

Le Comité E-Communiqué

Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane, Inc.

www.lecomite.org

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African American Genealogy Seminar February 13

Plans for Le Comité' s Second African American Genealogical Seminar are complete. Reginald Washington of the National Archives in Washington, D.C., will be the main speaker. He will present two lectures entitled " The Dawn of Freedom: Records of the Freedmen' s Bureau" and " The Records of the Southern Claims Commission: A Source for African American Genealogy." Other speakers include Cherryl Forbes Montgomery, who will discuss " Digitizing and Organizing Your Family Photographs," and Judy Riffel, who will present " Techniques for Researching Slave Ancestors" and " Online Sources for African American Genealogy." The cost of the all-day seminar is \$10 for Le Comité members who register before Feb. 6th, and \$20 for non-members. After Feb. 6th, the price is \$20 for all. Lunch is not included. The seminar will be held at the Delta Sigma Theta Life Development Center, 688 Harding Blvd., on the Southern University campus in Baton Rouge. For more information, contact Cherryl Montgomery at cherrylm@aol.com. Mail registration forms to Le Comité at P.O. Box 1547, Baton Rouge, LA 70821.

Survey Results

On November 13, 2009, an e-mail survey was sent to 406 of Le Comité' s 572 members to determine their opinions on activities of the society. The deadline for returning the survey was December 19th. Of this total, 108 surveys were completed and returned, a 27% response rate which represented 19% of all members. The survey asked four questions regarding society membership and activities.

Some interest in a spousal membership (about one-third of respondents) was indicated, warranting further consideration by the board.

By a large margin, respondents ranked " Publishing *le Raconteur*" as being Number 1 in importance. Not only did it receive the highest average ranking, but it received 51% of the Number 1 rankings. The remaining four activities were fairly close together in ranking with " Donating materials to the State Archives" and " Developing an online presence" virtually neck and neck in importance. The remaining two activities, " Publishing books" and " Holding meetings/seminars" ranked the least important to members.

The top three parishes for holding meetings outside of East Baton Rouge were Orleans, Jefferson, and Iberville. Many people had no preference, stating that they lived out of state and did not attend meetings. Several responded that they were satisfied with EBR.

Finally, several good suggestions for adding content to the society's website were received. Many of the suggestions, such as providing links to other websites, are feasible. Others, such as making the catalog of the State Archives holdings and digital images of their vital records available on our website, are things only the Archives can do on their own website. However, Le Comité's Website Development Task Force is considering ways of providing more information on the Archives' holdings until they make their catalog available online. Several respondents also suggested putting back files of society publications online, which is under consideration by the Task Force. One suggestion of putting contents of other publications on our site, however, is not possible due to copyright restrictions. Some respondents suggested adding things which are already on the society's website, such as the indexes to *Le Raconteur* and donations to the State Archives. Many positive comments and thanks for our efforts were noted and are appreciated.

Website Development Task Force

Le Comité's Board of Directors has formed a Website Development Task Force to work on creating a "Members Only" section for the society's website (www.lecomite.org). A Members Only section may be used for posting out-of-print articles and books and for other purposes yet to be determined. Plans are to have a prototype developed by the fall of 2010.

The Task Force is headed up by Board Members Cherryl Forbes Montgomery, Audrey Nabors Jackson, and Judy Riffel. The Board is also inviting interested members to join the Task Force and to provide input, ideas, and expertise. Those who have experience using other genealogical society Members Only sections are particularly welcome. Any member interested in joining the Task Force is asked to contact Judy Riffel at riffelj@bellsouth.net.

Dues and Postage Costs

Ever rising postage costs are affecting all genealogical societies, including Le Comité. Several years ago, the society instituted a late fee to cover the cost of mailing back issues of *Le Raconteur* when members joined or renewed late in the year. For dues paid after March 1st, a \$5 fee is currently being charged. In the past, this late fee has occasionally been waived if the back issues could be hand delivered or mailed with other issues or purchases. Unfortunately, the society will no longer be able to waive the late fee. Members sending dues after the March 1st deadline will be notified via e-mail or postcard asking them to send the additional \$5, if it is not included with their dues payment.

To all those members who send a little something extra with their dues (in some cases, not so little), A BIG THANK YOU is in order. These donations help the society keep its dues at a very affordable \$15. Higher membership levels, in turn, allow for economies of scale, particularly in printing *Le Raconteur*. If you haven't sent your 2010 dues yet, please take this opportunity to do so.

In Memoriam

The society was saddened to learn of the deaths of a current and a former member. Jean Barnett Hutchinson died 15 Nov. 2009 in Denham Springs. She was 79 and a native of Frost. An avid genealogical researcher for many decades, she most recently served as Editor and Treasurer of the Edward Livingston Historical Association. Also, Lionel Brayard of La Mirada, CA, died 19 Mar. 2009 at the age of 80.

Editor on Twitter

Granted, social networking is a bit foreign to some of us old timers. But this editor is making an attempt to participate in some of the new trends on the Internet. She can now be found on Twitter, a website featuring short posts of 140 characters or less on popular topics. Sign up to follow jariffel and you will find updates on Le Comité' s activities, such as when *Le Raconteur* is mailed, *E-Communiqué* is sent, updates are made to the website, and more as she gets more adept at tweeting. Visit twitter.com to sign up and follow her.

Provincial Press Ceases Publishing

Due to unexpected events, Provincial Press' active publishing program was suspended in November of 2009. Orders that cannot be filled from the remaining inventory will be returned. Titles still available in very limited numbers – one or two copies – are listed on the company' s website (www.provincialpress.us).

Claitor' s Law Books and Publishing Damaged by Fire

A New Year' s Day fire in the Acadian-Perkins shopping center in Baton Rouge damaged Claitor' s Law Books and Publishing Company. Claitor' s is well-known to genealogists as the publisher of Father Hebert' s *Southwest Louisiana Records* series, as well as a reprinter of numerous historical and genealogical works. The business will set up in the old Major Video store located in the same center. Damon Veach' s weekly “ Cajuns, Creoles, Pirates and Planters” column will continue to be posted on the website (www.claitors.com). More details will be published in the March issue of *Le Raconteur*.

Shreveport Area Obituary Project

The Friends of Genealogy group has a volunteer project going to collect obituaries from Shreveport area newspapers and funeral homes. So far, they have collected over 23,000 obituaries, mostly from 2008 and 2009. They have scanned and saved them to CDs, which they are placing in the Shreve Memorial Library' s Genealogical Collection. Researchers can access these obituaries in the library or via e-mail. Contact the genealogy librarian for assistance at smlgenealogy@yahoo.com. The group meets at the Broadmoor Branch every Thursday. To volunteer for this worthwhile effort, contact Brenda Custer Randall at friendsofgenealogy@gmail.com.

State Library Cuts Ancestry.com

Effective July 1, 2009, the Louisiana State Library discontinued its subscription to Ancestry.com's Library Edition. As a result, library patrons lost access to the service at their parish libraries as well. Fortunately, the East Baton Rouge Parish Library obtained its own subscription to the popular service. A visit to the library and an EBR Library card are still required to access it. Additionally, EBR Library subscribes to two other genealogy related databases. Footnote.com provides access to numerous National Archives collections including Civil War service records, military pension indexes, and other documents available at the National Archives. It, too, is available only within the library. Heritage Quest, however, can be accessed at home with an EBR library card. It features images to the federal censuses, some census indexes, PERSI, family and local history books, Revolutionary War Era Pension & Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, Freedman's Bank records, and the U.S. Serial Set. Louisiana residents who are not residents of East Baton Rouge Parish should check with their parish library to see what genealogy databases are available to them.

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.

- 5 Jan. 2010 Southwest Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Library
Speaker & Topic: Diane McCarthy, History of the Theatre in Lake Charles
Location & Time: Carnegie Memorial Library, Lake Charles, 10 a.m.
Free and open to the public
- 7 Jan. 2010 Friends of Genealogy
Speaker & Topic: Michelle Woodham, Taking Headstone Photos
Location & Time: Broadmoor Library, Shreveport, 9:30 a.m.
Free and open to the public
- 9 Jan. 2010 Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association
Speaker & Topic: Jim Jones, 19th Century Records of Dr. William Goodwin
Location & Time: Randle T. Moore Center, Shreveport, 1 p.m.
Visitors are welcome
- 9 Jan. 2010 Canary Islanders Heritage Society of Louisiana
Speaker & Topic: Juan Salvadores, The Island of LaPalma
Location & Time: Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, 11 a.m.
Open to the public
- 9 Jan 2010 Imperial St. Landry Genealogical & Historical Society
Speaker: Charles Lauret
Location & Time: Conference Rm, Opelousas General Hospital S. Campus, 10 a.m.
Public is welcome
- 9 Jan. 2010 St. Tammany Parish Genealogical Society
Location & Time: St. Tammany Parish Library, Covington Branch, 10 a.m.
Free and open to the public
- 9 Jan. 2010 West Baton Rouge Genealogical Society
Location & Time: West Baton Rouge Parish Library, Port Allen, 9:30 a.m.
Non-members are welcome

- 9 Jan. 2010 Winn Genealogical & Historical Association
Location & Time: Winn Parish Health Unit, Winnfield, 10:30 a.m.
Guests are welcome
- 10 Jan. 2010 Central Louisiana Genealogical Society
Location & Time: Alexandria Genealogical Library, Alexandria, 2:30 p.m.
- 10 Jan. 2010 Northeast Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Society
Location & Time: Ouachita Parish Library, Monroe, 2:30 p.m.
- 14 Jan. 2010 Jefferson Genealogical Society
Location & Time: John Calvin Presbyterian Church, Metairie, 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Jan. 2010 Foundation for Historical Louisiana
Speakers & Topic: Diane Finley & Rae Williams, History of OGM
Location & Time: Old Governor' s Mansion, Baton Rouge, 6 p.m.
Free to FHL Members, \$10 guests
- 16 Jan. 2010 Algiers Historical Society
Topic: Show and Tell, Bring Your Stories, Photos, and Other Mementos
Location & Time: Algiers Museum, 10 a.m.
- 16 Jan. 2010 Baton Rouge Genealogical & Historical Society
Location & Time: Bluebonnet Library, Baton Rouge, 10 a.m.
Open to the public
- 16 Jan. 2010 Evangeline Genealogical & Historical Society
Location & Time: Evangeline Parish Library, Ville Platte, 10 a.m.
- 16 Jan. 2010 Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society
Topic: Show and Tell by Members
Location & Time: Carnegie Memorial Library, Lake Charles, 10 a.m.
- 16 Jan. 2010 Vernon Genealogical & Historical Society
Location & Time: Vernon Parish Library, Leesville, 12:30 p.m.
Nonmembers are welcome
- 16 Jan. 2010 West Bank Genealogy Society
Topic: Battle of New Orleans DVD and Discussion
Location & Time: West Bank Regional Library, Westwego, 1 p.m.
- 21 Jan. 2010 Edward Livingston Historical Assn.
Election of Officers
Location & Time: Livingston Parish Library, Livingston, 6 p.m.
- 21 Jan. 2010 Lafayette Genealogical Society
Location & Time: Lafayette Public Library, 6 p.m.
Open to the public
- 21 Jan. 2010 West Baton Rouge Museum
Speaker & Topic: Butch Plauche, Sugar Productions & Cinclare Plantation & Mill
Location & Time: West Baton Rouge Museum, Port Allen, 12:00 p.m.
Admission is free
- 24 Jan. 2010 GENCOM
Speaker & Topic: Thais Reimuth, A Trip that Took 157 Years
Location & Time: Hamilton South Caddo Library, Shreveport, 2 p.m.
Guests are welcome
- 26 Jan. 2010 German Acadian Coast Historical & Genealogical Society
Location & Time: St. John the Baptist Parish Library, LaPlace, 7 p.m.
- 26 Jan. 2010 Natchitoches Genealogical & Historical Assn.
Speaker & Topic: Carol Wells, How to Put Together a Family History Book
Location & Time: Arts Center, Natchitoches, 7 p.m.
Public is invited
- 26 Jan. 2010 Vermilion Historical Society
Speaker & Topic: Gary Theall, Steamboats on Bayou Vermilion
Location & Time: Vermilion Parish Library, Abbeville, 5:30 p.m.
Open to the public

- 30 Jan. 2010 15th Annual Williams Research Center Symposium
Topic: Between Colony & State: Louisiana in the Territorial Period, 1803-1812
Location & Time: Omni Royal Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
For registration information, see www.hnoc.org
- 30 Jan. 2010 Terrebonne Genealogical Society
Location & Time: Terrebonne Parish Library Main Branch, Houma, 1 p.m.
Open to the public
- 2 Feb. 2010 Southwest Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Library
Speaker & Topic: Mayor Randy Roach, History in the Making
Location & Time: Carnegie Memorial Library, Lake Charles, 10 a.m.
Free and open to the public
- 6 Feb. 2010 Lafayette Genealogical Society
Topic: Genealogy 101
Location & Time: Lafayette Public Library, 9:30 a.m.
Free and open to the public
- 11 Feb. 2010 Foundation for Historical Louisiana
Speaker & Topic: Gov. Buddy Roemer, Lincoln the Politician
Location & Time: Old Governor' s Mansion, Baton Rouge, 6 p.m.
Free to FHL Members, \$10 guests
- 11 Feb. 2010 Jefferson Genealogical Society
Location & Time: John Calvin Presbyterian Church, Metairie, 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Feb. 2010 Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association
Speaker & Topic: Beatrice Washington, My Family & Times Past
Location & Time: Randle T. Moore Center, Shreveport, 1 p.m.
Visitors are welcome
- 13 Feb. 2010 Canary Islanders Heritage Society of Louisiana
Location & Time: Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, 11 a.m.
Open to the public
- 13 Feb. 2010 Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane African American Genealogy Seminar
Speakers & Topics: Reginald Washington, " The Dawn of Freedom: Records of the Freedmen' s Bureau" and " The Records of the Southern Claims Commission: A Source for African American Genealogy"; Cheryl Montgomery, " Digitizing and Organizing Your Family Photos"; and Judy Riffel, " Techniques for Researching Slave Ancestors" and " Online Sources for African American Genealogy."
Location & Time: Delta Sigma Theta Life Development Center, 688 Harding Blvd., Baton Rouge; 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
\$10 for members before Feb. 6th, \$20 for nonmembers and members registering after Feb. 6th. Lunch is not included. For more info, contact cherrylm@aol.com.
- 13 Feb. 2010 Pointe de l' Eglise: Acadia Genealogical & Historical Society
Speaker & Topic: Choppy Smith, Early Acadia Parish Land Records
Location & Time: Acadia Parish Library, Crowley, 9:30 a.m.
Visitors are welcome
- 13 Feb. 2010 St. Tammany Parish Genealogical Society
Location & Time: St. Tammany Parish Library, Covington Branch, 10 a.m.
Free and open to the public
- 14 Feb. 2010 Central Louisiana Genealogical Society
Location & Time: Alexandria Genealogical Library, Alexandria, 2:30 p.m.
- 14 Feb. 2010 Northeast Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Society
Location & Time: Ouachita Parish Library, Monroe, 2:30 p.m.
- 18 Feb. 2010 Edward Livingston Historical Assn.
Speaker & Topic: Dr. Elaine Boston, Using Rootsmagic to Self Publish
Location & Time: Livingston Parish Library, Livingston, 6 p.m.

- 18 Feb. 2010 Lafayette Genealogical Society
Location & Time: Lafayette Public Library, 6 p.m.
Open to the public
- 20 Feb. 2010 Algiers Historical Society
Speaker & Topic: Kevin Herridge, Sketches, Plans & Maps of Algiers
Location & Time: Algiers Museum, 10 a.m.
- 20 Feb. 2010 Baton Rouge Genealogical & Historical Society
Location & Time: Bluebonnet Library, Baton Rouge, 10 a.m.
Open to the public
- 20 Feb. 2010 Southwest Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Library
Topic: Stories in Time: Reminiscent Story Reading
Location & Time: Carnegie Memorial Library, Lake Charles, 10 a.m.
Free and open to the public
- 20 Feb. 2010 Vernon Genealogical & Historical Society
Location & Time: Vernon Parish Library, Leesville, 12:30 p.m.
Nonmembers are welcome
- 20 Feb. 2010 West Bank Genealogy Society
Topic: Breaking Our Roadblocks
Location & Time: West Bank Regional Library, Westwego, 1 p.m.
- 21 Feb. 2010 DeSoto Historical Society
Speaker & Topic: Jeff Giraud, Excavation of Mansfield Battle Limbs of Wounded
Location & Time: Mansfield Female College Museum, 3 p.m.
Visitors are welcome
- 21 Feb. 2010 North Louisiana Historical Assn.
Speaker & Topic: Dr. Charles Pellegrin, Kent Courtney
Location & Time: Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, 2:30 p.m.
- 23 Feb. 2010 Natchitoches Genealogical & Historical Assn.
Location & Time: Arts Center, Natchitoches, 7 p.m.
Public is invited
- 24 Feb. 2010 East Baton Rouge Parish Library Program
Speaker & Topic: Cassandra Fedrick, Basic African American Genealogy
Location & Time: Bluebonnet Branch, Baton Rouge, 10 a.m.
Free and open to the public, preregistration recommended
- 27 Feb. 2010 East Baton Rouge Parish Library Program
Speaker & Topic: Jennifer Abraham, Telling Your Stories (Oral History)
Location & Time: Bluebonnet Branch, Baton Rouge, 10 a.m.
Free and open to the public, preregistration recommended
- 27 Feb. 2010 Terrebonne Genealogical Society
Election of Officers
Location & Time: Terrebonne Parish Library Main Branch, Houma, 1 p.m.
Open to the public
- 28 Feb. 2010 GENCOM
Speaker & Topic: Jim Jones, The Parnell-Tucker Feud
Location & Time: Hamilton South Caddo Library, Shreveport, 2 p.m.
Guests are welcome
- 9 Mar. 2010 Louisiana Historical Society
Location & Time: 6330 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, 7:30 p.m.
- 11 Mar. 2010 Foundation for Historical Louisiana
Speaker & Topic: Jeffrey Smith, Hammond Restoration
Location & Time: Old Governor' s Mansion, Baton Rouge, 6 p.m.
Free to FHL Members, \$10 guests

- 11 Mar. 2010 Jefferson Genealogical Society
Location & Time: John Calvin Presbyterian Church, Metairie, 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Mar. 2010 Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association
Speaker & Topic: Judy Sneed, Some Myths about Caddo Lake
Location & Time: Oil City Museum, Oil City, 1 p.m.
Visitors are welcome
- 13 Mar. 2010 Canary Islanders Heritage Society of Louisiana
Location & Time: Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, 11 a.m.
Open to the public
- 13 Mar. 2010 St. Tammany Parish Genealogical Society
Location & Time: St. Tammany Parish Library, Covington Branch, 10 a.m.
Free and open to the public
- 13 Mar. 2010 Winn Genealogical & Historical Association
Location & Time: Winn Parish Health Unit, Winnfield, 10:30 a.m.
Guests are welcome
- 14 Mar. 2010 Central Louisiana Genealogical Society
Location & Time: Alexandria Genealogical Library, Alexandria, 2:30 p.m.
- 14 Mar. 2010 Northeast Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Society
Location & Time: Ouachita Parish Library, Monroe, 2:30 p.m.
- 15 Mar. 2010 Genealogical Research Society of New Orleans
Location & Time: Whitney Bank, 1441 Metairie Road, Metairie, 7:30 p.m.
Visitors are welcome
- 18 Mar. 2010 Edward Livingston Historical Assn.
Location & Time: Livingston Parish Library, Livingston, 6 p.m.
- 20 Mar. 2010 Baton Rouge Genealogical & Historical Society
Location & Time: Bluebonnet Library, Baton Rouge, 10 a.m.
Open to the public
- 20 Mar. 2010 Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society
Location & Time: Carnegie Memorial Library, Lake Charles, 10 a.m.
- 20 Mar. 2010 Vernon Genealogical & Historical Society
Location & Time: Vernon Parish Library, Leesville, 12:30 p.m.
Nonmembers are welcome
- 20 Mar. 2010 West Bank Genealogy Society
Topic: Show and Tell
Location & Time: West Bank Regional Library, Westwego, 1 p.m.
- 23 Mar. 2010 German Acadian Coast Historical & Genealogical Society
Location & Time: St. John the Baptist Parish Library, LaPlace, 7 p.m.
- 23 Mar. 2010 Natchitoches Genealogical & Historical Assn.
Location & Time: Arts Center, Natchitoches, 7 p.m.
Public is invited
- 25-27 Mar. 2010 Louisiana Historical Association Annual Meeting
Location: Holidome (Holiday Inn Central), Lafayette
For more information, see <http://lahistory.org/site11.php>
- 27 Mar. 2010 Terrebonne Genealogical Society
Installation of Officers
Location & Time: Terrebonne Parish Library Main Branch, Houma, 1 p.m.
Open to the public
- 28 Mar. 2010 GENCOM
Speaker & Topic: Don Davis, Significance of Cemeteries and Gravestone Symbols
Location & Time: Hamilton South Caddo Library, Shreveport, 2 p.m.
Guests are welcome
- 24 Apr. 2010 Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Society Seminar
Location and Time: Embassy Suites, Baton Rouge, 7:45 a.m.
\$30 for members before Mar. 31, \$35 after Mar. 31. Lunch is not included.