



Genealogy News

Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Library

411 Pujoe Street
Lake Charles, LA 70601

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

Visit our homepage at www.calcasieu.lib.la.us; click on Genealogy

For Love of Family: The Italian Family Exchange Day

Descendants of the Italians of Southwest Louisiana gathered on October 28, 2006 in the Carnegie Memorial Library meeting room. They brought charts, photos and videos, maps, newspaper articles, mementoes, compiled books, recipes and stories to share . . . and share they did!

The program was scheduled to run from 10:00 am until noon. However, at 10:30 everyone was still so busy renewing acquaintances and viewing the displays that we had to interrupt them to start the program.

Mary Ann Riviere, who has researched extensively at the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Library and the Mormon Church Family Center, was the main speaker. Using an overhead projector she pointed out the area of her family's ancestral home and shared the many resources she used for her research. Some of those are available at our library and include census records, obituaries, family files, ship passenger lists, naturalization records, city directories, compiled church and courthouse records, family files, and family books including the following: Casso, Natali, Bonapartes, Carlin, Navarre, and Baillio.

The room was beautifully arranged with tables lining the walls and displaying a variety of posters, charts and photographs. The bright decorations bore the landmark colors of the Italian flag: red, white and green.

Each person introduced themselves and told about their ancestors and exchanged information with other participants.

Some of the interesting points gleaned from the speakers were:

- The *Times-Picayune* published several articles about the Italians coming into New Orleans. Interesting stories told about the voyage from Italy and the conditions met by the passengers. These accounts are being transcribed into a readable copy and typed by staff member Jeanne Farque and our volunteer, Dot Atkins.
- Some family stories told by descendants may be proved, (or disproved), by the ship passenger lists. Interestingly, some children came into the United States "under the skirt" — that is to say each child would cling onto his or her mother's leg, hidden from view by the mother's long skirts. Others, thought to have been stowaways, actually were listed as official passengers.
- A most interesting return trip to Italy was planned and enjoyed by the Reina family. Cousins were invited to join the tour and together they all visited ancestral homes and villages.
- One trip back is sometimes not enough to appreciate walking in one's ancestor's footsteps, as Carol Hopper explained to the audience. She has been back several times and became increasingly acquainted with the Sicilian mind and atmosphere.
- Researching a family's history must also include a study of that country's history and conditions of the time period. History books will likely answer the question: "Why would a family uproot themselves and their children, leave the security of their homes and travel so far to an unknown place, often even with babies?"
- We are who we are today because of the sacrifices and struggles of those pioneers. Their stories need to be told and cherished.

Suggestions were made that we should offer this kind of family exchange again next year, and at that time offer additional highlights such as Italian food (po-boys, etc.) and/or a St. Joseph Altar. Another suggestion was that because of the great number of Italians who settled in our area there should be a museum housing the mementos and stories of those pioneers.

The visiting continued well past the scheduled end at noon. A continuous video showed Mary Ann's and Carol's ancestral villages and land in Sicily. Coffee, punch, Italian cookies, donuts, panettini, biscotti, and fruit were enjoyed by everyone. Handouts included bookmarks embellished with artwork and Italian proverbs, websites catering to Italian research, references to books and tips for deciphering Italian records.

The Italians have made great contributions to this area, and filled many professions including physicians, attorneys, teachers, shoemakers, grocers and other merchants.

The program was planned and conducted by the library staff: Shirley Burwell, Linda Gill, Armajean Declouet, Jeanne Farque, Beverly Delaney and Danielle Miller. The main speaker was Mary Ann Riviere, and Dot Atkins provided assistance.

Photos of the event are on display in our library.

"Memories of the Hurricanes of 2005"

Entries for the 2006 Reminiscent Writing Contest are already being received. The theme, "Memories of the Hurricanes of 2005," will document an individual's or family's experiences with Hurricanes Rita or Katrina. Suggestions for plots include memories of your evacuation (or remaining), lessons learned, the effects on people, how recovery was faced, nature's lessons, acts of kindness, sharing and bringing out the best and worst in people.

Stories must be typed, doubled spaced, and not over four pages. Use a cover sheet with your name, address, phone number, email address, and the name of your story. Please do not put your name on any page of your story.

A limit of two entries per person is accepted. Any story that does not embarrass or harm any other individuals may be entered. All participants will receive a copy of the published stories.

Mail or bring your story to the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Library, 411 Pujo Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601-4254. Copies may also be dropped off at any branch of the Calcasieu Parish Public Library, and they will be sent to our branch.

Saturday, December 30, 2006 is the deadline for entries to be received.

Welcome New Staff Members

Danielle Miller worked in our branch during the summer for about six weeks while the Moss Bluff branch was being repaired and has been "loaned" to us again. She is a tremendous asset to our branch since she is a native of Belgium and speaks, reads, and writes French. She is also interested in learning the genealogical skills necessary to assist patrons.

Beverly Delaney began in July. She has been doing genealogical research for about 30 years but the interest actually began when she was a child and her grandmother told her bedtime stories about her family. Some of her families have been in Cameron Parish since the 1850 census. Beverly has transcribed many Cameron Parish records and is very knowledgeable about the history of Cameron Parish.

New Books and Microfilm on Our Shelves

Family Books

The Genealogy of an Acadian and Cajun Family (Melanson - Melancon)

The Descendants of Captain John Timmons of South Carolina (Timmons)

Acadian Redemption, From Beausoleil Broussard to the Queen's Royal Proclamation (Broussard)

Enjoying a Great Moment of God's Time (Bertrand)

Louisiana

The Green House - Hebert/
Lowery
West Baton Rouge Families Looking Back at Washington, LA Tirailleurs - History of the 4th LC and the Acadians of Co. H
The Sugar Masters
Cajun Families of the Atchafalaya

Mississippi

Natchez
The Cradle of MS Methodism

Missouri

Opening the Ozarks, Volumes I - IV

North Carolina

Orange County, NC Deeds 1752—1768 & 1793

Virginia

Warren County Marriages, 1836—1850

Other

Our French Canadian Ancestors: Volumes 24, 25, 29, and Index to Volumes 1—30

U. S. Catholic Sources

Other, continued

Young George Washington

Italian Genealogical Records

Strange Kin—Ireland and the American South



Microfilm

Creek Census - 1890, 1895-1896

Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New Orleans, LA 1820—1902

Reel M259- 51	Apr 2, 1866—Feb 25, 1867
52	Mar 1, 1867—Feb 29, 1868
53	Mar 4, 1868—Mar 31, 1869
54	Apr 1, 1869—Apr 28, 1870
55	May 2, 1870—July 31, 1871
56	Aug 14, 1871—Oct 31, 1872
57	Nov 5, 1872—Feb 26, 1874
58	Mar 2, 1874—Sept 27, 1875
59	Oct 4, 1875—Feb 28, 1877
60	Mar 3, 1877—May 30, 1878
61	Jan 1, 1878—Nov 30, 1879
62	Dec 2, 1879—Nov 15, 1880

Cameron Parish Pilot

Reel 1	Oct 5, 1956—
Reel 15	Dec 30, 1971

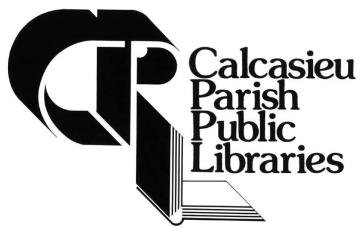
Oakdale Journal

Reel 1	Scattered Issues (1914—1919)
Reel 4	June 25, 1931



from the Genealogy Staff:

Shirley Burwell
Linda K. Gill
Jeanne Farque
Armajeau Declouet
Beverly Delaney
Danielle Miller



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Upcoming Events

December 7, 2006

Iowa Branch Library at 6:30 pm
"Your Family Tree: The Gift That Only You Can Give"

December 24, 25, 26

Library Closed for Christmas Holidays

December 30, 2006

Deadline for Reminiscent Writing Contest

December 31, 2006

Library Closed for New Year's Eve

January 1, 2007

Library Closed for New Year's Day

January 20, 2007

Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society meeting
Carnegie Memorial Library Building meeting room
411 Pujo Street, Lake Charles, LA
Program: Show and Tell
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

October 27, 2007

Please mark your calendars for the 1st Annual Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Library Seminar to be held at the Lake Charles Civic Center. Confirmed speakers are Tony Burroughs, John Sellers, and Bennett Greenspan or another Family Tree DNA representative. Vendors have also been invited.