

CAJUNS, CREOLES, PIRATES AND PLANTERS

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES: Dr. Rob Mann (right), featured speaker at the August 4th meeting of the Canary Islanders Heritage Society discusses the significance of the recent archaeological discoveries at the historic Spanish settlement of Galveztown in Ascension Parish with Society President Layne Lindsly. A sample of the artifacts recovered were displayed and discussed in detail during the meeting. Dr. Mann is the Southeast Regional Archeologist and Assistant Professor of Research at LSU's Department of Anthropology. Information about the Canary Islanders Heritage Society of Louisiana can be found on the website www.canaryislanders.org. You may contact the president of the society by email: llindsly@canaryislanders.org. (Photo by Marie Estipanol)

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STREET HISTORY: Those of you who are interested in seeing the slideshow concerning the history of streets in Abbeville, Louisiana, can now view Gary Theall's outstanding presentation at <http://www.vermilionhistorical.com/features/presentations.htm>. Just scroll down, and click on the link to Streets of Abbeville. You can learn the fascinating history behind the original street names of Père Mégrét's "Abbeville" and also a lot of Louisiana history along the way.

The streets discussed in the presentation are *Quai des Beaux Arts* (Fine Arts Quay, now North Main Street), *Quai des Français* (Frenchmen Quay, now South Main Street), *Rue du Port* (Port Street, now Père Mégrét Street), *Rue du Bas de Ville* (Bottom of Town Street,

now Washington Street), *Rue Jefferson* (Jefferson Street), *Rue de la Concorde* (Concord Street), *Rue de l'État* (State Street), *Rue de Tivoli* (Tivoli Street), *Rue de la Paix* (Peace Street), *Rue St. Charles* (St. Charles Street), *Rue des Sœurs de la Charité* (Sisters of Charity Street, now just Charity Street), *Rue Louisianaise* (Louisiana Street), *Rue St. François de Paule* (St. Francis Street, now East Street), *Boulevard LaFayette* (Lafayette Street), *Boulevard St. Victor* (St. Victor Street), *Rue St. Valerie* (St. Valerie Street), and *Rue Guégnon* (Guégnon Street).

This website has to be one of the best I've ever seen, and so much of the credit goes to the expertise of historian and preservationist Gary Theall. You can go to the main website to learn more about the history of this group, check out the availability of their publications, and learn so much about the history of the Acadiana region. The main website that you may want to file away for future reference is www.vermilionhistorical.com. It is just simply an excellent and remarkable body of work.

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ANNIVERSARY APPROACHES: For many years, the Louisiana State Archives was located in an old warehouse building on Choctaw in North Baton Rouge and near the Exxon plant. I can recall working with the employees during this period, and, by working with these individuals, I donated some of my material I had collected through my column work to start their genealogy research section.

I am happy to say that this collection has grown because of the efforts of Le Comite des Archives de la Louisiane. This preservation organization started at the request of Dr. Donald J. Lemieux, then Archives Director under Secretary of State Paul Hardy. There were problems in the beginning as you might find with any new organization, but after a lot of hard work and determination, Le Comite became what I really believe is the finest of its kind in the United States. The commitment to helping preserve our state's early records is still foremost in the plans that this group has, but they now can be credited with building up one of the finest genealogical research collections in any state.

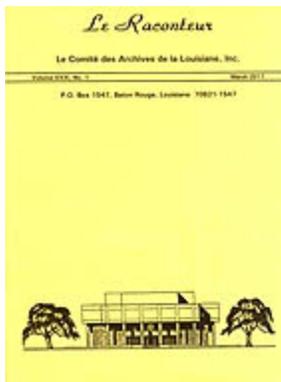
Being under state jurisdiction, the State Archives remains a part of the political football, but this hasn't kept Le Comite from growing in size and support. Remaining a non-political non-profit group, they have now become a force that continues to find a way to maintain a neutral stance, and the results show in the way the research collection has grown over the years. Cooperation between the general public and political interests can bring about strong results, and this has always been important to Le Comite.

This cooperation over the years has changed with new personnel at the state level, but Le Comite has remained a constant factor in the success of the collection and how it continues to grow. From that old warehouse building to the state-of-the-art building on Essen Lane, the State Archives stands as a reminder of what strong determination has done to create such a successful transition to national importance. Comparison to any archival facility in the country will show that Louisiana has weathered a long period of determination to bring forth something so nice as we now see in the Louisiana State Archives building.

The transition that started all those years ago will now allow Louisiana residents the ability to celebrate a nice 25th birthday on August 24th. This has all been documented through Le Comite's publication *Le Raconteur*. Here again is something that came into being because of the work of a group of interested preservationists, and now *Le Raconteur* has moved into the forefront as the finest publication of its kind in the country. It is always nice to see success come when positive initiatives are put into play, and this is the secret to the success of the publication and for the organization.

Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane, Inc. is the non-profit genealogical support group for the Louisiana State Archives. Founded in 1978, Le Comité is a 501(c)(3) historical preservation and genealogy organization. Membership in the society is on a calendar year basis.

Benefits of membership include the society's quarterly print journal, *Le Raconteur*; quarterly electronic newsletter, *E-Communiqué*, access to the Members Only section of the society's website, and a discount on the purchase of the society's publications.



Le Raconteur is published in March, June, September, and December. Each issue contains a variety of original genealogical and historical articles dealing with topics from around Louisiana. **Tables of Contents** and **Annual Indexes** dating back to 1984 are available. A **Price List of back issues** is also available.

E-Communiqué is published in January, April, July, and October. Each issue contains news and announcements and a Calendar of Events of genealogical meetings and seminars around the state. It is e-mailed to all members who provide an e-mail address. An archive of back issues is available on the web site.

Le Comité has also published numerous genealogical and historical books. These have included guides, indexes, and abstracts to historical record collections; census transcriptions; tombstone inscriptions; church records; and a Civil War diary. A list of the society's available publications along with prices and ordering information can be found on the **Publications Page**. Full-name indexes to selected books are also available on this page.

The society's annual meeting is held between September 1st and October 15th of each year. The Annual Meeting for 2012 will be held on September 30, 2012. **The Annual Meeting Program** will be available soon.

In 2006, Le Comité formed an African American Special Interest Group (SIG) to promote Louisiana African American genealogical and historical research. A page was created on Yahoo Groups for members to share information and to help each other with their research. All current members of Le Comité are eligible to join the SIG at no additional cost. Any member wishing to join the SIG should send an e-mail to Third Vice President, Cherryl Forbes Montgomery at cherrylm@aol.com and an invitation to join the Le Comité AA Sig group will be extended.

The society purchases books, microfilm, manuscripts, and other materials for the Louisiana State Archives. Monetary donations to help defray the cost of acquiring these materials for the State Archives Research Room are welcomed. Donations to the society may also be tax deductible. A list of past **Microfilm Donations** is available.

For more information on Le Comité des Archives, please contact Judy Riffel, Treasurer, via e-mail at riffelj@bellsouth.net or write the society at P.O. Box 1547, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-1547.

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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.