

# **CAJUNS, CREOLES, PIRATES AND PLANTERS**

*Your New Louisiana Ancestors Format*

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**REPRINT EDITIONS:** It isn't often that you find genealogical society members or individual compilers who will take their quarterly issues and have them published in a nice hard-cover volume. It certainly makes for easier filing and fewer copies of material to file away for future reference. At one time, the old Southern Historical Press in Easley, South Carolina did this.

An example of this dates back several years when this company apparently had an agreement with the editor of *The Georgia Genealogical Magazine* to reprint some of the quarterlies edited by Folks Huxford. This was a magazine containing genealogical source material concerning Georgians, and, as I recall, it was one of the better quarterlies for presenting original data from this part of the southern United States.

This particular book, which contains issues from 1961 and 1962 was published as a part of the Bicentennial Celebration in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the United States and the state of Georgia. This may be the only one of its kind, but it is certainly a nice way to present previously published materials. It also stands alone as being a quarterly published privately and not connected to a genealogical society.

If you do run across a publication of this type, you will find it very useful especially if it is indexed. Unfortunately, this Georgia publication was not indexed but still is an important addition to any major genealogical library collection.

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**TRAHAN DATA:** I have followed Michael "Mitch" Conover's genealogical work over the years and have always found his works to be excellent in all respects, both in hardcover book form and as CDs. *Trahan, Nicholas to Guillaume to You* is a good example of his work.

This comprehensive listing of over 3,000 Trahans constituted a basic research tool for anyone tracing Trahan lines. Related families represented are Breaux, Broussard, Duhon, Guidry, Hebert, Landry, LeBlanc, Simon, and Thibodeaux.

This is Volume 1 of a 15-volume work, and it has an index of 5,200 individual names represented in all remaining volumes to be published back in 1963 when I first received a review copy for my column formats. Each individual listed in the index has their Personal Record Identification Number (RIN), the family number (MRIN), their birth ear, year of death, and spouse or father's name with RIN.

Also included in this volume is a 95-page descendency chart of all individuals represented in the remaining volumes. This chart shows 13 generation numbers of lineage along with RIN number, birth ear, and year of death.

The first 75 family groups are in Volume 1 showing complete family genealogy, including (when known) place of birth, christening, marriage, death, and/or burial. Conover also included individual paragraphs of interesting information from early family members.

A lot of work has been done on the Trahan family since I first reviewed this book. If you are interested in this family or any of the related lines, you may want to contact Mitch Conover at 300 Strasbourg Drive, Lafayette, LA 70506. I'm sure this volume can be found in most major genealogical libraries.

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**ATTAKAPAS RECORDS:** Many important works have come from The Center for Louisiana Studies in Lafayette, and much of this has been from the work done by Glenn R. Conrad. His name is widely associated with many volumes of excellent historical and genealogical importance.

One of the better ones that I recall was *Volume 1, The Attakapas Domesday Book, Land Grants, Claims and Confirmations in the Attakapas District, 1764 - 1826*, a series of invaluable materials for researchers. This series investigated settlement patterns and land proprietorship in the Attakapas District of Louisiana. Conrad was concerned with the validity of certain interpretations by scholars regarding the social and economic experiences of Louisiana's Acadians in the years before the Civil War.

Not only is this book filled with outstanding material, but it definitely shows Conrad's expertise on the subject and his masterful way of setting the records straight. It is filled with a topic of great interest while offering a wealth of information for researchers.

This first volume concerns itself with the old Attakapas District of colonial Louisiana, with the original settlers who entered the district beginning in the mid-1760s and with the filing of land claims with the American government after the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. It is the story of settlement through official land concessions from French and Spanish authorities as well as the unofficially sanctioned act of occupying a tract of land long enough to later claim it.

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**CEMETERY INFORMATION:** Glenn R. Conrad also compiled a book with Carl A. Brasseaux which remains important today. It was called *Gone But Not Forgotten, Records from South Louisiana Cemeteries*. Volume 1 was of St. Peter's Cemetery in New Iberia.

This book was also one of the nice research volumes coming from The Center for Louisiana Studies and focused on records from early cemeteries. The work was prompted by the continuing deterioration and disappearance of many memorials through weather conditions, pollution, and vandalism.

The Daughters of the American Revolution did some similar research between 1954 and 1960, but as with groups of this type, they were selective in their process. Many cemeteries were overlooked. This first volume by Conrad/Brasseaux was compiled as a result of it being omitted for the DAR books.

There are many individuals and groups today who go out of their way to record information on long-lost or abandoned cemeteries. It is an important way of saving valuable data for future generations. It is another way of finding ancestor data. Many secrets of the past can be learned by checking out cemetery books.

Sometimes the inscriptions on the markers will reveal points of interest not found in any other source. If you ever have the chance to copy or work with a group recording records of this type, you will find it both interesting and rewarding. It is historical preservation at its finest.

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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](mailto: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.