



# Genealogy News

**Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Library**

411 Pujo Street  
Lake Charles, LA 70601-4254

(337) 437-3490  
gen@calcasieu.lib.la.us

Visit our homepage at [www.calcasieu.lib.la.us](http://www.calcasieu.lib.la.us); click on Resources;  
click on Genealogy Page

## Do You Have Irish Ancestors?

- Get Acquainted** with others who are researching Irish ancestors
- Share** resources, websites, books, ancestor charts
- View** photos, mementos
- Learn** the origin of your Irish name and the history of your ancestral country
- Enjoy** Irish ancestry through the eyes of others
- Exchange** good sources of information with others
- Plan** Irish travel and hints on visiting Ireland

## IRISH ANCESTOR EXCHANGE DAY

Saturday, April 28, 2007

10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Carnegie Meeting Room

Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Library

411 Pujo Street

Lake Charles, LA

Call to reserve a table: 437-3490



## April is National Library Month

- ♦ National Library Week is April 16 - 20.
- ♦ Carnegie Friends of the Library will have a Used Book Sale in the Meeting Room from April 16 - 19 from 9:30 am - 5:00 pm.
- ♦ S. W. LA Genealogical Friends of the Library will provide refreshments in the kitchen during the book sale.

## April is National Volunteer Month

Special Thanks go to our faithful volunteers:

- ♦ Gloria Bello
- ♦ Dot Akins
- ♦ Gilbert Fontenot
- ♦ Alyssa Fontenot

**Mark your calendars**

## “Branching Out in Genealogy” Seminar

**Saturday, October 27, 2007 from 8:30 am until 3:00 pm**  
**Contraband Room of the Lake Charles Civic Center**

**“After Hours” Reception and Research at the Library**  
**for registrants on Friday evening from 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

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## Reminiscent Writings and “Stories in Time”



Parents' stories keep a family's history alive!

Winners of the 2006 Reminiscent Writing Contest were announced Saturday, February 17 at the “Stories in Time” program. First place winner is Barbara Hebert Di Bartolo, with her entry entitled “When Less is More.” The second place winner is Dr. Sandra Leder with her entry entitled “Tears of Leaving and Returning,” and the third place winner is Glad Streen with her entry entitled “The Wedding Cake.”

Curt Iles, a native of Dry Creek, spoke about the books he wrote about life experiences. His first book, *Stories from the Creekbank*, was published in 2000. He is working on his first novel based on his Irish ancestor, Joseph Moore, who emigrated to America and made his home in the Neutral Strip between the Calcasieu and Sabine Rivers. As part of his research he planned a trip to Ireland in early March.

Several past and current entrants read their stories. Hershel Frazier provided entertainment with his singing and guitar playing.

## 2007 Reminiscent Writing Contest Theme: Your Ethnic Ancestor

Reconstruct the life of one of your ancestors, (male or female), using scraps of information you may have. Include stories handed down in your family. Enhance your story by creating a timeline listing events of the time period. Consult history books of the era and articles in old newspapers.

Instructions for the Contest:

Use a cover sheet with your name, address, phone number, email address and the name of your story. Do not put your name on any pages of your story. Type your story, double-spaced. Any story that does not embarrass or harm anyone may be entered. Mail or bring your entry to Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Library, 411 Pujos Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601-4254 or take your entry to any branch of the Calcasieu Parish Public Library by December 30, 2007.

### Americorps Worker

Alyssa, an Americorps worker, has completed one year with the genealogy library. During that time she has indexed, numbered and organized the Lake Charles, Louisiana and General vertical files. Each article is numbered and listed on the master sheet at the front of each file folder. This will be an advantage when trying to find a particular article.

We are especially thankful to Alyssa and Americorps for all the work that she has accomplished.

Your newsletter can now be viewed electronically on the library's homepage. If you wish to continue receiving your newsletter via postal mail, please write, email or phone us at the addresses on the front page of this newsletter to leave your address on our mailing list.

Winner of the door prize at the St Patrick's Day Balladeer Festival held on March 17, 2007 was Debra Cresswell. The prize consisted of a start-up kit for tracing one's family.

Do you have old phone books, local yearbooks, genealogical or historical books from which might benefit in their research? If so, please consider donating them to our library.

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**First Place Winner - 2005 Reminiscent Writing Contest**  
**She Survived the Typhoid Epidemic©**

by: **Ethel Sacker**

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Emily was born in 1875, the second child of Alphonse Marcantel and Laurestine Vige, and grew up in the Phillips Bluff settlement near Kinder, Louisiana. Her mother died when she was but a young girl about thirteen to fourteen years old. Her brother, Edmond, was a little over two years older than she, so the two of them looked after the other three children. Her father, Alphonse, wasted no time in finding another wife to help him with his young family. He married Domelise Bell about 1890, who was almost twenty years younger than he, so she quickly began raising a family of her own. Emily Marcantel, first daughter of Alphonse, met and married Joseph Duhon, Sr. of Elton, Louisiana, son of Lastie Duhon and Mary Anne Langley. She was only fifteen years old but since her father was marrying again, she left home and married, still a young girl. She and her older brother, Edmond, continued to help care for their younger sister, Laura, my grandmother. Emily and Joseph Duhon began their own family. Lucy Duhon was born in 1895, followed by Dewey in 1898. About four years later, in 1902, a daughter Katie was added to the family. During these years my grandmother, Laura, was living part of the time with her father and stepmother and at other times with her sister, Emily, and brother, Edmond. So, Emily Marcantel Duhon had her hands full. She was known as a very strict and old-fashioned woman but my grandma always said she was good to her. Grandma Laura looked to her sister Emily almost as a mother.

In 1906 a son Cefus Mitchell, *Mitch*, was born, and in 1909 another son Joseph, *Little Joe*, was added to the growing family of Duhons. Meantime, Grandma Laura Marcantel was being courted by a tall, slim man almost twenty years her senior, and in 1903 she married Bill Gordon. She was barely fifteen. They settled in the Phillips Bluff settlement near the Calcasieu River, west of Kinder, Louisiana.

Emily Marcantel Duhon gave birth to another daughter, Hettie, in 1910. Her household was full but her own siblings had married and settled so she was busy raising her family. It is not improbable that she was still helping her younger sister adjust to married life and also helping with sister Laura's new babies.

In 1911 Emily gave birth to another child but a dreadful scourge, the Typhoid Fever epidemic, was *spreading* rapidly and reached its tenacious fingers of death into her home. Her husband, Joseph, died quickly and then, almost simultaneously, she lost her newborn baby. A couple weeks later, she became deathly sick with the dreaded sickness. Typhoid, now spreading rapidly throughout the area. All hope was given up for her recovery.

Following is an account written in the *Lake Charles Daily American* newspaper, published September 14, 1911:

**Mrs. Duhon's Husband and Child Died, but She May Recover**

Mrs. Joseph Duhon was brought to St. Patrick's Sanitarium from her home in Kinder last evening suffering from a severe attack of typhoid fever, with which she was stricken a few days ago. Reports from the hospital today were to the effect that Mrs. Duhon's condition had improved since coming to the institution. When she left her home her fever was 106. It dropped from this point and this afternoon stood at 101. Mrs. Duhon's attack of the fever draws more than the usual attention to cases of this kind, she having within the past two weeks lost her husband and little child by the disease. Precautions have been taken at Kinder since Mrs. Duhon's removal from her home to prevent any further spread of the fever.

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So Emily Marcantel Duhon went home from the hospital to grieve the loss of her husband and infant child, by the dreaded disease which had almost taken her life. She still had a young toddler to care for, and her other older children. From all accounts her life was a difficult one; raising young children alone with no means of support.

By 1915 she had met and married Remi Ardoin. He had lost his wife just the year before. They were married August 28, 1915 in Kinder by Rev. Paul Leeds. Her children were maturing, marrying and leaving home, the two older daughters married in that same year. Her son, Dewey, was drafted into the army in World War I.

In the late 1930's and the early 1940's Emily was living alone in Kinder with her daughter, Katie, and husband, Eurick Fuselier. She operated a restaurant in Kinder for several years and was a very frugal and resourceful woman, but still old-fashioned and strict in her ways. Her speech was rather strange, such as she would say "I hoped her," instead of "I helped her."

As I grew up my Aunt Emily was very close to our family so I spent lots of time in her house. I thought she lived in the biggest house in Kinder since it had an upstairs, (mostly an attic), and I was so fascinated by that attic. Only about twice was I allowed up there, and it seemed to be filled with all kinds of magical and mysterious items which I longed to investigate. Sometimes when I thought no one saw me I would climb up to the top of the stairs and peek over the top railing to see, and try to figure what that dark, secret chamber held. I remember seeing a couple of old trunks, boxes and pieces of furniture. But I never did get to explore, and maybe I was a little afraid of the unknown.

In her living room was a low chest like a wash stand, with a swinging mirror that could tilt up or down. On it she had some fascinating items, such as a golden clock inside a glass dome with the clock works visible. I was very small for my age but I could tilt the mirror down until I could see myself, and I would stand in front and admire all the pretty things and look at myself. She would laugh and encourage me to tilt the mirror.

As I grew up I would go visit Aunt Emily with my grandmother, and much to my surprise, I realized that her home was really very small compared to how it seemed to me as a child. And, in those later years I learned to appreciate the old furniture in her home. It was furniture many people would pay a fortune to own today. I often wish I had just one or two pieces of what I used to call drab, dark, heavy old furniture.

In her last years she was confined to bed, and her family put her in one of those large, old antique beds in the living room so that she could be with family and friends. She was dearly loved and had almost daily company, which she always graciously entertained, dressed in her old fashioned gowns and looking every bit like a "Queen."

I only learned later in my life about her near death episode of typhoid fever, and I was so grateful that her life had been spared so that I was blessed with knowing such a remarkable great-Aunt. Yes, I have many fond memories of my old-fashioned Aunt Emily. She was a 'precious gem,' living a simple life style, old fashioned, with no modern conveniences, and content with what "The Lord provides."

## New Books and Microfilm on Our Shelves

### Family Books

Akins, Taylor, Barousse & McBride

Brown - *Back Then*, volumes 1 - 3, 4 - 6, and 10

Brown - Southern Roots and Branches

Dyson

Lee, Benton, Singletary, Timmons, Myers, Harrell, Cannon

Lee, R. E.

Matte and Related Families

O'Conner

Starr

Walton

Webb Family

### Louisiana

Hixson Funeral Home, Leesville - 1946 - 1956

New Orleans and Bayou Country

*Golden Memories - 50 years Washington Mardi Gras Balls*

*The Neutral Ground LA/TX, 1806 - 1821*

Flactor Cemetery - Vernon Parish, LA

State Death Index

Vermilion

Cameron

Calcasieu

Evangeline

Jefferson Davis

Acadia

Allen

Beauregard

Avoyelles

*On With the Show: Lake Charles Little Theatre*

*Louisiana's Italians, Food, Recipes and Folkways*

*New Sunlight Baptist Church: 81st Anniversary*

*New Sunlight Baptist Church: 110th Anniversary*

*Guide to the Louisiana Miscellany Collection: 1724 - 1837*

*Genealogical Selections from the Acts of the Louisiana Legislature: 1804 - 1879*

*Surviving Rita*

### Arkansas

*Madison County Cemeteries*

### Connecticut

*Barbour Collection, volume 13*  
Franklin 1786 - 1850  
Glastonbury 1690 - 1844

*Families of Ancient New Haven, Volumes 4 - 6*

### Missouri

*Platte Co, Missouri - Abstracts of Wills and Administration*

### Nebraska

*Story of an Old Town*

### Ohio

*Ohio Guide to Genealogical Sources*

### Pennsylvania

*Allegheny Co, PA - Naturalizations*

### Virginia

*Virginia Counties: Those Resulting from VA Legislature*

*Genealogical Abstracts from 18th Century VA Newspapers*

*Virginia Colonial Soldiers*

*Italians to America 1880 - 1892 (6 volumes)*

### Canadians and Acadian

*Acadian Marriages in France*

*Strangers in Blood - Fur Trade Families in Indian Country*

### Other

*Barbados Records - Baptisms 1637 - 1800*

*Mayflower Marriages*

*Mayflower Increasing*

*Do's and Don'ts for Ancestor - Hunters*

*Survey of American Church Records*

*The Americans - Social History of the United States, 1587 - 1914*

*Reconstructed Passenger Lists for 1850: Hamburg to Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile and the United States*



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## Upcoming Events

**Friday, April 6 - 8, 2007**

Library Closed for Easter holidays

**Saturday, April 28**

Irish Ancestor Exchange

Carnegie Meeting Room at 411 Pujo Street

10:00 - 12:00 noon

**Friday, May 4**

Library Closed for All-Staff

**Monday, May 28**

Library Closed for Memorial Day

**Saturday, May 19**

S. W. LA Genealogical Society

Regular meeting at 10:00 am

Carnegie Meeting Room at 411 Pujo Street

Program: 400th Anniversary of Jamestown, VA

Speakers: Betty Ziegler

**Saturday, June 16**

Workshop: Introduction to Beginning Genealogy

Presentation by S W LA Genealogical Library Staff

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Carnegie Meeting Room at 411 Pujo Street

**Wednesday, July 4**

Library Closed for Independence Day

**Saturday, July 21**

Workshop: Organizing and Preserving Records

Presentation by S W LA Genealogical Library Staff

10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

Carnegie Meeting Room at 411 Pujo Street

**Saturday, August 18**

Workshop: Computer Programs and Internet  
Access

Presentation by S W LA Genealogical Library Staff

10:00 a.m.—12:00 a.m.

Carnegie Meeting Room at 411 Pujo Street

**Tuesday, August 21 - Thursday, August 23**

Hands-on Computer Workshop

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

411 Pujo Street

**Friday, October 26**

“After Hours” Reception and Research at the  
Library for registrants of “Branching Out in  
Genealogy” Seminar

5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

S W Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Library at  
411 Pujo Street

**Saturday, October 27**

“Branching Out in Genealogy” Seminar

Lake Charles Civic Center

8:30 am - 3:00 pm