

Highlights



- **The Apalachee in Natchitoches Parish**
- **Creole Heritage Center Conference**
- **St. Augustine Church Fair**

Inside

- 1 Correspondence/Cyberspace**
- 2 Cane River Memories**
- 3 Birthdays**

*The
Delphin Balthazar
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The Cane River Trading Co.



*Airhart*Anty(ee)*Aguillard*Balthazar*Bayone/Bayonne/Byoune*Beaudoin*Beize*Bellow*
*Brossett*Chelette*Chevalier*Christophe*Clifton*Cloutier*Colson*Conant*Couty(ee)*Curry*Delphin*
*Dubriel*Dupré(e)*Gallien/Gallion*Gauthier*Goudeau*Guidry*Hebert*Holloway*Ives*Jones*
*Kirkland*Kochinsky*LaCour*LaCaze*LeGras*Llorence/Llorens*LeMelle*Marinovich*Moran*
*Mullone*Metoyer*Mezriere*Monette/Monet*Neal*Prudhomme*Rachal*Raggio*Robeaux*Roque*
*Rocques*Sarpy*Severin*Sylvic/Sylvia*St. Ville*Sers*Terrell*Tyler*Ray*Warburg*Wilson*

The Apalachee in Natchitoches

A newsletter to keep our Creole culture alive and to keep Cane River Creoles connected

The Talimali Band of Apalachee

by Dayna Bowker Lee

Prologue

The Apalachee began in Florida but were forced to relocate to Louisiana where we pick up our story. The Wall Street Journal titled it, "Apalachee Tribe, Missing for Centuries, Comes Out of Hiding". Thank you to Mark Delphin for bringing this story to our attention.

The Kisatchie Hills

After being driven from their village by Baldwin and his agents, the majority of Apalachee sought refuge in the Kisatchie hills where they established two small settlements. Jacquite Vallery led the Sang-Pour-Sang village, and his brother, Antoine Vallery, the last traditional chief of the Apalachee, established his settlement on Bayou Cypre (G. Bennett interview, March 10, 1998). Their brother, Jean Baptiste Vallery II, remained with his family and followers near the old Apalachee village site around present-day Colfax where they eventually merged with other

multicultural communities. For the remainder of the 19th century, the Apalachee interacted with local American Indian groups, as well as their [métis](#) and Creole neighbors. They also joined with [mestizo](#) families once connected to the old Spanish presidio of Los Adaes. The Apalachee were the only known tribal group to inhabit the Kisatchie Hills by the middle 19th century, and were probably the Indians who staged a dance and stickball game at the plantation home of Ambrose Le Comte in 1863 (Bearss 1972:47). Planter families like the LeComte/Hertzogs, LeCourts, and Chopins became patrons and friends of the tribe. After the Civil War, a few Irish Catholics merged with tribal families and became the conduit by which goods like baskets, produce, livestock, and cross-ties for the railroad industry entered the markets of Cloutierville. Ernest Brossette, Caddo/French (métis), and Josephine Pattie, Adaesaño (mestizo – descended from the families who once occupied Los Adaes Spanish presidio near present-day Robeline, Louisiana).

Photograph courtesy of the Talimali Band of Apalachee, tribal archives.



Alfred Carnahan house, Sang-Pour-Sang community, Kisatchie Hills. Photograph courtesy of the Talimali Band of Apalachee, tribal archives.



Francis Kerry and Ezzie Basco. Photograph courtesy of the Talimali Band of Apalachee, tribal archives.



Mary Frances Vallery Kerry, also known as Shalotte, daughter of Apalachee leader, Benoist Vallery. A tall woman with a commanding presence, Shalotte rode a large white horse and oversaw the communal fields. Here she is seen harvesting corn. Photograph courtesy of the Talimali Band of Apalachee, tribal archives.

A close relationship developed between Jacquite Vallery and Dr. Jean Baptiste Chopin, a planter in lower Natchitoches Parish. Chopin, a physician who came from France in the early 19th century, married [Creole](#) Julia Benoist, and established a cotton plantation business with her mother, Suzette Rachal Benoist (Mills 1985:532). At the beginning of the American Civil War, Chopin sent his family to France while he remained on the plantation with a few servants along with Jacquite's son Benoist Vallery, apparently named for Chopin's wife's family. When Union troops moved through the area and began to seize and burn property, they abandoned the plantation and sought refuge "at Jacquite's [sic] place in the pine woods" (Rachel Morris deposition, Chopin Collection, October, 1882). Jacquite's log house still remains standing on family land and is an object of great cultural patrimony to the contemporary tribe. By the middle 19th century, the Apalachee descendants formed three small communities, the original two at Sang-Pour-Sang and Bayou Cypre, as well as a third settlement that

grew up around the common agricultural area at Yay-Yay Fields.



The cabin of Jacquite Vallery with whom Dr. Chopin and his servants hid during federal raids during the civil War. The additions to the cabin were made later and are used for storage. Photograph by Dayna Bowker Lee, LRF, NSU.

The villages were connected by footpaths and were located about a mile apart from one another. Despite increasingly complex ethnic blending, the three small communities continued to function as Apalachee tribal divisions. Upon the death of a division leader, the office passed to his son or maternal nephew and the community danced all night to honor both the old and new leaders (TK interview, 27 January 1998). To be continued...This article is one of a 4-part series. For complete story as well as additional photos and maps see <http://www.nsula.edu/regionalfolklife/apalachee/Epilogue.html> Some names are familiar such as Brossett, Basco, Bynog, and others, which appear in Cane River Creole genealogy. Suzanne Basco (1855-dsc) is the wife of Reno/Renaud Beaudoin (1847-1939). Their children are John Albert Beaudoin (1871-dsc), Felice Beaudoin (c.1872-dsc) married Antoine M. Marinovich, Louise Beaudoin (1877-1921) married Lewis Emory Jones (son of Carroll Jones and Catherine Clifton), Celene Beaudoin (c.1878-1971) married Francis Walter Delphin, Idelle/Adel Beaudoin married August (Gee-Tan) Rachal, Baby Girl Beaudoin (1880-1880), a twin,

Alphonse Beaudoin (1880-1966), a twin, married Nettie Delphin, and James Beaudoin, who died at age 18. See also

<http://www.weyanoke.org/doc/WSJ-ApalacheeTribe.doc>, an article in the March 9, 2005 *Wall Street Journal*. NB: Reno Beaudoin also married Adel LaCour and they had several children. Nettie, Walter, and my grandmother Essie Delphin Balthazar Kirkland were siblings, offspring of August Delphin and Maria Louise Jones. Maria Louise Jones Delphin was sister to Lewis Emory Jones.

What's new?



The Lacour family. On the right is Ida LaCour Simon (1891-2003) with youngest brother Aloysius LaCour (1913-1991). On the left is possibly Alice Bellow, second wife of Jean Baptiste Lecour.



Seraphin or Obie in rear, Dorestan and Vilcourt LaCour in Grand Ecore at the store owned by the Cox family.

The top LaCour photo was contributed by Amy LaCour, a singer/songwriter in Los Angeles. The bottom photo has been previously published in the CRTC.



Amy is the granddaughter of Aloysius LaCour, the youngest child of Jean Baptiste Lecour and Alice Bellow. Two of Aloysius' sisters are Mabel LaCour, who died last October, and Ida LaCour Simon, who lived to be 112 years old. His other siblings are Abraham (Mary Metoyer) LaCour, Mary LaCour, Adeline LaCour, Agnes Dolores LaCour, Cecilia LaCour Metoyer, and Beatrice LaCour.

In the last issue we celebrated the graduation of Kyle and Nicholas Davis. The story of twins both graduating the Air Force Academy was picked up by the *Ventura County Star*. Ventura, California.

Twins graduate from the Air Force Academy By [Alicia Doyle](#)
Wednesday, July 8, 2009



Kyle and Nicholas Davis of Ventura have reason to smile; it's graduation week at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs

Born 11 minutes apart in Ventura, CA, identical twins Kyle and Nicholas Davis recently graduated from the Air

Force Academy in Colorado Springs with almost identically impressive resumes. "This was highly unusual; they were the only twins to graduate at the Air Force Academy in 2009" said their mom, Diana Davis of Ventura. "We are very proud of both sons for getting into the academy and then having the perseverance to hang in there and graduate." Even though they were not in the same squadron, and therefore unable to visit each other's squadron for the first year,



Identical twins Kyle S. Davis, above, and Nicholas J. Davis, below, earned almost identical resumes while in college. Photo courtesy of Prestige Photography



"I'm sure it was helpful having their twin brother go through the academy at the same time," said their father, Lance Davis. "The Air Force

encourages bonding and teamwork and having a twin go through the academy at the same time will only



Photo courtesy of April Davis. Kyle, at left, and Nicholas, smile for their sister April right after graduation. "They no longer have their caps on," their mother, Diana, said, "because they tossed them."

strengthen their relationship." As 2005 graduates of Buena High School, Kyle and Nicholas both graduated on May 27 from the United States Air Force Academy, each with a Bachelor of Science degree in systems engineering management, and each received a commission as second lieutenant. Both were competitive in football and power lifting. In addition to playing football, Kyle was an assistant recruiting coach for the team. On the intercollegiate power lifting team, he finished 2008 as fourth in the nation in his weight class. "The main reason that I went to the Air Force Academy was football," said Kyle, the older twin, born at 7:48 a.m. on Aug. 31, 1987. "To be honest, I was not thinking about attending at all until I got a phone call from the football coaches there. What really got me to commit was the fact that I could play D1 football (D1 is the highest level of intercollegiate athletics) and get a great education." Graduating from the

academy “means a lot to me,” said Kyle, who has been assigned to the Acquisitions Wing of Patrick Air Force Base in Florida. “I am still not exactly sure of even how much an honor it is to me, because I have yet to reap the benefits of this accomplishment, but throughout my four years there, my eyes have been opened to the many freedoms that we in America enjoy and the sacrifices that must be made to protect those freedoms. “I am proud and feel honored to be able to protect and in some way provide those freedoms that I took for granted.” Nicholas also played football for the USAFA and was an assistant recruiting coach for the team during his time at the academy. He also competed on the Intercollegiate Power Weight Lifting Team, where he finished 2008 as 11th in the nation in his weight class. “I decided to attend the Air Force Academy so that I could play football at a high level and get a good education while doing it,” said Nicholas, who only played football during his first year at the academy. “Once I stopped playing, I remained there because of the friendships that I had made and the bond that had formed between us. We were all going through this tough time together.” His recent graduation “means more than I can express in mere words,” Nicholas said. “I have joined an elite group of professionals that can say that they have graduated from the academy and now have earned a chance to represent what that means throughout the Air Force and the community.” Assigned to the Acquisitions Wing of Hanscomb Air Force Base in Boston, “I am glad to have earned the opportunity to show the qualities that have been instilled in me and are required in order to be successful during life in the Air Force community,” Nicholas said. “I hope that I can live up to the expectations that have been set before me by my

predecessors, but I am sure that my parents and the academy have guided me down the path to success.” The fact that they are twins encourages competition and passion to do better, their mom emphasized. “They are content in knowing that they cannot be the best in everything, but they are determined and find it amusing to outdo each other,” she said. “As a result, they push themselves even harder and become even better in all that they set out to do.” Please see: <http://www.venturacountystar.com/news/2009/jul/08/twins-graduate-from-the-air-force-academy/> Diana adds Nick and Kyle placed 5th and 6th place at the 2009 National Collegiate Weightlifting Championships that were in Shreveport, Louisiana. Following graduation the



Melvin Reid Davis, Lt. Col., USAF Ret.

Kyle and Nicholas are the grandsons of Melvin Davis, Lt. Col., USAF, Ret. and the late Delphin Balthazar Davis.

New contacts: Joseph Llorens, son of Tony & Amanda Metoyer Llorens. Vincent Metoyer, son of Alce C. (AC) and Regina Llorens Metoyer. William and Theresa Norris, Jr. William is the son of William and Theresa Llorens Norris. Gilbert & Lee Sers. Gil is the son of Gilbert and the late Flora Roque Sers.

Creole Conference

The 2009 Creole Heritage Center Conference will be held on Friday October 9 beginning with a 12 noon

lunch at St. Anthony’s Church Hall, 911 5th St. Natchitoches LA 71457 (318) 352-2559. Following lunch, activities will move to the Natchitoches Events Center on Second Street, Natchitoches, La. <http://www.natchitocheseventscenter.com/> The Creole Language session begins at 1:00 pm followed by the Creole Awards at about 4:00 pm. The Zydeco Dance, from 8 pm ‘til 12, will be preceded by a Mardi Gras Parade. Tickets are \$20.00 in advance/\$25.00 at door. Contact: NSU Creole Heritage Center, Northwestern State University, NSU Box 5675, Natchitoches, LA 71457, (318) 357-6685/Fax: (318) 357-6689. Go to <http://vintage.nsula.edu/creoleapps/2009Celebrate/2009tickets.htm> for tickets online.

St. Augustine Church Fair will be held on Oct 10-11, 2009. Contact 318/379-2521. The 55th Annual Fall Pilgrimage/Tour of Homes will be held on the same weekend. Contact: (800) 259-1714 for ticket information.

Galveston County Health District’s CEO Receives TALHO’s Top Award

AUSTIN, TEXAS (August 12, 2009).



The Texas Association of Local Health Officials (TALHO) recently recognized Galveston County Health District’s (GCHD) CEO and Health Authority with its highest accolade for public health servants. Among five finalists in Texas, Harlan “Mark” Guidry, MD, MPH received the 2009 Janet Emerson Public Health Servant Award for almost two decades of public service achievements in public health and healthcare, most recently, leading the public health response to Hurricane Ike (September 2008). TALHO presents this annual tribute to a public health employee within a health department in the State of

Texas who has demonstrated extraordinary performance with an exemplary commitment to local public health. A native of Port Arthur with Louisiana roots, Dr. Guidry has a distinguished public health care career spanning from private occupational and correctional medicine to Director and Health Authority of the City of Beaumont's Public Health Department to Texas Department of Health (TDH) Regional Director in Houston serving 16 counties in Southeast Texas, to Interim Associate Commissioner of Family Health for TDH in Austin to his current appointment in Galveston County. Dr. Guidry graduated from medical school at UTMB Galveston and was subsequently trained and board-certified in Family Practice. He completed a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Texas School of Public Health in Houston. Dr. Guidry's professional career includes educating healthcare professionals, strategic health planning, academic appointments, many professional associations, and a record of credible leadership and public service. Dr. Guidry's extensive experience includes leading public health responses to many community threats, such as meningococcal disease outbreaks, syphilis outbreaks, human rabies, West Nile Virus, infectious tuberculosis through quarantine measures, and the anthrax scares of 9/11. Specifically recognized during TALHO's tenth annual awards dinner was Dr. Guidry's extraordinary performance, critical leadership, compassion and unwavering commitment to Galveston County throughout Hurricane Ike and the recovery process. During the public health emergency, Dr. Guidry led health and medical responses in 14 jurisdictions. His leadership prompted public health safety actions such as issuing public health alerts and advisories; Emergency Medical Services (EMS) ambulance services; environmental inspections (e.g., food, water, septic systems, sanitation, etc.); public vaccinations; animal rescues; active surveillance of hurricane-related

injuries and diseases; primary care clinic services; and health and medical support of a Galveston Island shelter. In accepting the award, Dr. Guidry said, ***"I dedicate this award to the public health employees and community partners who heroically responded to a myriad of health challenges in the aftermath of Hurricane IKE."*** Hurricane Ike is the third most destructive hurricane to ever make landfall in the United States. Currently, Dr. Guidry leads over 300 employees that provide public health and healthcare services to the over 289,000 residents of Galveston County & Cities. The Health District, governed by the United Board of Health and the 4C's Clinic Governing Board, operates two (2) federally-funded community health clinics, EMS ambulance services, and a variety of public and environmental health services. Ed. Note: Mark is the son of Marilyn Goudeau Guidry of Port Arthur. He is a Creole researcher whose Cane River roots go back through the Dupre, Metoyer, and LaCour lines.

Happy Birthday

Joanne Dubriel Rachal made 70 with a big birthday celebration on Cane River in July. Send photos.

Close to 200 relatives and friends attended the Mass and dinner banquet at St. Augustine Church Hall on July 5, 2009 to celebrate the 90th birthday of Cecilia Metoyer Balthazar. Doc Coutee spun the discs and all had a great evening. See additional photos elsewhere.



L-R: Marie Balthazar Jones, Ms. Cecile, Sister, Henry Rachal

Creole Language for Creole People

In partnership with the [Creole Heritage Center](#) at NSU, the [Lafayette](#)

[Natural History Museum and Planetarium](#), and Creole speakers throughout Louisiana, LRFPP is working on a project to address



French language change, a loss in Louisiana Creole communities. This project, Creole Language for Creole People, will look at ways to identify and document speech communities, regional dialects, formal and informal language use, and other aspects of Creole language and to make that information accessible to community members and to the public. <http://www.nsula.edu/regionalfolklore/default.htm>

What Else is New?



The Council on Aging sponsored a picnic at Hodges Gardens State Park in Florien, La. Isabel Arceneaux is seen on the left and Julia Brosssett on the right. Also present were Audrey LaCour & Faye Sarpy.

Maximilian Delphin Gregio, along with his mother Patricia, spent their summer in Australia. Maximilian and Patricia visited family and friends while on their five week trip. Patricia was born in Australia and had not been home for nine years. Maximilian

is the son of Patricia and Marcus Delphin Gregio and grandson of Kathleen Balthazar and Victor Heitzmann and Denis & Denise Lane-Mullin of Australia.



Maximilian Delphin Gregio (as Austin Powers) with his first cousin Benjamin Tinker in Australia

Inauguration Ball



Joe and Soni Sers attended one of the inauguration balls for President Obama on January 22, 2009. Joe is the son of Louis and Vivian LaCaze Sers of Old River, La.



The President and Mrs. Barack Obama



Joe and Soni Sers

Men's Basketball Adds Touchard to 2009-10 Line-Up



DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – Los Angeles, Calif. native Blake Touchard has signed a letter of intent to play for the Embry-Riddle men's basketball team beginning in the fall of 2009, ERAU head coach Steve Ridder announced on Tuesday [July 1, 2009]. Touchard is a 6-0, 175 transfer from Irvine Valley College where he played one season for Coach Jerry Hernandez. Touchard averaged 4.5 points per game and was second on the Laser squad in assists, averaging 2.0 per game. Touchard graduated from two-time state champion and national powerhouse Mater Dei High School in 2007. He already has ties to Embry-Riddle as his cousin, Justin Driver, played baseball for the Eagles in 2005. Touchard will pursue a bachelor's degree in Business Management. Ed. Note: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University is a Division II school. Blake is the son of Eric & LeRoy Macdonald Touchard and grandson of Samuel & Audrey Jones Touchard. He is the nephew of Sondra Touchard Conant Banks who submitted the photo.

Bastille Day

Throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the Creoles of Louisiana, both white and black, celebrated Bastille Day, the Fête Nationale of France. The day was marked with the singing of the Marseillaise, grand balls, extravagant repasts, and of course the finest wines. In this year, celebrating the spirit of

the Sainte-Domingue refugees, honoring the 120th anniversary of the storming of the Bastille, and mindful of that phrase "Oui on peut!" (Yes, We Can!), celebrations included the annual Mass in French on Sunday, July 12th at Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis, King of France, New Orleans. Following the Mass there was a déjeuner (luncheon) at Arnaud's, 813 Rue Bienville. The annual wreath laying ceremony was held on July 14th at the golden statue of Sainte Jeanne d'Arc in front of the French Market. The French Consul General gave a brief address, as well as Ken Ferdinand, head of the French Market Corporation. The Marseillaise and Star-Spangled Banner were sung followed by a light wine and dessert gathering in the Market Cafe. The cafe featured jazz musician Pierre Pichon and his band. Vive les Creoles! Info courtesy of Jari Honora, a Creole researcher and member of the yahoo group NOGDCR.



Monique Elise Monette

Monique Elise Monette was recognized for her artwork at a ceremony during the National Week of the Young Child. More than 16 pieces of her work with varying themes were on display at the Roque House April 25-June 15. At a private reception for her at the Roque House, Monette was presented with the "Little Tykes Artist for May" by Priscilla Metoyer from the Multicultural Arts Center and Councilwoman Sylvia Morrow signed by Mayor Wayne McCullen. Monette was born Nov. 15, 2001 to Jamie and Priscilla Monette of Natchitoches. Her grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. David Christophe, Sr. of Melrose and Judy Monette and the late Donald Monette of Monette Ferry. She is a

first grader at Cloutierville Elementary where she is on the Principal's Honor Roll. Her family said that she has been fascinated with painting since she was a toddler. *Natchitoches Times*.

Graduations

Don Balthazar Mayberry graduated from California State University Hayward (Eastbay) with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, option Corporate Management. Don is now working as an Engineer at Marketo in San Mateo California, a position he got immediately following graduation. Marketo is a software service company providing a marketing tool for businesses. Don is the son of Bridget Balthazar Mayberry and the late Ferdon Mayberry. He is the grandson of the late Senolia "Snookie" Delphin and George Balthazar.



Don Mayberry with college provost

Reunions

There was a Newell-Delphin reunion held on July 18, 2009 in El Dorado Park, Long Beach, Ca. Thelma Delphin (1919-2000), daughter of William Columbus Delphin (1887-1975) and Annie Wilson (1894-1958), married G. Harold Newell (1911-1953). Their children are Sylvia Jean Laurent, Jackie Clayton, Kay Erb, Bernadette Broussard, and Wanda Clayton Ellis.

A Rachal/Cox/Balthazar Family Picnic is being held on September 6, 2009 at 3074 Highway 484, Natchez, La., the Rachal homeplace on Cane River. It is hosted by George & Betty

Rachal. Evangeline is the daughter of John Vee & Pauline (Poline) Daniel Balthazar. John Nelson Rachal is the son of Victor & Marcelli Cox Rachal. The Cox family had a store in Grand Ecore where one of the above LaCour photos was taken.



John & the late Evangeline "Sister" Balthazar Rachal, parents of George Rachal (left) & George's grandparents Victor & Ada Breda? Rachal.



A Delphin reunion is planned for July 3-4, 2010 at the Delphin Homeplace on Cane River. The "Big House" is the home of the late Walter and Celine Beaudoin Delphin. This reunion is for the descendants of August Delphin and Maria Louise Jones Delphin. Contact ny5kmagi@aol.com or at the address at the end of the newsletter for further information.

The 11th Annual Natchitoches Cane River Creole Picnic will be held on Sunday Sept 6, 2009 at Tri-City Park Lake, 2301 North Kramer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 from Noon-until. Contact Patrick Conant (760) 246-3052 or Antoinette Conant (951) 415-3688 for further information. Info courtesy of *Bayou Talk*.

Book Review

Travels with Mae: Scenes from a New Orleans Girlhood Eileen M. Julien

1950s New Orleans and beyond
"Travels with Mae" is a series of vignettes at once tender and full of doubt. Eileen Julien tells the story of her girlhood, young womanhood, and cultural and political awakening against the

backdrop of New Orleans in the 1950's and 60's. Not only the story of the author's coming of age, this is a loving portrait of family life. Julien gives an insider's perspective on New Orleans culture. With her we attend Carnival balls and parades, family picnics and swimming parties, and survive hurricanes Betsy and Katrina. Along the way, we meet countless aunts, uncles and cousins, and are privy to family spats, her mother's upstairs closet, and kitchens stretched from New Orleans to Washington, D.C., rural Louisiana to New York, Paris to Bordeaux and Dakar.

Equally impressive are the accompanying visuals. Chockfull of family photographs and reproductions of the brilliant paintings of Kalidou Sy, Julien serves up an interplay of words and images that makes *Travels with Mae* a compelling keepsake."

—Brenda Marie Osbey, author of *All Saints: New and Selected Poems*

and Louisiana Poet Laureate, 2005-07. "This is a book to love, to savor like one of the Julien family gumbos. . . . A wonderful portrait of middle-class blacks in a city usually portrayed by the poverty of its black population and the

decadence of its whites. This is real life in New Orleans, in both its unique qualities and the universality of people in their common experiences, as well as a moving depiction of a loving relationship between a mother and a daughter." —Christine Wiltz, author of *The Last Madam: A Life in the New Orleans Underworld*. "Julien recalls a culture and space. . . recollected by those who knew it before and knew it as home." —Angeletta Gouridine, author of *The*



Difference Place Makes "Deeply moving, beautifully written stories about her family by an Afro-Louisiana Creole scholar. Although most of the people in her stories are no longer with us, they will now live on forever just as their indomitable culture lives on everywhere, not just in Louisiana." —Gwendolyn Midlo Hall, author of *Africans in Colonial Louisiana: The Development of Afro-Creole Culture in Louisiana*

With a series of lyrical vignettes Eileen M. Julien traces her life as an African American woman growing up in middle-class New Orleans in the 1950s and 1960s. Julien's narratives focus on her relationship with her mother, family, community, and the city itself, while touching upon life after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Haunted by a colonial past associated with African presence, racial mixing, and suspect rituals, New Orleans has served the national imagination as a place of exoticism where objectionable people and unsavory practices can be found. The destruction of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath revealed New Orleans' deep poverty and marginalized population, and brought a media storm that perpetuated the city's stigma. *Travels with Mae* lovingly restores the wonder of this great city, capturing both its beauty and its pain through the eyes of an insider. Eileen M. Julien is Professor of Comparative Literature, African American and African Diaspora Studies, and French and Italian at Indiana University, Bloomington. She is Chairperson of the Department of Comparative Literature and author of *African Novels and the Question of Orality* (Indiana University Press, 1992).

http://www.iupress.indiana.edu/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=93050

THE HOUSE OF DANCE & FEATHERS by Ronald W. Lewis.

In a backyard on Tupelo Street, in the Lower Ninth Ward, Ronald W. Lewis has assembled a museum

showcasing the various worlds he inhabits and the communities that come together to sew and sing, to vaunt and dance, and to reconstruct the city. The book is a full color map of these worlds. Through stories and conversation, we come to know the wide network of people who construct and nurture performance traditions in New Orleans -- Mardi Gras Indians, Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs, Bone Gangs, and Parade Krewes. Like the cultures represented, the museum and the book mix the magical and the mundane and makes explicit the connections between New Orleans, the African diaspora, Native America, and our shared future. See:

<http://octaviabooks.booksense.com/NASApp/store/Index.jsp?s=storeevents&eventId=411402>

Passing Strange: A Gilded Age

Tale of Love and Deception Across the Color Line by Martha A. Sandweiss

The secret double life of the man who mapped the American West, and the woman he loved

Clarence King is a hero of nineteenth century western history; a brilliant scientist and witty conversationalist, best-selling author and architect of the great surveys that mapped the West after the Civil War. Secretary of State John Hay named King "the best and brightest of his generation." But King hid a secret from his Gilded Age cohorts and prominent family in Newport: for thirteen years he lived a double life—as the celebrated white explorer,

geologist and writer Clarence King and as a black Pullman porter and steel worker named James Todd. The fair blue-eyed son of a wealthy China trader passed across the color line, revealing his secret to his black common-law wife, Ada Copeland, only



on his deathbed. King lied because he wanted to and he lied because he had to. To marry his wife in a public way — as the white man known as Clarence King — would have created a scandal and destroyed his career. At a moment when many mixed-race Americans concealed their African heritage to seize the privileges of white America, King falsely presented himself as a black man in order to marry the woman he loved. Noted historian of the American West Martha Sandweiss is the first writer to uncover the life that King tried so hard to conceal from the public eye. She reveals the complexity of a man who while publicly espousing a personal dream of a uniquely American "race," an amalgam of white and black, hid his love for his wife, Ada, and their five biracial children. *Passing Strange* tells the dramatic tale of a family built along the fault lines of celebrity, class, and race—from the "Todd's" wedding in 1888, to the 1964 death of Ada King, one of the last surviving Americans born into slavery.

See an NPR interview at

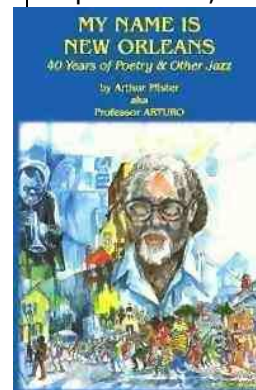
<http://www.publicradioredux.com/episodes/2009/02/11/martha-sandweiss-passing-strange>

My Name is New Orleans: 40 Years of Poetry & Other Jazz

by Arthur Pfister aka Professor Arturo.

About Professor Arturo

Spoken word artist, educator, performer, editor and speech



writer, he is a poet and fiction writer of his native New Orleans. He has performed his poetry, fiction, toasts and "jazz poems" solo or with musical

accompaniment at dozens of New Orleans venues and clubs, including the Contemporary Arts Center, the New Orleans Jazz &

Heritage Festival, and a performance series at the Edgelake Bar.

Since evacuating for Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the professor relocated to Stamford, CT where he teaches college English, performs in local clubs and also in poetry and jazz clubs in New York City. His work has appeared in periodicals as diverse as the NEW YORK Quarterly, the American Poetry Review, Ebony, and the New Orleans Tribune.



Arthur Pfister, aka Professor Arturo, grew up steeped in the love of a close New Orleans family.

Editor's note: Hear selected tracks from 'Professor Arturo' Pfister.

"My Name Is New Orleans" proclaims the striking deep voice over the musical accompaniment. "I am a circle of clouds dancing in a hurricane's eye/I am a star, laughing with a Mississippi moon/I am Jean Lafitte and Al Scramuzza/I am memory/I am legacy/I am history." The list rolls on, celebrating the culture of Arthur Pfister's native city. Pfister, aka Professor Arturo, reads his work in a voice that ranges from stately to street smart -- proclaiming, preaching, testifying, celebrating. This is poetry you can dance to, poetry that makes you want to raise your own voice and join in. Pfister has been a fixture on the local poetry scene for decades, issuing a chapbook here and

there, composing commissioned poems for special occasions. Now, his work receives the treatment it deserves, with a four-decade retrospective, "My Name Is New Orleans: 40 Years of Poetry & Other Jazz" (Margaret Media, \$19.95), from Mary Gehman's Donaldsonville publishing company. ISBN 978-0-9616377-7-4; trade paperback, 320 pp. ISBN 978-0-9824551-0-4; audio CD *Merrittorious Action*, 61 minutes.

PLEASE Continue reading "'Professor Arturo' Pfister brings his poetry home to New Orleans" » All book reviews courtesy of Marvin Ellis and NOGDRCR@yahoo.com

Former Creole school featured in PBS History Detectives

Sylvain Duplessis received a typical education in New Orleans at the Couvent School for free children of color in the mid-1800s. Duplessis, who entered the school at age 9 in 1857, was educated in the literary arts and taught in French and English, just as his white contemporaries in the city's public schools, said Mary Niall Mitchell, associate professor of history at the University of New Orleans. Mitchell was among the experts featured on "Creole Poems," a segment of the June 29, 2009 episode of "History Detectives" on PBS. She talked about a copy book believed to have been Duplessis' while at the Couvent School. Mitchell, who learned of the school while researching her dissertation now in book form – "Raising Freedom's Child: Black Children and Visions of the Future After Slavery" (NYU Press, 2008) – said the copy book manifests the sophistication of the education at the Couvent school, now the site of St. Gerard Majella Alternative School. She said Couvent students were exposed to a European influence in education. They were reading newspapers and engaged in the events and politics in New



Orleans and worldwide, as indicated in their writings in the copy book. Emphasis was placed on the literary arts and writing, public speaking,

practical skills and students' strong sense of geography beyond New Orleans seen through the imaginary letters they wrote about Carnival and religious holidays to Mexico, Haiti and France. "In the antebellum period, the school was important because it served as a quasi-public school for free children of color at a time when only white children could attend the public schools in New Orleans," Mitchell said. "All of the teachers were free people of color. ...Finally, it was significant for the kind of education it gave its students. ...They learned useful things like how to write a business letter to an associate, but they also had an awareness of the goings-on among free people of color in the rest of the Atlantic World, especially the Caribbean."

"History Detectives" researchers, who have been using modern technology and investigative techniques over the past year to uncover the copy book's origin, found this story about the Creole culture in New Orleans an interesting one to tell. The copy book was presented to the show by Ken and Dr. Charles Martinez – the brothers who found the book in a dresser drawer after the death of their grandmother in Chicago. It has the names Sylvanie Duplessis (Sylvain's sister) and Rousan written in the margin – family names in the Martinez family who can be traced to the Couvent School on Dauphine Street in New Orleans. It is dated to the mid- to late

1850s due to the poems and songs of that era that it contains, said Dana Kress, a professor of French at Centenary College in Shreveport. Segment host Gwen Wright, a professor of architectural history at Columbia University, found the copy book fascinating because of its complexity and its ability to represent something much more than slavery vs. freedom or blacks vs. whites. New Orleans was a more metropolitan city influenced by French Colonialism and was more tolerant toward French Creoles. "It gives people a recognition of the importance of this particular city since it was founded originally by the French," Wright said. "It also shows the changes in the Catholic church and how the church was committed to the education of the people of minorities throughout the world." The school's benefactor was Madame Marie Couvent, a free woman of color born in West Africa who was Catholic. She thought it important for the school be under the auspices of the Catholic Church so Creole children could be educated without fear in New Orleans. When she died at approximately age 80, Madame Couvent appointed Father Constantine Maenhault at St. Louis Cathedral to be the executor of her will. After a hurricane destroyed the school in 1915, the school's board negotiated a deal with Sister Katharine Drexel, founder of Xavier University in New Orleans, to build and operate a new school on the site under the name St. Louis School for Colored. It later was the site of Bishop Perry Middle School before becoming St. Gerard Majella Alternative School. *Christine Bordelon can be reached at cbordelon@clarionherald.org <http://www.pbs.org/video/video/1162509522/program/> Look for the third story. Including revolutionary writings about slave revolt. Thanks to NOGRG group June 13, 2009| New Orleans CLARION HERALD|*

Ed. Note: The Martínez School is well known among New Orleans Creoles but there was a Martinez branch on Cane River. Frank Martinez (1913-1957), was a teacher in Natchitoches, married Doris Balthazar, daughter of Carroll and Cora Marinovich Balthazar. Carroll was my grandfather Johnny Balthazar's brother. I remember my mother telling me about the tractor accident that took his life.

Get Well Wishes

Judith Chelette Hightower.

New Babies



Robert Whitlock

Robert Lucien Whitlock, son of Azuri Senolia (Mayberry) and Rayfel Whitlock, was dedicated into the Bethel Baptist Church on July 5, 2009. Godparents were his aunt and uncle Don and Rayshael Mayberry. Robert was born on May 12, 2009 and joins a sister Reina Louise Whitlock. He is the grandson of Bridget Balthazar Mayberry and the late Ferdon Mayberry and great grandson of the late Senolia "Snooky" Delphin Balthazar and George Balthazar.

Obituaries

Herman Joseph Martin, Jr.

Herman J. Martin, 82, died in Los Angeles, California on June 13, 2009.

Born on April 27, 1927, he was the first child of Herman "Tooty" & Marie Brossett Martin. He was the grandson of Matilda "Mah-TEEL" (Mullon) and Henry Martin. Herman attended Blessed Sacrament



Herman Joseph Martin, Jr.

Elementary School, graduated from Booker T. Washington High School, and went on to graduate from Xavier University. Following graduation he served in the US Army for two years as an accountant. He was honorably discharged and in 1956 moved to Los Angeles, Ca. Herman worked at the US Post Office for a year and then became an Internal Revenue Officer, a position he held until early retirement in 1972. Herman was always a very religious person and once he retired he entered San Vittorino Seminary of Oblates of the Blessed Virgin Mary in San Vittorino, Italy. In 1974, his mother suffered a heart attack and Herman came home to attend her. He continued a religious lifestyle, becoming a Eucharistic

Minister attending to the religious needs of the ill and elderly until his recent decline. He leaves to mourn his sisters Sadie (Gerald) Saulet; Ruby (Edward) Relf; Ethelda Young; and brothers Ambrose Martin & Michael Anthony Martin. Also left to mourn are nieces, nephews, cousins, and a host of other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Brent David Martin and a sister Barbara Ann Martin, who died in infancy. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on June 20, 2009 at the Chapel of the Risen Christ, 5835 W. Slauson Ave., Culver City, CA. Internment followed at Holy Cross Cemetery/Mausoleum. Info courtesy of Herman's cousins Glenda Chelette Holley and Joan Stuart Nettles. It was originally reported that Herman's brother Raymond had died. Apologies for the corrected error.

John Overton Conant



On Thursday, June 18, 2009, the Angel from above came to claim the life of our loved one after a brief illness at Christus Schumpert Health System in Shreveport, La. John was born January 16, 1921 to Willie Avit Conant and Ora Perot Conant in Natchitoches, La. John was a wonderful, caring and loving husband, father, and grandfather. John served in the United States Navy during World War II from 1945-1946. After his tour of duty he returned home to open and manage Campti Cleaners from 1939 until its closure in 1986. After retiring, John continued to work part time. He loved spending time gardening and reading. His love of baseball was a special one and got to see his first MLB game at age 85. His love for God was expressed daily by attending

mass. John was a devout Catholic and a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church. He was a member of Holy Name Society, Veteran of Foreign Wars, and The American Legion. You could never meet a more humble and giving soul. He loved all people lived life to the fullest everyday but his greatest love of all was being on the dance floor at any day and time doing the Famous Conant Shuffle. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 66 years, Viola Mary Metoyer Conant; his son John Martin Conant; his parents, brothers, WA Conant, Genesis Conant and William Conant; sisters, Rowena Metoyer and Garnet Cole. He is survived by his children, three daughters, Mary Ann Wigley and husband Alfred Wigley, Jr. of Natchitoches, La., Linda Conant of New York, NY, and Cecilia Conant of Shreveport, La.; one son, Gerald J. Conant and wife Jeanette of Natchitoches, La.; grandchildren, Cindy Wigley, Bridget Wigley-Metoyer and husband Silton Metoyer, Jr., Alfred Wigley, III and wife Denise, James Ernest Metoyer, III, John Anthony Metoyer, Evan Michael Metoyer, Tina Marie Conant, and Stephanie Conant; eight great grandchildren, Randy Wigley, Silton Metoyer, III, Zachary Metoyer, Austin Wigley, Jayden McFarland, Eva Lynn Metoyer, Emily Ruth Metoyer, and Camila Metoyer great-great-grandchild, Tristen Jones; four sisters, Alice Gregory of Tucson, Az., Theresa Donatto of Colorado Springs, Co., Cecilia McLaughlin of San Jacinto, Ca., and Elouise Martin of Los Angeles, Ca.; two brothers, James Conant of Baton Rouge, La. and Joseph Conant of Hawaii; a host of nieces, nephews, and dancing partners. Pallbearers were James Ernest Metoyer III, John Anthony Metoyer, Evan Michael Metoyer, Silton Metoyer III, Zachary Metoyer, Louis Ray Metoyer. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated 11 AM

Wednesday, June 24, 2009 in St. Anthony Catholic Church with Rev. Jamie Medina Cruz officiating. Burial was in Memory Lawn Cemetery in Natchitoches, La. under the direction of Blanchard St. Denis Funeral Home. Visitation was June 23, 2009 with a Rosary Service at 7 pm. The family would like to offer a special thanks to Dr. Collins, Dr. Barnum and ICU staff at Natchitoches Regional Medical Center. Dr. Lambert, Dr. Troxclair, Dr. Gladney, Nurses, Lindsey and Quentin. Rev. Thomas and Rev. McClelland and ICU Staff at Christus Schumpert Medical Center.



Louisiana's World War II Veterans - Anthony Arceneaux, John Overton Conant, and Louis P. Christophe ~ PBS

<http://www.lpb.org/programs/thewar/stories.htm>

Burleigh Rideau, Jr.

Burleigh Rideau, Jr. was born June 7, 1927 to Burleigh, Sr. and Amelia Ray Rideau. He passed away June 11, 2009 in Phoenix. He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Jacquelin, daughter



LeiAnn, sons Michael, Steven and David, eight grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. An Arizona native, he attended St. Mary's Catholic High School and Arizona State University. He was an electrical contractor, inventor and entrepreneur who started several businesses including a frozen food company and a generator leasing company. A Memorial Service was held Wednesday, June 17th, at 10:30 A.M. at St. Gregory Catholic Church, 3424

North 18th Avenue, Phoenix. In lieu of flowers, the family asked that contributions be sent to the scholarship fund of the Office of Black Catholic Ministry, 400 East Monroe, Phoenix, AZ 85004 (602-354-2000). Burleigh's maternal grandparents are Clara (Metoyer) and Leo Paul Ray. He also leaves to mourn his first cousin Manuel Paul Llorens of New Orleans. Paul tells us that his uncle Burleigh had a famous BBQ restaurant where many black baseball players from the NY/San Francisco Giants such as Willie Mays, Orlando Cepeda, Willie McCovey frequented. Burleigh's maternal great-grandfather (Manuel Paul's mother's sister) was Pierre Theodore Metoyer. His family left Louisiana in the late 1920's and moved to Phoenix where he was born and lived all of his life. Paul also tells us he attended almost all Grand Family Reunions. Grand Family Reunions, held biennially, are for Metoyer, Dupre, LaCour, Ray, and Goudeau descendents.

Herman Joseph Ray

Herman Joseph Ray, the youngest of eight children, was born in Muskogee County, Oklahoma. He was born on

May 22, 1931 to Oscar and Savannah Paramore Ray. He died June 29, 2009 after a long illness. Herman attended school in Boynton and Haskell and spent his entire life in the Haskell area. While his brothers and sisters left the farm for

life in the city, Herman stayed behind to care for his widowed mother and tend the land he loved so much. He married Ruth Evelyn Walker in 1956, and to this union five children were born. Herman and Ruth farmed and raised cattle and were named "Farm Family of the Year" in 1978. He was a



long time member of both Muskogee County and Okmulgee County Cattlemen Association. In addition to his farming and ranching, Herman and Herman Jr. owned and operated oil and gas leases for many years. Herman will be remembered for his love of his family, his bountiful gardens, going fishing, his great BBQ and his wonderful story telling. Left to cherish his memory are his loving and faithful wife of 53 years, Ruth, his children, Herman Ray, Jr. (Carole) of Haskell, OK, Therman Ray (Marjorie) of Red Bird, OK, Lolita Ray Capers (Delmore) of Oklahoma City, OK, Marschell Ray (Cynthia) of Camarillo, CA and Kirt Ray of Haskell, OK; brother James Ray of San Jose, CA, and sisters, Daisy Hudson of Kansas City, KS and Marzetta (Ollie) Wade of Diamond Bar, CA; grandchildren, Shelley, Kyle, Hannah, Eli, Moriah, Shawn, Rachel and William, and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins; his domino club and many friends. Services were on July 3 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Ragsdale Funeral Center. Obituary submitted on Facebook by Pemon Rami.

Patrick John Lawrence/Llorence

A Mass of Christian Burial for

Patrick "Johnny" Lawrence (Llorence) was on July 13, 2009 at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Melrose, La. with Reverend

Jacob Thomas officiating. Interment followed at St. Augustine Catholic Cemetery. The family received friends at the church from 9 a.m. until service time. Patrick died Tuesday, July 7, 2009 at his home in Alexandria. He was born April 2, 1961 to Mary Conant Lawrence and Patrick



Lawrence. He was a native of Los Angeles, California. He attended St. Albert's Elementary Catholic School, Gardena High School and El Camino College of California. He worked for Pacific Bell Telephone Company from 1977 to 1982. He then he worked as a truck driver until 1997. Patrick married Cecelia Richardson in 1996 and they enjoyed 13 years of marriage. In 2006, he moved from the "big city" to Louisiana where he bought his "home in the country". He enjoyed his life in Louisiana, especially working for Atty. and Mrs. William Crews of Natchitoches, whom he considered his family. Patrick was preceded in death by his father, Patrick Lawrence; grandparents, Joseph and Josephine Conant and Felecia and Victor "Dunwood" Llorence. Patrick leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Cecelia Richardson Lawrence; his mother, Mary Eloisa Conant Shelby; his father, Brent Shelby; brothers, Rodney Lawrence (Sylvia) and Todd Shelby; step-daughters, Kisha Coleman and Heather Coleman; grandsons, Milow, Kashawn, Airon, Cornelious, Cord, Todd and Alex Coleman; uncle, Joseph Conant (Darnell); aunts, Dorothy LaCour (Simon) and Bobbie Lawrence (Audry); numerous nieces, nephews, cousins as well as a host of extended family and cherished friends. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

Akahia M. Metoyer

Infant Akahia M. Metoyer died on June 30, 2009 in Rapides Women's and Children's Hospital, Alexandria, La. No further details were available at press time. *Alexandria Town Talk*

Doris Beaudoin Stafford

A funeral mass celebrated the life of Doris Beaudoin Stafford on Saturday, July 11 at the St. Anthony Catholic Church in Natchitoches. Visitation was at the church with the



Holy Rosary recited at 9 a.m. Burial followed in the St. Augustine Catholic Church Cemetery at Melrose, La. This service was part of a dual requiem Mass that also celebrates the life of her brother-in-law, Edward William Below. Doris passed in the residence of her son, Mr. Kevin Stafford Sr., on the evening of July 8, 2009, following a lengthy illness. She was born to the late Leopold Beaudoin and Arcaline Coutee Beaudoin in New Orleans on Dec. 19, 1934.

Ruby Rachal Sers

Ruby Cecilia Sers, a resident of Ontario, CA, went to be with the



Lord on May 6th 2009. Ruby was predeceased by her husband Joseph I. Sers, Sr. on April 8th 2002, by her brothers Joseph,

Martin, Johnny, Roland, and sisters Vera, Nola, and Marie, and great grandson Benjamin Blackwood. Surviving sisters are Annabelle (Chuck) Howlett; and Emma Harris. Ruby 84, the daughter of John Benjamin and Enola Rachal, was born July 8th 1924, is survived by her daughters Virginia C. Carlson, (Steve); Mary L. Gunnerson; and son Joseph I. Sers, Jr. Grandchildren Micki (Martin) Funk, Dana (Matt) Stevens, Jacquelyn (Billy) Blackwood, Katrina (Curtis) Griswold, Polly (Stephen) Volmer, Dyan (Shawn) Milligan, Randal (Jennifer) Gunnerson Jr., Andrew Gunnerson, and Cassie (Jamin) Reynolds. Great grandchildren Nick, Jenna and Shayne Stevens; Stephen, Dylan and Jessee Blackwood; Jonathan Griswold; Tyler Volmer; Sabrina, Anthony, and Emmy Jo Milligan; great grandson

Jaden Reynolds and Peanut due to arrive in July. Ruby is also survived by a loving and large extended family of nieces, nephews, friends and neighbors. Ruby was a caring and loving wife, mother, and a friend to anyone in need. She was well known for her cooking, sewing, crafts work, cake baking and gardening. Her home was always open to family, friends and neighbors with a warm welcome. She extended her love and opened her heart to her foreign exchange students. Her patience love and teaching will be a cherished memory forever for each of us. Ruby's love for God and her constant pray vigil will always be remembered as she prayed daily for her family, friends, neighbors and peace in this world. We will always love and miss you "Nana". Viewing was Friday May 15 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Draper Mortuary, 811 N Mountain Ave. Ontario CA. Graveside service and burial followed Saturday, May 16 at 10:00 a.m. in Bellevue Cemetery, 1240 West G Street, Ontario CA.

Jerome Anthony Tyler

Jerome Anthony (Tony) Tyler, 50, went to be with the Lord on Monday, July 20, at 9:25 A.M. His mother, Elaine was with him at the time he passed. Service and reception were held in the chapel of Placentia Presbyterian Church, Placentia, CA on Friday, July 24th at 11:00 AM in the chapel. Jerome is the son of Sylvia Elaine (Llorens) and Jerome Anthony Tyler, Sr. He is the grandson of Patrick "Packy" and Dorothy Delphin Llorens.

Janis Llorens Mathis

Jan Llorens Mathis, 60, died in Los Angeles on July 15, 2009. Born on April 24, 1949, she is the daughter of Patrick "Packy" and Dorothy Delphin Llorens. She leaves to mourn her husband James; daughters Dorothy & Wendy; sisters Patricia Crimmins

(John), Elaine Tyler Marshall (Leonard), Margaret Melva Griffin (John), Myrt Sers (Hardy); brothers Ronald (Betty Jo) and Patrick (Kathleen). She was preceded in death by a daughter Jamie and an infant brother Valery. Also left to mourn are numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and a host of other family and friends. Five days following her death her beloved nephew Tony Tyler died. A month later her uncle William Delphin died (see below).

Mildred Metoyer Maury

Mildred Metoyer Maury passed away peacefully on July 28, 2009 at 1:20 pm. She was 97. Born on Cane River on Sept 12, 1912, she is the daughter of Ernest and Harmina Bellanger Metoyer. On Jan 13, 1936 she married Lionel Maury and they were blessed with seven children. She leaves to mourn her children Yvette, Lionel, Nicholas, Camelia, Joanne, Renette, and Kevin, as well as several grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Lionel; her siblings Eunice "Tat" Williams, John Hamilton (Johnny) Metoyer, Theodore Metoyer, Ernest Metoyer, Leon Metoyer, Henry Metoyer, Dorothy Mayden, Frances Bazile, and Rosa Roque. She is survived by a brother William "Bill" Metoyer, several nieces, nephews, and other family and friends.



Mildred Metoyer Maury
Photo courtesy of nephew Pierre Brooks-Metoyer.

The wake took place on August 13, 2009 with funeral on August 14, 2009; a repast followed in the Church Hall.

All services were at The King Catholic Church, 4925 South Torrey Pines



Drive, Las Vegas, NV. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you send cards to: The Maury Family, c/o Yvette Maury Jackson, 4350 El Antonio Place, Las Vegas, NV 89121-6611. We appreciate all of the cards, gifts, phone calls, and most especially the visits that you extended to her while she was in the nursing home. Lovingly, the Family of Mildred Metoyer Maury.

Lucinda Shackelford

Lucinda Shackelford, 81, of Clifton Community, passed away Wednesday, August 5, 2009, in Grace Home, Alexandria, La. She was a member of Pisgah Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by parents, James and Bertha Clifton Tyler; brothers, Roy Tyler and Pete Tyler; sister, Ruby Benoit. Those left to cherish her memory include her three sons, Watson Clifton of Clifton Community, Sherman Clifton and wife Sandra of Cotile, Phillip Shackelford and wife Sherry of Gardner; two daughters, Merna Contreras of Clifton Community, and Berna Carr and husband Keith of Granbury, Texas; brother, Reverend Carl Tyler and wife Lucille of

Thibodaux; sisters, Veola Smith and husband Earl of Thibodaux, Frances Howard of Hinston; nine grandchildren and eighteen great grandchildren. Services were Saturday, August 8, 2009, at Pisgah Baptist Church, Clifton Community with Reverend Wade Cummings officiating. Burial was at Clifton Choctaw Cemetery, Clifton Community, Louisiana under the direction of Hixson Brothers, Alexandria. Ed. Note: Cane River Creoles are connected to the Clifton (Sieper) community through many family ties including Carroll Jones and Catherine Clifton. The Clifton Community was renamed Clifton in honor of Catherine Clifton Jones' brother Jesse, the patriarch of the Choctaw community. Catherine & Carroll Jones are the progenitors of the Cane River Jones families.

James C. Kirkland

James C. Kirkland, age 59, of Pineville died Thursday, August 6, 2009 at Christus St. Frances Cabrini Hospital in Alexandria, La. Arrangements under the direction of Winnfield Funeral Home, Alexandria. No further details were available.

Jacqueline Guillory LeBlanc

AUGUST 8, 2009



Jacqueline Guillory Le-Blanc, 48, beloved daughter, mother, sister and friend has departed this life. She leaves a space that will never again be filled in the hearts of the many who loved her. Jackie was born the 4th child to Liness and Henrietta Guillory on the 10th day of August, 1960 in Lake Charles. She attended Immaculate Heart of Mary Elementary School and graduated

from Washington Senior High School in 1978 where she was a member of the basketball team and a majorette in the marching band. Jackie pursued a degree and obtained licensing as a vocational nurse. She worked at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Houston, Texas for many years. At the time of her death, she made her home in Alexandria where she was employed by Phase II Addictive Disorders Clinic in Pineville. As those who knew her well are aware, Jackie was extremely artistically talented. She was gifted with the ability to create visual art. She created the logo for the Veteran's Administration in Houston, Texas that is still in use today. She was also a gifted storyteller who had the ability to captivate an audience with even the simplest of tales. Jackie was preceded in death by her father, Liness Guillory and a beloved older brother, Ronald Patrick Guillory. She leaves to celebrate her life and mourn her loss, her mother, Henrietta Collins Guillory (H.T. "Doc" Shelton); her daughters, Toni Marazetta and Alyssa Monet Guillory all of Lake Charles; her longtime companion and fiancé, Larry Frank of Alexandria; her brothers, Donald (Delores) Guillory of Sulphur; Reginald (Shannon) Guillory of Millcreek, Washington; Gregory (Beatrice) Guillory of Los Angeles, California; Richard Guillory of Portsmouth, Virginia; and her sisters, Patricia Guillory Stevens and Sharon Guillory Garrett, both of Lake Charles. Jackie also leaves to mourn her a multitude of much loved aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, coworkers and friends. A memorial Mass was said by Father Marcus Johnson at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church on August 11, 2009.

Delores Marie "Dee" Metoyer

Delores Marie "Dee" Metoyer died Aug. 7, 2009 at the Heritage Manor Nursing Home of Natchitoches. Dee

was born March 29, 1930 to Cesaire Albert & Celestine Roque Metoyer.



Other children born to that union were Anna Pearl Llorens Young, Ora Lee Delphin (Nicholas), Albert Louis (Rowena Conant), Joseph Felicien (Rosa Maxine Metoyer), Melusine Metoyer (Woodrow), Mary Celestine Metoyer (died in infancy), Earnest Wilson Metoyer (died in infancy), Bernadine Moran (James), Bernard (died in childhood), Elsie Jones (Isidore Alain), David Clyde (died as a baby), and Mackjames (Seline Balthazar). Left to mourn is her brother Mack (Seline), as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 13 at St. Anthony Catholic Church. Visitation was from 8-9:30 a.m. with recitation of the Holy Rosary at 9:30 a.m. Burial followed in the St. Augustine Catholic Church in Isle Brevelle (Melrose), La.

Joseph Merl Metoyer



Joseph Merl Metoyer was born on April 26, 1940 to Merline Sarpy. His biological father was Joel Metoyer. Merline died giving birth to

Joe and he was raised from an infant by Franklin and Beatrice Sarpy Sylvia. Joe grew up in Alexandria, along with his five brothers, Franklin Jr., Rocky, Phillip, Chris, Gerard and one sister, Virginia. Like most children of families from Cane River, Joe Merl attended Saint James High School. After high school he worked various jobs and in 1958 he met Catherine Morgan whom he later married. Three children were born of this union: Cassandra, Sheila and Greg. Life had a different path for Joe and Catherine and Joe eventually formed a new relationship with Pearlie Russell that yielded him another daughter, Jo Ann. After a period of time Joe journeyed to Brooklyn, New York where he met his second wife of 40 years, Drucilla "Yvonne" Huffin. Through this second marriage, he gained another son, Marvin and three step sons, Wilfred, Christopher and Derrick. Joe was always curious about his families' lineage and it led him back to his birth father Joel and his wife Velma. Here he formed a very strong sibling bond with his sisters Mary and Geraldine. Joe also discovered he had two other sisters, Louise Sarpy Metoyer and Evelyn Metoyer. His affection for Louise was evident by his frequent visits whenever he was home. Evelyn lives in California and he kept in touch with her. Joe was also especially close to "Lou" Sarpy Metoyer, whom he viewed more sister than Aunt. In Houston, also loved by Papa Joe were Catherine's children, Andrea, Judy and Pat along with lifelong "sis" Donna. When he wasn't spending time with family in Brooklyn he would vacation to Texas and Louisiana to be near his children, Mama, Daddy, brothers and sisters. Along with his love of family Joe enjoyed hunting and fishing. He would fish in the Gulf near Houston and hunt the woods of Texas and Louisiana. He loved sharing his

experiences and memories of his children with others. The stories were laced with wonderful and heartfelt moments that he cherished. His family meant everything to him. Joe Merl was preceded in death by his birth mother, Merline, his father, Franklin Sylvia, Joel and Velma Metoyer, one son, Derrick. He is survived by his wife, Mother Beatrice, eleven children, five sisters, five brothers, sixteen grandchildren; eleven great grandchildren. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Augustine Catholic Church, Isle Brevelle, Saturday, August 15, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. Visitation convened at the Winnfield Funeral Home of Natchitoches, Saturday from 8 a.m. until 9:15 a.m. followed by recitation of the Holy Rosary.

William Columbus Delphin



William Columbus Delphin entered into eternal rest on August 15, 2009 at the age of 88 in his home surrounded by all his beloved family. Born on Jan 21, 1921, he was the son of William Columbus and Annie Wilson Delphin. William,

also called Willie or Brother, was self employed in the automobile industry. He is survived by a son, Vaughn Delphin, four sisters Robbie Allen, Bazy Mathieu, Rosalie Gauthreaux, all of California, and Barbara Balthazar of Cane River. Also surviving are a daughter Barbara Gaskin (Stewart), seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and a host of many other family and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife Ethel Metoyer Delphin; a son William; sisters Dorothy Llorens (Packy), Thelma Newell (George), infant Alice Patricia

Delphin, a brother Clifford August Delphin, killed in Korea, and his stepmother Bessie Robeaux Jones Delphin. Cousin Willie served in the US Army and saw action during WW II. A rosary was recited on August 20 at St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, Monterey Park, Ca. with Mass on August 21, 2009. Interment followed at Holy Cross Cemetery, 5835 West Slauson Ave, Culver City, CA 90230. Reception at the Delphin Home, 1187 Longhill Way, Monterey Park, CA 91754.

Mecshelle Sunny Morgan

Sunny Morgan was a lifetime resident of Pinecrest School in Pineville, La. She was born March 12, 1979, and passed away Aug. 15, 2009. A memorial service was on Aug. 22 at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Melrose with Father Harold

Imamshah of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Cloutierville officiating. Sunny leaves behind her parents, John Louis Morgan and Mecshelle Kochinsky, both of Natchitoches Parish; four sisters, Ashley Morgan of Chicago, Jennifer Bayonne of Natchitoches, Alexandra Morgan and daughter Alyssa of Monroe, La., and Kelly Morgan of Cloutierville; and grandparents, Leon Harvey Kochinsky and Garnett Couty Cumbo. Sunny is preceded in death by her grandparents, Louis "Booster" and Cecile Beard Morgan of Natchitoches; sister, Sidra Nichole Coutee; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Catherine Antee

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Catherine Antee on Aug. 26, 2009 at St. Augustine

Catholic Church. Visitation was from 9-10:45 a.m. in the church hall. Burial followed in the Church's Cemetery. Mrs. Antee is a Natchitoches Parish native who lived in Los Angeles at the time of her death.

The Newsletter

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Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler!



Mariah Louise Jones Delphin (left rear), Ora Delphin Terrell, baby Effie Jean, and Leo "Shug" Terrell