TERREBONNE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 20295
HOUMA, LA 70361-0295

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 45 No. 8 October 2026

NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 31, 2026 1:00 PM
MAIN BRANCH LIBRARY 151 LIBRARY DR. HOUMA, LA
FIRST FLOOR MEETING ROOM

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NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL ONLY







Our speakers last month were Vickie Gibbens Eserman and Ernie Savoie. Tom Butler saw a need for preservation of boat building and in 1979 funded and founded *Traditional Louisiana Boat Building.* She showed us a video of her dad riding his Putt Putt boat he built from a sinker log. Ernie said that in 2016 was offered a boat and after he acquired it found out that it belonged to his grandfather. Every boat builder has his own later marker on the boats he/she builds. That is how he found out it belonged to his grandfather. He has his grandfather's hand tools he used to build boats. He is a 3rd generation boat builder. Some of the things they have are 73 full size boats, 24 dugout pirogues, 1 Native American Dugout, 18 model boats, 11 Antique motors and 41 pieces of art. They started at the old Ford Motor Dealership building in Lockport. The building was destroyed by Hurricane Ida and they had to move out of the building. They are temporarily at 170 Jean Charles Blvd., Gray, LA. Nicholls State University wants them to move on campus and is building new center for them. Contact the Center for Traditional Louisiana Boat Building if you would like to donate.

GUEST SPEAKER

David D. Plater will be our speaker this month. He was born May 3, 1936, in Nashville, TN. He moved with family to Acadia Plantation, near Thibodaux, in late 1939, and resided there until attending Woodberry Forest School in Virginia, followed by Williams College, MA, where in 1958 he received his Bachelor of Arts with honors in history. After earning a law degree at Tulane, he practiced maritime law for several years in New Orleans, then taught at Metairie Park Country Day School, earning a master's in history at Tulane in 1969. In 1973 David returned to Thibodaux, where he participated in the management of the family plantation until 2003. Since then, he has undertaken the research and writing of United States history. His publications include articles and book reviews in the Sewanee Review of Literature and other journals, and he has written or edited two other histories set in the antebellum American South, The Remarkably Neat Church in the Village of Thibodaux: An Antebellum History of St. John's Episcopal Church; and The Butlers of Iberville Parish, Louisiana: Dunboyne Plantation in the 1800s. His new history book is about six master carpenters who (fortunately for us) settled in the antebellum Lafourche region. It was some nine years in the making and continues his endeavors in the study of and writing about regional and local Louisiana history. David Plater lives in Bayou Country Club near Thibodaux with Sheela, his wife of 64 years, and they are parents of three children and eight grandchildren. Sheela and he spend as much time as they can reading and listening to classical music and supporting the String Music Program at Nicholls State. He will be speaking on his new book and will have some for sale at the meeting.

EVENTS

The Genealogy Club hosted by Kevn Allemand will meet on Monday, November 2, 2026, at 9:00AM at the Lockport Library in Lockport, LA.

TERREBONNE LIFE LINES

We have mailed out the 2026 Spring/Summer Issue of the Life Lines. If you have not received your copy of the 2026 Spring/Summer Issue of the Life Lines, please let us know. We have started working on the 2026 Fall/Winter Issue and we need material, articles, family charts, pedigree charts, family history, etc. Please consider sending us yours for the Life Lines. Our Life Lines are nationwide, so if you want to share your family stories with our members and other libraries who get our Life Lines, you can email or mail a copy to us.

TERREBONNE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE				
DATE	**LOCATION**	**ROOM/FLOOR**	**BOARD**	**GENERAL**
10-31-2026	Main Branch	Large Rm 1st Fl	11:00 AM	1:00 PM
No Meeting in November				
12-12-2026 Christmas Social	Main Branch	D.E. Rm 2nd Fl		Noon

REMINDER

Membership renewal is before the end of February. Membership forms coming soon.

OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

We are voting for as outstanding member of the year. The nominated member must have been a member for a year or more. The member must have done something for the betterment of the society. You can only vote once, and you cannot vote for someone who has previously received the award. We will present the award in December. Previous winners were **Phil Chauvin, Jess & Dot Bergeron, Nancy Wright, Ed & Gloria Hicks, Essie & Marcie Cavalier, Sandra Boudreaux, Wanda Moore, Patty Whitney, Connie Gaines, Susan Caro Dupre, Johnny & Darlene Soule'. See sample voting form below. We will have voting forms at the October meeting for you to vote.**

TERREBONNE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM
Rules:
1. Any member can nominate a member. 2. The nominated member must have been a member for a year or more. 3. The member must have done something for the betterment of the society. 4. The nomination needs to be done in writing and give the reason why they are being considered. 5. The nomination must be given to one of the committee members. 6. Nomination can be a couple. 7. Member can on vote once for the 2026 nomination. 8. Member can only win one time: **PREVIOUS WINNERS: Phil Chauvin, Jess & Dot Bergeron, Nancy Wright, Ed & Gloria Hicks, Essie & Marcie Cavalier, Sandra Boudreaux, Wanda Moore, Patty Whitney, Connie Gaines, Susan Caro Dupre, Johnny & Darlene Soule'**
NAME OF MEMBER BEING NOMINATED: _____
REASON FOR CONSIDERATION:_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
SUBMITTED BY:_____

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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