Creole Family History Convention
Focus: The National METOYER Family
July 21-22, 2000

The Louisiana Creole Heritage Center will host the first ever “Creole Family History Convention” in Natchitoches, Louisiana. This event is planned for July 21 & 22, 2000 and will coincide with the annual presentation of the Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival.

The term “national Metoyer family” includes ALL descendants of the Claude Thomas Pierre Metoyer and Marie Thereze Coin Coin union.

The LCHC has been in the process of gathering data for presentation at this event and to become a part of the Center’s research resources. A poster exhibit depicting the first four generations of this prominent Cane River family will be on display. Handouts depicting this information will be available to all participants.

EXHIBIT SPACE AVAILABLE -
Limited exhibit space at the convention will be made available on a first come, first served basis. Anyone wishing to exhibit specific family history information should submit an “Exhibit Space” request form. Submission deadline for applications is June 15, 2000.

REGISTRATION -
If you have not already registered for this event, please do so at this time. A registration postcard is enclosed for this purpose. Your early registration will allow us to determine the number of people attending in order to have adequate (Continued on page 2)

Creole Researchers Symposium Held in March

The Louisiana Creole Heritage Center at Northwestern hosted the first ever “Creole Researchers Symposium” this past Saturday, March 11th. Presentation topics included collecting and archiving oral histories, available resources in the local genealogy library and “Being Creole in the 21st Century.” Presenters were Dr. Dayna Lee of Northwestern Dr. Krueger Normand of Southern University-New Orleans and Mr. Bob Knipmeyer of the Natchitoches Genealogy Library. The presentations were followed by an informative and inspirational round-table discussion by the 20-plus participants. Attendees to the symposium came from across the state as well as from the state of Georgia.
AN INVITATION TO THE NATCHITOCHES-NSU FOLK FESTIVAL

Welcome to Natchitoches! For many of you, the time you will spend here will serve as a homecoming. For others, this trip to the city may be a first for you. In either case, I hope that you enjoy your time in Natchitoches and that you make time to visit the Natchitoches/NSU Folk Festival which will be held during the time of the Creole Family History Conference. This year’s Festival theme is Folk Tradition in the New Millennium, and our plan is to focus events around folk activities which have endured and changed during the last 100 years. The Festival is held in air-conditioned Prather Coliseum, and the events begin at 10:00 each day and continue until midnight each evening.

Each year the Festival draws many visitors who come to see the exhibits, to enjoy the music and the opportunity to dance, and to attend narrative and foods/demonstrations. Additionally, this year, we will have a Raffle area dedicated to activities for children 3-13. A wide variety of music and many diverse narrative stages will be presented, and an exhibit area concerning family reunion and family history traditions in Louisiana will also be staged. Be sure to look for your group’s booth area when you visit. The Festival offers a discounted ticket price for groups of ten or more, and family ticket packages are also available. Regular ticket prices are $7.00 per day (includes all day and evening activities), however, the group rate for the all day ticket is $5.00 per adult. Children’s tickets are $3.00. The Festival has a twenty-one year commitment to the presentation of folk arts and to the community. Some of the highlights of this year’s Festival will be a talk by noted author, Jan Harold Brunvand has written many significant works regarding urban legends in America, such as The Choking Doberman and the Vanishing Hitchhiker. His talk will address the circulation of various stories such as “The Hook,” “The Vanishing Hitchhiker,” and “Coca Cola Lore.” Various narrative sessions relating to family history, women’s folklore, music, and Louisiana politics. Additionally, the Foodways Demonstration Area has been strengthened and includes a wide variety of foods/demonstrations. Friday night, Jay Courter and Capil Country will be the Main stage attraction, and Saturday night, the renowned Louisiana music group, the Bonfire Kings, will headline the evening’s entertainment.

Again, we look forward to having you in Natchitoches, and I welcome you to the city and hope that you have a wonderful time visiting. Please be sure to visit our information table while you are at the Festival.

Yours truly,
Dr. Lisa Abney
Director