

## West Baton Rouge Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 1126  
Port Allen, LA 70767-1126

The WBR Genealogical Society invites you to join us to further your genealogical goals and assist in research that will make genealogy easier for those that follow us. Our society publishes a 20 page newsletter, *Petite Terre*, every three months. These newsletters include marriage records, census records, individual family stories, journals of historic discovery, ancestor charts, court house records, church records, old newspaper articles, and historical records to just name a few. We also have publications, which our members have compiled to help genealogists in searching for their ancestors:



### Books for Sale

The West Baton Rouge Genealogical Society has published four books to help genealogists achieve their goals in searching for their ancestors.

For our first book, *St. John the Baptist Catholic Cemetery*, we gathered tombstone information, church records of deaths, Iron Cross information and interviewed family members about the graves in the St. John the Baptist Cemetery and Mausoleum in Brusly. There was a lot of participation by our members. This book was published by LeComite' des Archives de la Louisiane in 1990. There are a limited amount of these books available at \$10.00 each at the WBR Parish Museum.

Our second publication, *West Baton Rouge Parish Marriage Records 1807-1915*, was compiled by Mrs. Iris Allain LeJeune from some 5 X 8 index cards housed in the West Baton Rouge Museum. These cards were compiled by Mrs. Berthilde D. Coles and Mrs. Genevieve B. Cancienne. Mrs. LeJeune compiled these records to produce this publication. Copies are available at \$15.00 each at the WBR Parish Museum.

Our third publication, *West Baton Rouge Families*, was six years in the making. After many false starts and technical problems from lack of experience, we finally published in 1999. This was a group effort, and we feel that this is a beautiful book, with 222 stories of our ancestors, written by their families. Over 100 pictures were supplied for these

stories. This is a great value at \$45.00 each and can be purchased at the WBR Parish Museum.

Our most recent publication is *West Baton Rouge Parish Cemeteries*. There are approximately 30 cemeteries in West Baton Rouge Parish. They are listed in five categories:

1). African-American Cemeteries – West Baton Rouge Parish has a multitude of them located through out the parish. Many of them are not being used anymore.

2). Slave Cemeteries – These are pre-Civil War cemeteries that have disappeared. Most of these cemeteries were right on the Mississippi River where all the early settlers lived. As the river got larger, it took all of the old settlements and their cemeteries.

3). Plantation Cemeteries – These post-Civil War cemeteries were set-aside on areas of the plantation, usually in fields for burial of the workers.

4). Church Cemeteries – These were located next to the churches for burial of the members. Many of these are still active cemeteries. The largest of these is the St. John the Baptist Church in Brusly. The cemetery information begins in January 1990 where the previous book ended. It includes: Name/Date of Birth/ Date of Death/ Place of Birth/ Place of Death/ Age. This would be very valuable information for genealogy lovers.

5). Benevolent Cemeteries – These were societies set up by a group for the purpose of having a place for burial. A small fee was paid each month to ensure their place of burial upon death. This allowed for maintenance of the cemetery. Some of these are still active.

Each of the cemeteries listed in the book have a GPS location. Some of them have been grown over by trees and bushes, but the location is listed if anyone would be interested in finding them. Copies are available at \$12.00 each.

Order your copies from the WBR Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1126, Port Allen, LA 70767-1126. Include \$3.00 postage for each book ordered or pick up a copy at the WBR parish Museum.

---

Our meeting dates for 2009:

January 10, 2009

April 18, 2009

July 11, 2009

October 10, 2009

No speakers are scheduled for our meetings. Meetings are held at the WBR Parish Library in Port Allen at 9:30 a.m.

830 North Alexander Avenue

Port Allen, Louisiana 70767

Phone: 225-342-7920 • Fax: 225-342-7918

Speakers are coordinated and presented in conjunction with the WBR Museum. None scheduled at this time – the last speaker engagement was in October 2008. We try to arrange speakers such as genealogists, historians or authors who speak to us about some form of genealogy. Dues are \$15.00 per calendar year, due January 1, each year.

#### 2008 Officers

#### 2008 Officers

President – Arlen Landry

Treasurer – Ellis Gauthier

#### Secretaries

Mail and Correspondence Secretary – Iris LeJeune

Petite Terre Editor & Recording Secretary – Margaret Canella