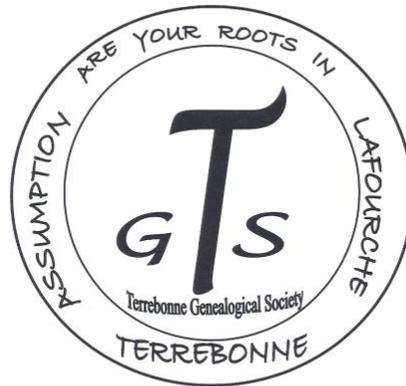
Membership in this society is \$25 per year and includes the quarterly publication. Their meetings are held on the last Saturday of each month (except November and December) at 1 p.m. at the Main Branch of the Terrebonne Parish Public Library,

151 Library Drive in Houma. You can learn more about the society by checking out the website: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~laterreb/tgs/.

TERREBONNE LIFE LINES

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This latest issue includes: St. Francis de Sales Baptismal Register index; Aucoin family information; article on plantation life; 1894 Lafourche Parish state licenses; Authement roots (1670-2005); Bisland oral history; Gautreaux family data; article on growing up in Georgia; list of applications for government lands by Freedmen; queries; and many other brief items to assist researchers in this part of Louisiana.

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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.

