



TERREBONNE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 20295

HOUMA, LA 70361

NEWSLETTER

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NEXT MEETING AUGUST 29, 2026 1:00 PM
MAIN BRANCH LIBRARY 151 LIBRARY DR. HOUMA, LA
FIRST FLOOR MEETING ROOM

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NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL ONLY



Wow! Last month Dr. Elista Istre was our speaker, and boy did she pack a punch! She spoke on *Creoles of South Louisiana – Three Centuries Strong*. Creole has changed over time. There are white creoles and black mixed creoles. Creoles were here before the Acadian arrival, sometime in the Antebellum Period 1803-1860. White creoles started identifying themselves as Cajun after the Acadian arrival. She spoke on Creole Cowboys, Creole Music, Zydeco, Quadroon balls, Congo Square, Jure', French LaLa, and of course Creole cooking. You had to be there to hear her talk-awesome! It took her 10 years to write her book. Feel free to visit her website- www.BelleHeritage.com.

GUEST SPEAKER

Our speaker this month will be Dr. Chris Cenac. He will speak about his new book *The Bowie Brothers and Bayou Buffalco (DuLarge)*. This second installment in a planned four-volume series chronicles the saga of one of the most rural and rustic regions of coastal Louisiana—Bayou DuLarge. In a story that has its origin centuries ago, *Volume II: The Bowie Brothers and Bayou Buffalo (DuLarge)*, with its thousands of photos, maps, and images, traces a legacy of perseverance and faith by the notable people who carved out an existence along the winding path of a waterway shown on maps as early as 1804 as Bayou Buffalo. These pioneers, who tamed a wilderness of swamp and prairie, reaped a great bounty from the very environment they often had to battle. The book documents the Bowies' entrepreneurial entrance into the State of Louisiana and the parishes of Terrebonne and Lafourche. These notorious brothers were farmers, politicians, and soldiers, as well as contemporaries of the infamous pirate, Jean Laffite. Amongst their numerous and controversial pursuits, they made a fortune in the illicit slave trade. From the early Spanish Land Grants followed by the influx of frontiersmen and land speculators, the book addresses Bayou DuLarge's rich history, unique cultures, and diverse populations of Native Americans, Protestants, Foreign-French (les français étrangers), Acadians, Europeans, and African-Americans (some who were the descendants of former slaves), all of whom contributed to the distinct and vibrant communities located

throughout the bayou's 37-mile length. This book delves into the enterprises that helped create Terrebonne Parish: sugar plantations, cypress and syrup mills, rice farms, shrimp-drying platforms, fur trapping, boat building, soft-shell crab, shrimp, oyster, and turtle harvesting, raising livestock, and the burgeoning oilfield and marine transportation industries. This volume expounds upon the changes over time to the professions that shaped the region, and ends with the effects of coastal erosion, rising sea-levels, and the threat of tropical weather on the vulnerable lower reaches of Louisiana, and most significantly, the impact these forces have had on the generations of families who have called this unique area home. This work heralds the citizens of Terrebonne Parish who, when faced with the harsh realities of subsistence so very near the Gulf of Mexico, have invested in infrastructure to mitigate and control the wrath of Mother Nature. Both informative and entertaining, this book is an invaluable resource, capturing a heritage that is, regrettably, quickly disappearing.

Dr. Cenac bio:

Christopher E. Cenac, Sr., M.D., F.A.C.S., was born at Naval Air Station Memphis, Millington, Tennessee, January 19, 1947, and grew up in Houma, Louisiana. He graduated from Terrebonne High School and as an undergrad attended LSU on academic and athletic scholarships. He graduated from LSU Medical School in 1971 and completed his residency in orthopedic surgery in 1976. He is a practicing orthopedic surgeon, having established the Bone & Joint Clinic in Houma in 1976, and having served as Chief of Staff of Terrebonne General and as Terrebonne Parish Coroner from 1980 to 1984. This year marks his 50th year practicing in Terrebonne Parish. Dr. Cenac's initial work, *Eyes of An Eagle: Jean-Pierre Cenac, Patriarch*, a 2011 docu-novel, is a biographical account of his French immigrant great-grandfather's life and provides an illustrated history of early Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana. *Eyes of An Eagle: Jean-Pierre Cenac, Patriarch* was a selected book of the Louisiana Bicentennial Commission in 2012. His second book, *Livestock Brands and Marks, An Unexpected Bayou Country History*, published in 2013, was named the 2014 Book of the Year by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. His third work, published in 2016, *Hard Scrabble to Hallelujah, Volume I: Bayou Terrebonne, Legacies of Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana*, an America's Third Coast Series book of the University Press of Mississippi, was awarded the 2017 Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Book of the Year. Because of his research and literary contributions to the state and its history, Dr. Cenac was recognized and commended by the Louisiana State Legislature via Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 88 in 2014. He is a founding member of Writing Louisiana, a committee of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) that supports publications by prominent Louisiana Writers and is a member of the Comité de Sélection du Poète Lauréat(e) de la Louisiane Française appointed by CODOFIL and the LEH. Dr. Cenac has served on the Board of Directors of the LEH since 2019. As a noted historian and author, Dr. Cenac has frequently been called upon as a lecturer and panelist for literary and cultural organizations throughout the State. He has spoken at libraries and before genealogical societies, been a presenter at the Louisiana Book Festival, and most recently assisted with the Terrebonne Parish Bicentennial Committee's historical presentation series. Dr. Cenac is a member of the Advisory Council for the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program based at LSU, part of the National Sea Grant Program addressing major marine and coastal challenges in 34 states. In 2004, Dr. Cenac established the Cenac Collection in the Archives of the Allen J. Ellender Memorial Library at Nicholls State University. The extensive collection contains documents, books, photographs, and memorabilia on the history and culture of Houma, Terrebonne Parish, and Southeast Louisiana. Part of the Cenac Collection, and on display at the LSU Rural Life Museum since 2014, is the "brand wall" from the Octave "Tete" Eschete Blacksmith Shop which has the livestock firebrands dating from 1822-1946 of Terrebonne Parish founding families burnt into its wood paneling. Dr. Cenac was a contributor to the book *Pelican Brand Oysters to Pioneer Tug and Barge, The Legacy of Cenac Towing Co.*, by Jason P. Theriot, Ph.D., published in 2020, and also contributed to the book *The Art and Science of Expert Witness Testimony* by Karen S. Postal, Ph.D., ABPPCN, published in 2021. Today Dr. Cenac's greatest personal interests are history and international travel. He and his wife Cindy reside on Bayou Black outside Houma, Louisiana. He has two sons and a daughter—two of whom are also physicians—eight grandchildren, and a widespread family both in and beyond Terrebonne Parish.

DEATHS



Maxie Mae Price Champagne passed away peacefully on August 16, 2026, surrounded by her loving family. She was born December 12, 1932 and was 93 years old. Maxie was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Charles Lindbergh Champagne; her son, Terry Champagne; and her parents, Avery and Robella Price. She is survived by her sons, Lynn Champagne and his wife, Cheri, and Eric Champagne and his wife, Trudy. She is also survived by five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, who will lovingly cherish her memory. Maxie graduated from Terrebonne High School and Nicholls State University. She devoted her professional life to educating and encouraging young people as a schoolteacher before her retirement. A woman of deep Catholic faith, Maxie was a devoted member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church and its Altar Society. **She was also a member of the Terrebonne Parish Genealogical Society.** Maxie will always be remembered for her kindness, generosity, and unwavering faith. She found great joy in the color purple and was an exceptionally talented, award-winning quilter whose beautiful work reflected her creativity, patience, and love. Beloved by all who knew her, Maxie touched countless lives and will be greatly missed. Her loving spirit and treasured memory will live on in the hearts of her family and friends. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the visitation was at Chauvin Funeral Home Tuesday, August 18, 2026. Visitation will continue on Wednesday, August 19, 2026 at Holy Rosary Catholic Church until service time at 11:00 AM. Burial will take place in the church cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Houma, Louisiana.

EVENTS

The Genealogy Club hosted by Kevn Allemand will meet on Monday, September 14, 2026, at 9:00AM at the Lockport Library in Lockport, LA.

PREVIOUS EVENTS



On July 28, Susan and I were honored to attend the Great Upheaval Commemoration at the Bayou Terrebonne Waterlife Museum. You can check out that event on their Facebook page. We had a booth for people to stop by and answer questions. We also shared their FB page on our Facebook page.

On August 15, Johnny Soule', Darlene Soule' & Connie Gaines attended the National Acadian Day celebration at the Bayou Terrebonne Waterlife Museum. It was such an honor to have TGS have a booth at the event. Check out Bayou Terrebonne Waterlife Museum Facebook page to see & hear the Cajun Music, the French Table, and more. Below left & middle pictures of Connie, Darlene, & Johnny talking to people at the Waterlife Museum. Picture on right is at LHS with Connie & Darlene.



I could not attend the Lafourche Historical Society Seminar this year, because I had a date with Mickey Mouse. These are some things I heard. Elaine Bourque's discussion of Acadian Brown Cotton made us realize the work that went into the weaving of handmade blankets by our ancestors was remarkable and should be recognized. Dr Cenac's book brought to light how the Bowie brothers were involved with Jean Lafitte. Naquin & Richard - we pass by sugarcane fields every day, but they identified what has been done over the years to ensure it continues to be a profitable sustenance for our state by changing the type as needed, dealing with different types of pests to ensure a good harvest.

NEW LOGO

Check out our new logo on the first page. Many thanks to all who submitted logo to choose from.

TERREBONNE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY				
2026 MEETING SCHEDULE				
DATE	LOCATION	ROOM/FLOOR	BOARD	GENERAL
8-29-2026	Main Branch	Large Rm 1 st Fl		1:00 PM
9-26-2026	Main Branch	Large Rm 1 st Fl	11:00 AM	1:00 PM
10-31-2026	Main Branch	Large Rm 1 st Fl	11:00 AM	1:00 PM
<i>No Meeting in November</i>				
12-12-2026	Main Branch	D.E. Rm 2 nd Fl		Noon

Check out our website: www.terrebonnegenealogicalsociety.org
Facebook Group: Terrebonne Genealogical Society



ABOUT US

The Terrebonne Genealogical Society is dedicated to researching preserving and sharing the rich family histories of Terrebonne, Lafourche, Assumption and surrounding parishes.

We support genealogists of all experience levels – from beginners to seasoned researchers – through education, collaboration, and access to historical resources.

WHAT WE DO

- Research Assistance
- Terrebonne Life Lines Publications & Resources
- Educational Programs & Presentations
- Monthly Meetings with Guest Speaker or workshop
- Connections with fellow researchers & historians
- Opportunities to share and preserve family histories

CONTACT US

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