

Le Comité E-Communiqué

Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane, Inc.

www.lecomite.org

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We Have a Winner!

Le Comité' s Board of Directors named Rita Lynn Jackson of Plaquemine the winner of its Newsletter Naming Contest. This issue marks the debut of the new name, *Le Comité E-Communiqué*, as the new e-mail newsletter' s name.

The Editor received numerous favorable comments on the January issue and some helpful suggestions. One in particular was to change the format from two columns to one to allow for easier online reading. This change should reduce the need to scroll up and down. Suggestions for others improvements are always welcome.

2008 Annual Financial Report Released

Treasurer Judy Riffel reports that for 2008, the society' s revenues were \$25,660.78, expenses were \$18,465.89, leaving a net income of \$7,194.89. Net worth as of December 31, 2008, was \$152,275.09. Purchases and donations to the State Archives totaled \$4,231.56, consisting of \$1,988.50 in microfilm, \$448.35 in binding, \$297.39 in periodicals, and \$1,497.32 in books. Membership at year end was 567, up from 534 in 2007. For a more detailed financial report, contact the Treasurer at riffelj@bellsouth.net.

2008 Ballots Counted

On March 6th, Secretary Doris Falkenheiner, Board Member Ann D. Riffel, and Treasurer Judy Riffel counted ballots for 2009 officers and for the Bylaws amendment. The Secretary has certified the results as follows.

There were 238 ballots received for the election of officers. All officers were reelected. Vote counts were: Damon Veach, President, 225 votes; Louis Altazan, 1st Vice President, 219 votes; Karen Ortolano, 2nd Vice President, 219 votes; Cherry Forbes Montgomery, 3rd Vice President, 220 votes; Doris Falkenheiner, Secretary, 221 votes; and Judy Riffel, Treasurer, 228 votes. Ten ballots were blank.

The amendment also passed. A total of 241 ballots were received, of which 227 voted For the amendment, 1 Against, 4 Abstained, and 9 were void because they were unsigned.

Photo Gallery Added to Website

You' ve all heard the old saying, " a picture speaks a thousand words." Considering the thousands of words on the society' s website, it was about time some pictures were added. So, Le Comité webmaster, Bryant Walker, created a Photo Gallery page. Photos of events, donations, and other items of interest will be posted on a regular basis. This will also give out-of-town members a chance to see the society' s officers, board members, and others taking care of business. The link to the Photo Gallery page is found on the main menu. Click on the photo to enlarge the image and to read an expanded caption.

In Memoriam

The society was saddened to learn of the deaths of two more long-time members in 2008. Stanley J. Barras, PhD., formerly of New Orleans, passed away September 20th in Peachtree City, Georgia, at the age of 72. And, Hargrove Bernard, a native of Baton Rouge, died March 29th at the age of 78.

Reprint of Archives Guide Book Now Available

A revised edition of *A Guide to Genealogical Research at the Louisiana State Archives* is now available. The first edition of 300 copies appeared just last spring and sold out in a matter of months. As a result, the timetable for a second edition had to be moved up.

The second edition contains information on new acquisitions at the State Archives as well as corrections to the first edition. A list of substantive changes will be posted to the society' s website along with the announcement (www.lecomite.org).

The price of the revised second edition was increased by \$1 to cover increased printing costs. The price is \$24 to members and \$34 to nonmembers, postpaid.

Publications Report

Publications Committee Chairman Ann DeVillier Riffel reports that the society has the following books for sale that are not posted on the society' s website. Supplies are limited. Prices include postage.

The Baratarians and the Battle of New Orleans, with Biographical Sketches of the Veterans of the Battalion of Orleans, 1814-1815, by Jane Lucas deGrummond and Ronald R. Morazan, \$18.00

Biographical Sketches of the Veterans of the Battalion of Orleans, 1814-1815, by Ronald R. Morazan, \$13.00 [Note: This book is fully contained in the above-listed book]

The Town that Crawfish Built, A History of Henderson, Louisiana, by Marjorie R. Esman, \$7.00

Post Hospital Ledger, Port Hudson, Louisiana, 1862-1863, by Lawrence L. Hewitt and Arthur W. Bergeron, Jr., \$13.00

A Sneak Peak at *le Raconteur*

For those who can't wait for the next issue of *le Raconteur*, here's a preview of what's ahead. The June issue will contain an index to early West Baton Rouge Parish civil suits and the first of a two-part addenda to *Genealogical Selections from the Acts of the Louisiana Legislature, 1804-1879*. The September issue will contain tombstone inscriptions from Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery in St. Francisville and selected baptismal records from First United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge.

African American SIG Meeting Planned

Members of Le Comité's African American Special Interest Group (SIG) are planning a meeting this summer to share information and research tips among its members. Some of the more experienced researchers in the group will give short presentations about their research successes. Other presentations on a variety of topics are also being planned. Date, time, and location will be announced in the June issue of *le Raconteur*, the July issue of *E-Communiqué*, and on the website. The meeting will be free and open to the public.

New Genealogy Column Announced

The Baton Rouge *Sunday Advocate* recently canceled the long-running "Louisiana Ancestors" column written by Le Comité founder and President Damon Veach. As a cost-cutting measure, newspapers all over the country have been eliminating genealogy columns right and left. "Louisiana Ancestors" was one of the last of its kind.

Readers will be happy to learn that almost immediately after the *Advocate* announced it was cutting the column, Claitor's Law Books and Publishing, a Baton Rouge company, picked up the column for its website (www.claitors.com). Appearing under the original name, "Cajuns, Creoles, Pirates and Planters," the column is posted every Monday. It is available in pdf, html, and Word formats. Claitor's plans to archive all columns so they can be easily accessed. Genealogy buffs will also want to check out Claitor's inventory of genealogy books, particularly those published by Hebert Publications, which Claitor's bought in 2008.

Announcements and news items should still be sent to Veach at ancestorslaveach@cox.net, however review books and periodicals should be mailed to him at his home address, 709 Bungalow Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. All review materials are donated to the Veach-Foshee Memorial Library housed in the Mansfield Female College Museum, which opened recently.

Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society Seminar

The Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society has scheduled its 2009 Annual Spring Genealogy Seminar for Saturday, April 18th, at the Embassy Suites, 4914 Constitution Avenue, in Baton Rouge. This group has a history of putting on outstanding seminars with nationally known speakers on a variety of topics. This year's program is no exception.

Colleen Fitzpatrick, PhD, an expert in Forensic Genealogy and the author of three books in the field, will present four lectures. *Forensic Genealogy – CSI Meets Roots* takes a look at how photographs, databases, and DNA can provide much more information than you ever dreamed, if only you keep your eyes open and use a little imagination. *Connections, Connections!* takes a fresh view on forensic principles of the many methods and objects that genealogists have used for decades that will spark your imagination. *The Database Detective* offers much insight on how to use and rethink the materials you take for granted. Learn not just to “look up” but to “look for.” And, *You Will Never Look at Your Old Photos the Same Way Again!* steps into the 21st Century with photo identification.

Genealogical book vendors will also be present throughout the day and can be visited before the seminar, during breaks, and at lunch time. Vendors currently signed up include the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society, Claitor’s Publishing, Pie Lanoux, Doris Melancon, the West Baton Rouge Genealogical Society, Carol Pierce, and Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane. Space is still available. Vendors and societies wishing to display their materials are asked to contact Sue Badeaux (suebado@cox.net) to reserve a table.

The conference fee is \$35. On-site registration is from 7:45 to 8:45 a.m. The annual business meeting will be held from 8:45 to 9:00 a.m. The seminar begins at 9:00 a.m. and runs until 4:00 p.m. A special lunch buffet will be provided at an additional cost of \$16 per person. This can be paid in advance with registration (please note on check) or at the door.

A registration form can be downloaded from the society’s website (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~la-lghs/). Mail to: LGHS, P.O. Box 82060, Baton Rouge, LA 70884 2060.

FGS 2009 Conference in Little Rock

The Federation of Genealogical Societies will hold its annual conference in Little Rock, Arkansas, September 2-5, 2009. Numerous sessions pertain to Louisiana research. Examples include: *Coincoid: How to Recreate the Life of a Female Ancestor* (Elizabeth Shown Mills); *Genealogical Research at the Louisiana State Archives* (Judy Riffel); *Louisiana Conveyance Records: A Rich Source of Genealogical Research* (Sharon Batiste Gillins); *Negro Soldiers of Antebellum Louisiana – Their Service and Records* (Sharon Batiste Gillins); and *Unlikely Sources for North Louisiana Research* (Judy Riffel).

Louisiana researchers should take advantage of this rare opportunity to attend a national genealogical conference so close to home. For details on the program and to register, check out the FGS website (<http://www.fgs.org/>).

Course on French Research Offered

Le Comité member and nationally known speaker Claire Bettag will be teaching a course this summer entitled “Researching Ancestors in France, Quebec, and the French Caribbean.” The course is being offered through the Institute on Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. For more information, see their website at: <http://www.samford.edu:80/schools/ighr/>.

Calendar of Genealogical and Historical Society Meetings & Seminars

Louisiana genealogical and historical societies and libraries are invited to contact the editor (riffelj@bellsouth.net) and report their meetings and seminars for the upcoming quarter. Information should include the date, speaker, topic, location, time, whether or not non-members may attend, and any registration or contact information. Deadlines for submission are Jan. 1, Apr. 1, July 1, and Oct. 1.

- 4 Apr. 2009 Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association
Beginner Genealogy Class
Location & Time: Broadmoor Library, Shreveport, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Registration required
- 7 Apr. 2009 Allen Genealogical & Historical Society
Location: Kinder Library
- 7 Apr 2009 Southwest Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Library
Speaker & Topic: Anna Hayes, Ferries of Calcasieu
Location & Time: Carnegie Memorial Library, Lake Charles, 10 a.m.
- 8 Apr. 2009 Southeast Louisiana Historical Association
Speaker: Donald Sharp
Topic: Significant Events & Individuals of the Florida Parishes
Location & Time: Columbia Theater Banquet Room, Hammond, 6 p.m.
Reservations required (shyde@selu.edu)
- 9 Apr. 2009 Jefferson Genealogical Society
Speaker & Topic: Pat Dupuy, New Orleans Cemeteries
Location & Time: John Calvin Presbyterian Church, Metairie, 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Apr. 2009 Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association
Speakers & Topic: Phil Adderly and Glenda Bernard, Great Finds
Location & Time: Randle T. Moore Center, Shreveport, 1 p.m.
Visitors are welcome
- 11 Apr. 2009 Central Louisiana Genealogical Society
Location & Time: Alexandria Genealogical Library, Alexandria, 2:30 p.m.
- 11 Apr. 2009 Imperial St. Landry Genealogical & Historical Society
Location & Time: Conference Room, Doctors Hospital, Opelousas, 10 a.m.
Public is welcome
- 14 Apr. 2009 Louisiana Historical Society
Location & Time: 6330 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, 7:30 p.m.
Non-members are invited
- 17 Apr. 2009 The Historic New Orleans Collection
Speaker & Topic: Thomas Brothers, Louis Armstrong's New Orleans
Location & Time: Williams Research Center, New Orleans, 7:00 p.m.
Free and open to the public, reservations suggested (wrc@hnoc.org)
- 18 Apr. 2009 Algiers Historical Society
Speaker & Topic: Mark Cave, Manuel Menetta, Musician
Location & Time: Algiers Museum, Algiers, 10 a.m.
- 18 Apr. 2009 Baton Rouge Genealogical & Historical Society
Speaker & Topic: John C. Sykes, III, History of Spanish Town
Location & Time: Bluebonnet Library, Baton Rouge, 10 a.m.
Open to the public
- 18 Apr. 2009 Canary Islanders Heritage Society of Louisiana
Speaker: Jean Nauman
Topic: The Masias Family of Valsequillo and the Juan Viera Family of Carrizal
Location & Time: Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, 11 a.m.
Open to the public

- 18 Apr. 2009 Friends of Genealogy
Group discussion
Topic: People Are Dying Now Who Have Never Died Before! (Obituary writing)
Location & Time: Broadmoor Library, Shreveport, 1 p.m.
- 18 Apr. 2009 Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Society Annual Meeting
Speaker: Colleen Fitzpatrick, PhD
Topics: Forensic Genealogy; Connections, Connections!; The Database Detective; and You Will Never Look at Your Old Photos the Same Way Again!
Location & Time: Embassy Suites Hotel, Baton Rouge, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Registration required (<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~la-lghs/seminar.htm>)
- 18 Apr. 2009 Vernon Historical & Genealogical Society
Member discussion
Topic: Searching Pensions for Confederate Veterans and Widows
Location & Time: Vernon Parish Library, Leesville, 12:30 p.m.
Nonmembers are welcome
- 18 Apr. 2009 West Baton Rouge Genealogical Society
Location & Time: West Baton Rouge Parish Library, Port Allen, 9:30 a.m.
Non-members are welcome
- 20 Apr. 2009 Genealogical Research Society of New Orleans
Speaker & Topic: Colleen Fitzpatrick, DNA and Genealogy
Location & Time: Whitney Bank, 1441 Metairie Road, Metairie, 7:30 p.m.
Visitors are welcome
- 23 Apr. 2009 Magnolia Mound Plantation
Speaker: Steven Fullen
Topic: The Development and Evolution of Prehistoric Pottery in the Southeast
Location & Time: Magnolia Mound Plantation, Baton Rouge, 11 a.m.
Free and open to the public
- 25 Apr. 2009 North Louisiana Historical Assn. & The Red River Crossroads Historical Assn.
Speaker & Topic: Dr. Alan Thomson, The North Caddo Parish Red River Region
Location & Time: Main Street Restaurant, Gilliam, 12 noon
Reservations required by April 20 (wernet@nsula.edu)
- 25 Apr. 2009 Terrebonne Genealogical Society
Location & Time: Terrebonne Parish Library Main Branch, Houma, 1 p.m.
Open to the public
- 25 Apr. 2009 West Bank Genealogy Society
Speaker & Topic: Sue Wessing, St. Bernard Parish Genealogy Since Katrina
Location & Time: Westwego Library, Westwego, 1 p.m.
- 28 Apr. 2009 German Acadian Coast Historical & Genealogical Society
Location & Time: St. John the Baptist Parish Library, LaPlace, 7 p.m.
- 28 Apr. 2009 Natchitoches Genealogical Assn.
Speaker & Topic: Carolyn Harrington, More About General James Wilkinson
Location & Time: Arts Center, Natchitoches, 7 p.m.
Public is invited
- 28 Apr. 2009 Vermilion Historical Society
Speaker & Topic: Gary E. Theall, The Life of Hon. Adrien Nunez (1822-1905)
Location & Time: Vermilion Parish Library, Abbeville, 5:30 p.m.
Open to the public
- 2 May 2009 Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association
Intermediate Genealogy Class
Location & Time: Broadmoor Library, Shreveport, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Registration required
- 9 May 2009 Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association
Speaker & Topic: Don Weathersby, Early Glimpses of Northwest Louisiana
Location & Time: Randle T. Moore Center, Shreveport, 1 p.m.
Visitors are welcome

- 9 May 2009 Canary Islanders Heritage Society of Louisiana
Celebration of Dia de la Cruz (Day of the Cross)
Location: Member' s home, not open to public
- 9 May 2009 Central Louisiana Genealogical Society
Location & Time: Alexandria Genealogical Library, Alexandria, 2:30 p.m.
- 9 May 2009 Imperial St. Landry Genealogical & Historical Society
Location & Time: Conference Room, Doctors Hospital, Opelousas, 10 a.m.
Public is welcome
- 9 May 2009 Pointe de l' Eglise: Acadia Genealogical & Historical Society
Speaker: William J. Thibodeaux
Location & Time: Acadia Parish Library, Crowley, 9:30 a.m.
Visitors are welcome
- 9 May 2009 Southwest Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Library
Speaker & Topic: Raff Ellis, Syrian Heritage Day
Location & Time: Carnegie Memorial Library, Lake Charles, 10 a.m.
- 9 May 2009 Winn Genealogical & Historical Association
Location & Time: Winn Parish Health Unit, Winnfield, 10:30 a.m.
Guests are welcome
- 12 May 2009 Louisiana Historical Society Members Dinner
Location & Time: 6330 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, 6:00 p.m.
- 14 May 2009 Jefferson Genealogical Society
Speaker & Topic: Bill Murphy, St. Alphonsus Church Art & Culture Center
Location & Time: John Calvin Presbyterian Church, Metairie, 7:30 p.m.
- 16 May 2009 Algiers Historical Society
Speaker & Topic: Kevin Herridge, Research Books on Algiers
Location & Time: Algiers Museum, Algiers, 10 a.m.
- 16 May 2009 Baton Rouge Genealogical & Historical Society
Speaker: Clark Forrest
Topic: The Free State of Livingston – Questions You' ve Been Meaning to Ask
Location & Time: Bluebonnet Library, Baton Rouge, 10 a.m.
Open to the public
- 16 May 2009 Southwest Louisiana Genealogy Society
Speaker & Topic: Curt Iles, The Wayfaring Stranger
Location & Time: Carnegie Memorial Library, Lake Charles, 10 a.m.
- 16 May 2009 Vernon Historical & Genealogical Society
Location & Time: Vernon Parish Library, Leesville, 12:30 p.m.
Nonmembers are welcome
- 18 May 2009 Genealogical Research Society of New Orleans
Speaker & Topic: Roy Rogge, Self-Publishing Your Family History
Location & Time: Whitney Bank, 1441 Metairie Road, Metairie, 7:30 p.m.
Visitors are welcome
- 20-23 May 2009 Society of Southwest Archivists
Annual meeting
Location: Sam' s Town Hotel, Shreveport
Registration required (<http://southwestarchivists.org>)
- 21 May 2009 Edward Livingston Historical Assn.
Speaker: Clifford Normand
Topic: Spanish Contribution to the American Revolution
Location & Time: Livingston Parish Library, Livingston, 6 p.m.
- 23 May 2009 West Bank Genealogy Society
Speaker & Topic: Rita Tonglet, Colonial Louisiana Research
Location & Time: Westwego Library, Westwego, 1 p.m.
- 24 May 2009 DeSoto Historical Society
Location & Time: Rosedown or Schuler home, 3 p.m.
Visitors are welcome

- 26 May 2009 German Acadian Coast Historical & Genealogical Society
Location & Time: St. John the Baptist Parish Library, LaPlace, 7 p.m.
- 26 May 2009 Natchitoches Genealogical Assn.
Covered dish supper for members and prospective members
Location & Time: VFW Hall, Natchitoches, 6 p.m.
- 30 May 2009 Terrebonne Genealogical Society
Location & Time: Terrebonne Parish Library Main Branch, Houma, 1 p.m.
Open to the public
- 30 May 2009 3rd Annual Foundations of Community Forum and Colonial Family Reunion
Spanish Colonial Foundations of Pointe Coupée: 1679-1800
Speaker: Fr. LaVerne "Pike" Thomas, III
Location & Time: Julien Poydras Center, New Roads, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Advance reservations suggested (www.pointecoupeehistory.com)
- 2 June 2009 Southwest Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Library
Speaker & Topic: Jeanne Farque, Vigilante Committees
Location & Time: Carnegie Memorial Library, Lake Charles, 10 a.m.
- 11 June 2009 Jefferson Genealogical Society
25th Anniversary Celebration
Location & Time: John Calvin Presbyterian Church, Metairie, 7:30 p.m.
- 13 June 2009 Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association
Speaker & Topic: Debra Helton, Steamboats on the Red River
Location & Time: Randle T. Moore Center, Shreveport, 1 p.m.
Visitors are welcome
- 13 June 2009 Canary Islanders Heritage Society of Louisiana
Speaker & Topic: Chad LeBlanc, Canary Islanders in Assumption Parish
Location & Time: Assumption Parish Library, Napoleonville, 2 p.m.
Open to the public
- 13 June 2009 Central Louisiana Genealogical Society
Location & Time: Alexandria Genealogical Library, Alexandria, 2:30 p.m.
- 13 June 2009 Imperial St. Landry Genealogical & Historical Society
Location & Time: Conference Room, Doctors Hospital, Opelousas, 10 a.m.
Public is welcome
- 20 June 2009 Algiers Historical Society
Location & Time: Algiers Museum, Algiers, 10 a.m.
- 20 June 2009 Baton Rouge Genealogical & Historical Society
Speaker & Topic: Doug Harrison, Keeping the Old New Again
Location & Time: Bluebonnet Library, Baton Rouge, 10 a.m.
Open to the public
- 20 June 2009 Southwest Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Library
Speaker & Topic: Shirley Burwell, Beginning Genealogy Workshop
Location & Time: Carnegie Memorial Library, Lake Charles, 10 a.m.
- 20 June 2009 Vernon Historical & Genealogical Society
Speaker: Judy Riffel
Topic: Genealogical Research at the Louisiana State Archives
Location & Time: Vernon Parish Library, Leesville, 12:30 p.m.
Nonmembers are welcome
- 20 June 2009 West Bank Genealogy Society
Speaker: Richard Stringfield
Topic: Plaquemines Parish Native American Research and the Ancar Family
Location & Time: Westwego Library, Westwego, 1 p.m.
- 23 June 2009 German Acadian Coast Historical & Genealogical Society
Location & Time: St. John the Baptist Parish Library, LaPlace, 7 p.m.
- 27 June 2009 Terrebonne Genealogical Society
Location & Time: Terrebonne Parish Library Main Branch, Houma, 1 p.m.
Open to the public