

CAJUNS, CREOLES, PIRATES AND PLANTERS

Your New Louisiana Ancestors Format

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EXCELLENT PUBLICATION: With many genealogical societies cutting back on the size and frequency of their print journals, it's good to see one publication holding its own. *Le Raconteur*, which made its debut in 1978, has been a full-fledged quarterly since 2004. At 80 pages per issue and a circulation of about 600, it is one of the largest genealogical journals in the United States. A sneak peek at an advance copy of the December issue confirms that it hasn't skimped on quality either.

The first six articles are translations of colonial period Louisiana records gleaned from the Cuban Papers, a massive collection of Spanish governmental papers. There are lists of Opelousas subscribers in 1788, Pointe Coupee residents in 1789, syndics of the German Coast in 1798, Bayou St. John residents in 1799, St. Charles Parish residents in 1803, and an 1806 marriage record from Tangipahoa Parish.

Another regular feature of *Le Raconteur* are transcriptions of long-lost personal and business letters. Contributor E.A. "Tony" Dardeau, Jr., scours the internet and purchases postal covers and envelopes with postal markings. The contents of those envelopes are often a bonus to genealogists seeking information about their ancestors and relatives. Although very narrow in topic and scope, these letters provide a glimpse of 19th century life.

Other articles in this issue include extracts from the *Iberville Pioneer* for 1865 to 1871 and listings of St. Landry Parish officials from 1846 to 1896, Bossier Parish marriages from the Freedmen's Bureau records for 1865 and 1866, Iberia Parish business licenses for 1879, and National Archives microfilm publications relating to Louisiana available at the Fort Worth Branch. Articles on Who's Who in Louisiana in 1940 and using Facebook in genealogy add a bit of fun to the issue.

Print journals such as this may eventually become a thing of the past. Until then, *Le Raconteur* is a welcome resource that Louisiana researchers should not overlook.

This issue, and the three previous issues published earlier this year, are available with a 2012 membership for \$20. Single issues will be available for purchase after the end of the year as long as supplies last. To join, mail payment to Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane, P.O. Box 1547, Baton Rouge, LA 70821. Visit their website (www.lecomite.org) to learn more about this active group.

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RECOGNITION ANNOUNCED: FamilySearch was recently recognized for its "continued dedication and support" of African family history research at the 2nd International Black

Genealogy Summit, held at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Salt Lake City October 18-20. The conference theme was "Understanding Our Past to Grow into the Future."

The Summit served as an opportunity for those from many black genealogical societies worldwide to gather together and take advantage of the tremendous resources conveniently available at FamilySearch's Family History Library. Conference goers took frequent time out from conference sessions to research their roots and learn about their ancestors. Over 230 genealogists and society leaders were in attendance.

FamilySearch was a main sponsor of the international conference and provided various keynote speakers. Jim Ison, FamilySearch African American reference specialist and an Accredited and Certified Genealogist, was featured as a keynote speaker. He presented an engaging, real case study demonstrating how to use free FamilySearch resources online for conference goers to solve African American research challenges.

Conference attendees were given a tour of the Family History Library, took part in genealogy workshops and heard from Isabel Wilkerson, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of The New York Times' bestseller, The Warmth of Other Suns. A special highlight for some of the attendees was the opportunity to hear the famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Two attendees received an extra surprise when they were invited to participate in the choir's weekly practice session.

"It was evident that those who attended the conference enjoyed researching in the Family History Library and appreciated the hands-on support of FamilySearch's knowledgeable reference staff," said Ison. "I have no doubt we've built many bridges and much goodwill here for FamilySearch with those attending the Summit. We look forward to the privilege of hosting them again in the future."

Salt Lake City is host to ongoing, annual, genealogy-related conferences like the International Black Genealogy Summit and hundreds of thousands of visitors each year seeking to advance their family histories by using the vast resources of FamilySearch and expertise of its Family History Library staff.

FamilySearch is the largest genealogy organization in the world. FamilySearch is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Millions of people use FamilySearch records, resources, and services to learn more about their family history. To help in this great pursuit, FamilySearch and its predecessors have been actively gathering, preserving, and sharing genealogical records worldwide for over 100 years. Patrons may access FamilySearch services and resources for free at FamilySearch.org or through more than 4,600 family history centers in 132 countries, including the main Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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BASQUE HERITAGE: The next meeting of the Pointe de l'Eglise: Acadia Genealogical and Historical Society will take place on Saturday, November 10 at 9:30 a.m. at the Acadia Parish Library in Crowley. The guest speaker will be Michel-Antoine Goitia-Nicolas.

Born in Canada, he has lived in New Orleans since 1984. He founded a non-profit group, the Louisiana Basque-American Society and Cultural Organization (LABASCO) in 2003 to promote awareness of the state's Basque heritage. Although most people may be aware that their ancestors emigrated from France or Spain, they may not realize that their families' origins can be traced back to the Basque region that straddles the border between France and Spain.

This society also publishes a very nice quarterly called *A La Pointe*, and they also have numerous other publications available for researchers. Dues in this group are \$20 annually, or \$25, family. To learn more about them, direct correspondence to P.O. Box 497, Crowley, LA 70527 or online at www.rootsweb.com/~lapehgs. Their latest *A La Pointe* is filled with excellent data for those with ancestors in this part of Louisiana.

Of particular interest was the article by Dr. Philip Fabacher on the 1881 German settlement of Roberts Prairie.

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NEW BOOK: The Terrebonne Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 20295, Houma, LA 70360-0295 has announced the publication of another book *Cemeteries of Upper Terrebonne*. It is available for \$34.00, postpaid, from them.

They are still in the process of re-creating a new website. Any suggestions or comments can be sent to wmoore1048@aol.com. Membership is \$25.00 for individuals or \$30.00, family. *Terrebonne Life Lines* is their society publication. You can check them out online at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~laterreb/tgs/.

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EXCELLENT PRESENTATION: Gary Theall, with the Vermilion Historical Society P.O. Box 877, Abbeville, LA 70511-0877, has come up with another great addition to their website, his recent presentation of "The Flood of 1940." You can see it at their website: <http://www.vermilionhistorical.com/features/presentations.htm>.

As I have told you in previous formats, this society has perhaps the best genealogical and historical website of any in the nation. This is a tribute to all the hard work Theall has put into not only the design of the website but his contributions to the superb data covering this part of Louisiana's history.

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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 but should have a Louisiana connection by heritage or by address of the researcher working on lines in other areas. You are encouraged to take advantage of this free service. All genealogical, historical, and preservation books are reviewed in this column format, but a review copy is necessary for this service. *Cajuns, Creoles, Pirates and Planters* is the oldest genealogy column in the U.S. and is available exclusively online in a soon-to-be-expanded format. Further details are available on request.