



# Genealogy News

**Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Library**

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

## Hurricanes in Southwest Louisiana

Browsing the newspaper of August 1918 brought out some interesting facts that are very similar to the events of our recent Hurricane Rita that caused so much destruction to our town of Lake Charles and the surrounding areas.

There was no mention of the impending storm in the August 5, 1918 newspaper. Therefore, there was no preparation or evacuation. Can you imagine what it would have been like if that happened on September 24, 2005?

One interesting fact was related about a Dr. Caroline Chance. During the hurricane she stayed in her office in the Nagem Building. When the roof and partition leading to the hallway fell out she made her way to the courthouse where others had sought safety. She received many severe bruises. Even though she had a very close call she was married the next year to Earl Harrison Davis and moved to St. Louis, Missouri. Since this was the first mention of a woman doctor in Lake Charles, we began to wonder what happened to her. Shirley found that Dr. Chance first advertised as an osteopathic physician specializing in disorders of women and children in the local paper of May 4, 1918. We found her in the St. Louis, MO 1920 census married to Mr. Davis, a public librarian, and learned her age and that she was born in Iowa. We finally found her on the 1910 census in Missouri where she was a student of osteopathy.

Another interesting incident was that soon after the hurricane a Lieutenant Roosevelt and another officer were the first arrivals to reach Cameron and offer what help they could render. Of course, the genealogist in all of us wanted to know which Roosevelt this was. A later issue of the newspaper mentions that Lt. G. Hall Roosevelt, who had been stationed at Gerstner Field for the past few months, was being transferred to Florida. Through Linda's search on the Internet we learned that G. Hall Roosevelt was an aviation enthusiast who learned to fly in 1917 while America was preparing her air forces for the first World War. Roosevelt was a brother of Eleanor Roosevelt, the wife of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

## Welcome Home from the Genealogy Staff to all of our library family and our friends and patrons who evacuated before Hurricane Rita

Our library building suffered very little damage in comparison to so many other businesses and homes. Even our large live oak tree lost only a branch or two. The treasures of the library—the obituary files, microfilm, and books were all safe.

Preparations to protect our treasures were made on Wednesday, September 21 after we were notified that the libraries would close early that day and would not reopen until the following Monday. Staff from Collection and Computing Services (CCS) from the second floor of our building backed up our computers and assisted in covering the computers and bookshelves with plastic sheeting. Genealogy staff moved everything from the shelf and table tops to the protection of the microfilm room.

We were pleased on our return to find that there was no major damage and our collections were intact.

## New Books on Our Shelves

### Family Books

Landry—*Escape from the Guillotine*  
Smith—*15th Smith Family Reunion 2005*

*The Kin Patch* by Page Laubach  
Warden contains information about the following families:

Armistead  
Beverly  
Burwell  
Carter  
Cooke/Booth  
Dandridge/Langborne  
Grymes  
Harrison  
Higginson  
Jones  
Ludwell/Lee  
Martiau  
Nelson  
Page  
Peyton  
Randolph  
Reade  
Smith  
Throckmorton  
Todd/Bernard  
Warner  
Vandegrift  
Withers  
Dunham  
Franklin  
Morris  
Mott/Merritt

Grevemberg—*My Wars*

### Louisiana

*Assumption Parish Marriages: 1890—1905*

*Assumption Parish Marriages: 1906—1917*

*Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Church Records, volume 20 1895—1896*

*Sons of the American Revolution—Louisiana Society*

### Louisiana, cont'd

*Genealogical Materials in the New Orleans Public Library*

*St Maurice Cemetery - St Maurice, Winn Parish, LA*

*The History of the Catholic Cemetery in Natchitoches, LA*

*The American Cemetery - Natchitoches, LA*

*The Conduct of Federal Troops in LA - 1863—1864*

*West Feliciana Parish - A Tourist's Guide*

*Big Woods Cemetery, 2nd Ed.*

*The War for Southern Independence: Louisiana News from Selected Newspapers*

### Mississippi

*Confederate Soldiers and Widows - Attala County, MS 1913*

### Missouri

*Missouri Miscellany, vol. 11*

*Missouri Miscellany, vol. 14*

*Missouri Miscellany, vol. 16*

### Oklahoma

*Marriage Records of Muskogee, Indian Territory*

### Tennessee

*Franklin County Historical Review Index to Volumes 1 - XXV*

### Virginia

*The James - Where a Nation Began*

### Other

*French and Native American Marriages, 1600—1800*

*Who's Who in America, 2005*

*Pearl Harbor Dec 7, 1941 Casualty List*

*Thereby Hangs a Tale - Stories of Curious Word Origins*

*Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, 1951 - 1952*

### Microfilmed Newspapers

Jennings Daily Times Record  
9 reels  
Jan 2, 1903 - June 29, 1907

Beauregard News  
9 reels  
Nov 16, 1945 - Dec 31, 1954



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## Upcoming Events

### November 19

Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society meeting co-sponsored by the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Library  
Regular meeting from 10:00 - 12:00  
Carnegie Meeting Room at 411 Pujo Street  
Program: "Researching Military Records" to be presented by Genealogical Library staff and friends

### December 10

**(CANCELED)**

Genealogy Seminar sponsored by Libraries Southwest  
Central Library, 301 West Claude, Lake Charles  
Speakers: John Sellers and Cindy Hoffmeister

### December 30

Last day to turn in entries for Reminiscent Writing Contest.

### January 21, 2006

Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society meeting  
Regular meeting from 10:00 - 12:00  
Carnegie Meeting Room at 411 Pujo St in Lake Charles  
Program: "Show and Tell" by members

### Rescheduled Program

Due to the disruption caused by hurricane, Rita we had to cancel the program, "Stories in Time." This program will be rescheduled in 2006.