

Dear Family,

Recently one of our Cousins, Calvin Leger, brought to our attention that the Louisiana Historical and Genealogical Society was issuing a "FIRST FAMILY OF LOUISIANA" certificate. Any family that lived in Louisiana on or before 12/20/1803 (The Louisiana Purchase) is considered a First Family.

I checked the Society's web site and saw the Certificate and got application forms with instructions.

I filled out the Certificate application for our first Legers in Louisiana, Marie Angelique Pinet (Widow of Michel Leger) and her two younger sons, Louis and Jean Baptiste. Their older son, Michel Prosper was already here, we don't know when he arrived.

I contacted the Society with a question and unfortunately received bad news. The First Family program is not active at this time. Since Covid, Volunteers are scarce and they have no one to run the program. Very disappointing. So I appropriated the look of their certificate, but not their Logo and Seal of approval because of the Copywrite.

If ever they reactivate the program, we can get them to check our lineage and give us approval and a legitimate certificate.

We have procured the evidence needed for that approval. You must submit proof of your Ancestor living in Louisiana on or before 12/20/1803. Then you must have evidence proving the relationship of each subsequent generation. (No one born after 1924, for security reasons)

I have a copy of the Le Bon Papa Ship's log showing Marie Angelique Pinet and sons, Louis and Jean Baptiste arriving in New Orleans July 1785. That is evidence they were in Louisiana before 1803 and of the relationship of Louis and Jean Baptiste to Angelique.

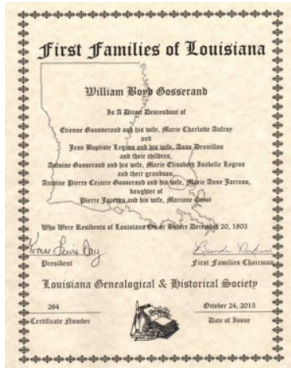
For evidence of Michel Prosper's relationship to Angelique and Michel I got the Baptismal record of Michel Prosper's son Julien. It mentions Julien's Parents, Michel Prosper and Marguerite Boutin, and Grand Parents, Michel Leger and Angelique Pinet.

So we will have a Certificate with these Ancestors on it. They were the beginning of our families in Louisiana.

I will post a copy of the Certificate on our website and soon, will also show the evidentiary documents. This may take a while as they are in Spanish or French, hand written and very faint. We will also have a framed copy of the Certificate at our reunion in September, with a booklet of the support documents to view.

To see the application and Instructions, go to the Louisiana Historical and Genealogical Society website.

<http://www.louisianaghs.org> click on First Families



We have also made a certificate for Individual Families. I had to get three church documents additional to my family records to cover ancestors thru to my Father who was born in 1910. If you can provide a source location ie: "Opelousas Ch v 1, p 233" along with name and dates, it should be a big help.

If anyone decides to get a Certificate for your individual Family, I can pull names from our Database and may be able to help you provide sources where the support documents may be found. (You may already have Family documents on hand)

If your Ancestors lived in Southwest La., their information may well be in Southwest La Records books. A set is available in Most Libraries.

Contact me if help is needed with this.

The Church records are now being kept at the Diocese of Lafayette. If you log on to their website, they have a form you can use to ask for research of the evidentiary documents. They charge \$ 25 each. I received the ones I asked for in three weeks.

<https://diolaf.org/archives>

Go to bottom of page and you can get policy instructions and request forms. Print a form and mail in with payment to:

Diocese of Lafayette
Office of Archives
1408 Carmel Dr.
Laf., La 7001

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