



KINFOLKS

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY, INC.

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SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC. organized in 1973 to gather, process and preserve genealogical material, is a non-profit, educational organization. Its objectives are to promote interest in genealogy, to encourage and assist its members in genealogical research, and to conduct such subsidiary projects as shall contribute to that end. SWLGS was incorporated in 1991. The Society does not maintain an office. Telephone numbers listed in *Kinfolks* are private numbers. All work is done by volunteers.

MEMBERSHIP per calendar year is: \$12 - individuals, \$17 - families (husband and wife) and \$22 - patrons (individual or husband and wife, provides additional financial support). Membership begins in January each year and includes an annual subscription to *Kinfolks*. Members joining after January will receive quarterlies for the current year. Correspondence and dues should be sent to SWLGS, P. O. Box 5652, Lake Charles, LA 70606-5652.

SWLGS holds its regular meetings on the 3rd Saturday of January, March, May, September and November at 10:00 A.M. in the Carnegie Meeting Room of the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Library, 411 Pujo St, Lake Charles, LA. Programs include a variety of topics to instruct and interest genealogists.

KINFOLKS is published quarterly. Issues should be received by the middle of March, May, September and December. Please return the complete issue for replacement if any pages are missing. Notify the SWLGS of a change of address as soon as possible. Queries are free to members, \$2 for non-members. Single issues are \$4.00. Back issues are available from 1977. *Kinfolks* is indexed in the Periodical Source Index (PERSI), Fort Wayne, IN, and Genealogical Periodical Annual Index.

EDITORIAL POLICY - We encourage and welcome contributions for inclusion in *Kinfolks*, especially unpublished material pertaining to southwest Louisiana. However, we will accept genealogical material referring to other areas. We strive to publish only reliable genealogical information, but neither the SWLGS nor the editors assume responsibility for accuracy of fact or opinion expressed by contributors. Articles are written by the editor unless otherwise specified. We reserve the right to edit and/or reject material not suitable for publication. Articles and queries will be included as space permits. Please send contributions to SWLGS, P. O. Box 5652, Lake Charles, LA 70606-5652. Permission is granted to republish information from *Kinfolks*, provided the SWLGS and the author or compiler (if identified) is given due credit.

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BOOK REVIEWS - Books donated by the author or publisher will be reviewed in *Kinfolks*, and will then be placed in the Society's library or in the genealogical collection of the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Library, 411 Pujo St., Lake Charles, LA.

SOCIETY ITEMS FOR SALE - *Ancestor Charts, Vol. I (1985) \$21.95 ppd; Ancestor Charts & Tables, Vol. II (1988) \$21.95 ppd; Ancestor Charts & Tables, Vol. III (1991) \$25.00 ppd; Ancestor Charts & Tables, Vol. IV (1994) \$25.00 ppd; Ancestor Charts & Tables, Vol. V (1997) \$25.00 ppd; Ancestor Charts & Tables, Vol. VI (2000) \$22.00 ppd; Ancestor Charts & Tables, Vol. VII (2003) \$20.00 ppd; Subject Index I - Vol. 1 (1977) through Vol. 18 (1994) \$5.00 ppd; Subject Index II which indexes Vol. 19 (1995) through Vol. 22 (1998) \$5.00 ppd; Subject Index III includes Vol. 23 (1999) through Vol. 26 (2002) \$5.00 ppd.* Order from SWLGS, P. O. Box 5652, Lake Charles, LA 70606-5652.

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MARCH MEETING

The meeting will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2005, at 10:00 A.M. **THIS MEETING will be held at Central Library 2nd floor Meeting Room, 3900 Ernest St., Lake Charles.** Coffee and fellowship begin at 9:30 A.M. Guests are always welcome.

A Mini-Seminar (2-1 hr. lectures) will be presented by EMILY CROOM of Houston, TX. Mrs. CROOM has authored privately printed family histories and how-to-do genealogy research textbooks. Her topics will be: "Proof and the Paper Trail: Documenting Your Research" and "Likely, Logical, and Convincing: Resolving Conflicting Evidence."

Mrs. CROOM will have her books for sale.

NEW MEMBERS

- 1447. PHYLLIS LEGER NICHOLSON, 1673 Marlin Rd., Lake Charles, LA 70611
- 1448. MICHAEL SMITH, P. O. Box 21, Spring Hill, TN 37174-2445
- 1449. LAUREN M. YOUNG, 909 Shasta St., Sulphur, LA 70663-3758
- 1450. CATHERINE REAMS BRALY, 22668 Nadine Circle - Unit B., Torrance, CA 90505-8065
- 1451/52 JACK and ANNE EDWARDS, 2334 SE 19th Cir., Ocala, FL 34471
- 1453. JOYCE COMEAUX, 2333 Tony Dr., Carlyss, LA 70665
- 1454. DEA ANN GEAREN NIX, P. O. Box 952, DeQuincy, LA 70633
- 1455. VIRGINIA O'BANION, 764 Hyatt Cemetery Rd., Fields, LA 70653-4510

Membership to Date: 228

KINFOLKS NEEDS YOUR HELP. MICROFILMED NEWSPAPERS. We need volunteers to abstract genealogical information and social news items that name residents of the area, or give an interesting piece of local or national news. Please put name of newspaper and date on back of **every** page. We need information from the following: *Calcasieu Gazette*--all issues, beginning 11 Dec. 1878
Lake Charles Commercial--9 July 1881-17 July 1886

OBITUARIES. We need any old obituaries you can find, preferably before 1925.

MAUDE REID SCRAPBOOKS-- Any subject can be researched. Scrapbooks may be found at the SW LA Genealogical & Historical Library on Pujoe St. The McNeese Archives has other volumes of her scrapbooks. Anything that includes names of residents, such as: Early education in Calcasieu Parish, teachers, schools, pupils of classes; Army maneuvers in WWII; what units were stationed at the Lake Charles Air Base; Unusual court cases; Social news before 1950 (club and church membership lists, marriage licenses, wedding celebrations, deaths and obituaries, party attendance, war bond drives, memoirs of residents.)

IN MEMORIAM

RUTH SERUM RICE
1916 - 2004

KENNETH TORRANCE
1940 - 2004

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PLEASE mark your calendar to show the upcoming SWLGS meetings and events of other societies.

2005

MARCH 19 - SATURDAY - SWLGS MINI-SEMINAR (2-1 hr. lectures) - 10:00 A.M.
*******NOTE: NEW LOCATION - MEETING ROOM (2nd floor), CENTRAL LIBRARY,**
3900 ERNEST ST., LAKE CHARLES, LA
PROGRAM - "PROOF AND THE PAPER TRAIL: DOCUMENTING YOUR RESEARCH"
"LIKELY, LOGICAL, AND CONVINCING:
RESOLVING CONFLICTING EVIDENCE"
SPEAKER - EMILY CROOM of Houston, TX
(There will be a table of Mrs. Croom's books for sale.)

APRIL 30 - SATURDAY - LA GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEMINAR
EMBASSY SUITES, 4914 CONSTITUTION AVE., BATON ROUGE, LA - 9 AM - 4 PM
REGISTRATION: Before April 2nd - members - \$30, after April 2nd members &
non-members - \$35. Does not include lunch. LGHS, PO Box 82060, Baton Rouge, LA
70884-2060.
SPEAKERS: SUSAN TUCKER, JOHN SELLERS, JUDY RIFFEL, BETH STAHR, FIRST
FAMILIES OF LOUISIANA WORKSHOP with JUDITH LANOUX SMITH.

MAY 21 - SATURDAY - SWLGS REGULAR MEETING - 10:00 A.M.
CARNEGIE MEETING ROOM, 411 PUJO ST., LAKE CHARLES, LA
PROGRAM - To Be Announced

September 17 - SATURDAY - SWLGS REGULAR MEETING - 10:00 A.M.
CARNEGIE MEETING ROOM, 411 PUJO ST., LAKE CHARLES, LA
PROGRAM - To Be Announced

November 19 - SATURDAY - SWLGS REGULAR MEETING - 10:00 A.M.
CARNEGIE MEETING ROOM, 411 PUJO ST., LAKE CHARLES, LA
PROGRAM - "Using Military Records"
SPEAKER - STAFF of SW LA GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL LIBRARY

HELP ONLINE ARCHIVE SITES ASSIST GENEALOGISTS

In early 2005, SUSAN TUCKER and CRISTINA HERNANDEZ of the Vorhoff Library (Newcomb College, Tulane University, New Orleans, La.) will be conducting a study to see how well genealogical researchers are served by online archival websites.

The two have been looking at the history of genealogy and now want to think more about its future. They are looking for 15 people willing to use a form to access one or more pre-selected websites. Completion of the form usually takes about twenty minutes and instructions will be provided. Most of the work will be done via e-mail.

To participate or to learn more about the survey, please contact SUSAN TUCKER at 504/314-2722 or susannah@tulane.edu.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2005 DUES?
MEMBERSHIP WILL BE CONSIDERED DELINQUENT AFTER MARCH 19, 2005.

NOVEMBER 2004 PROGRAM

The speaker for the November meeting of the SWLGS was EMILY CROOM, an active researcher, lecturer, teacher and author of books and articles on genealogy. The following two articles were part of her presentation. "Timely Tools" was printed in the December 2004 issue of the *Family Tree Magazine*; her article "Group Thinking" was in the December 2001 issue of the magazine. For more information on these topics, see Mrs. CROOM's article, "It's Not a Brick Wall Until..." in the January 2003 issue of the *Family Chronicle Magazine*. Visit her web site at www.unpuzzling.com.

TIMELY TOOLS FOR GENEALOGISTS by EMILY CROOM

Genealogists use many practical tools, such as family group sheets, census extraction forms, maps, and online databases. Even the pedigree chart we received on the first trip to the library is a tool, not a goal of research. One of the handiest things in the tool kit is a chronological profile---something you can create as a table in a word-processing document or as a spreadsheet. If you prefer, a blank "Biographical Outline" is in *The Unpuzzling Your Past Workbook* and online at www.familytreemagazine.com/forms/download.html (scroll to "biographical outline," choose PDF or Text, and print blank copies).

Individual Timeline. Since you can't research all your ancestors at once, choose a few at a time on whom to concentrate. The chronological profile is indispensable for giving you an in-depth view of each of these focus ancestors. It's usually easier to set up the profile near the beginning of your research on a person rather than after you've accumulated dozen of facts.

The format that works best for me is a table with four columns---the first two, narrow, and the last two, wide. The first column on the left is for the date of each event that you discover in the ancestor's life. The second column is for the ancestor's age at the time of each event. This column keeps you from recording an ancestor's marriage at age four and alerts you to a problem that needs resolving. The third column lets you describe the events and where each took place. After all, we research individuals in the context of specific times and places. The fourth column is for documenting every detail on the chart.

When well maintained, the profile shows you at a glance what you know about the person, where you got the information (the documentation), and where the holes and inconsistencies are. If you insert new information as you gather it, the profile (1) gives you new perspectives on the ancestor and an up-to-date summary of your research and (2) helps you evaluate what you have found and plan what to do next. On my computer profiles, I like to show questions, problems, and plans in blue so I can see them readily.

Family Timeline. If the chart includes the spouse, children, parents, and siblings of the focus ancestor, the personal profile becomes a family timeline. This new focus helps you see individuals in the wider context of their family, understand more about their lives, and generate new ideas for research. With this broader picture, you also have a handy reference on interaction among relatives and generations, naming patterns, the birth order of children, and family migrations. For example, the profile may give you a graphic view of the fact that four children in the family were born in four different states. This phenomenon could lead you to research why and how this might have happened.

One of my family profiles, developed around my great-grandmother Maggie and the generation before and after her, saved me considerable research time in the days before census records were online. When I couldn't find her mother's 1910 Soundex card, I balked at reading the county's census page by page. Instead, I consulted the profile, which reminded me that in 1910 Maggie and her mother lived in the same town. Maggie was a young widow with two children, and I surmised that as a working mom, she probably lived *with* her mother. Since the two had different surnames, I felt that if I could

find Maggie's Soundex card, I could find the household's enumeration much more quickly than reading page by page. It took only a few minutes, not only to find Maggie's Soundex card and find the family's entry on the census but also to realize that the Soundexer had misread her mother's surname and created her card in a different part of the alphabet! No wonder I was frustrated. However, the profile was the key that showed me how I could use my research time efficiently.

The Unpuzzling Your Past Workbook and www.familytreemagazine.com/forms/download.html also provide a military-records checklist. This timeline helps you determine who in the family might have served in the military by charting the age of individuals at the time of various military operations, such as the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War.

Historical Timelines. Ancestors did not live in a vacuum but in specific times and places. They participated in and felt the effects of events, ideas, and practices of their time. Adding some of these to a family profile helps you view the ancestors in historical perspective. No, you don't need to add every presidential election, every war, or every new invention into your ancestor's profile, but adding those things that most affected the family increases your insight and provides you with material for telling their story.

Where can you find this kind of information? National, regional, and state histories discuss the political, military, and economic events and geographic influences that may have affected your ancestors. County and local histories often tell of local settlement, pioneers, institutions, and organizations, as well as the crops and businesses that shaped the local economy. Social history articles and books provide information on many aspects of daily life---such as farming practices and food preparation---as well as history of clothing, homebuilding, occupations, childbirth and childhood, holiday observances and dozens of other topics that help you understand ancestors' lives in the context of contemporary events and ways of life.

Check your local library for histories that interest you; try interlibrary loan and booksellers' catalogs for subjects that your library may not address. Web sites that provide capsules of American history include the following:

- *<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/history/toc.htm> "An Outline of American History" from the U. S. Department of State.
- *www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/rr_gateway/research_guides/history/texts_by_subject.shtml from Rutgers University Libraries.
- *www.si.edu/resource/faq/nmah/timeline.htm Topics from the Smithsonian Institution.
- *<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/finder.html> or <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/browse/> Multiple databases and online exhibits from the Library of Congress American Memory site.

Good genealogists really do run around in circles---the continuing cycle of planning, research, and evaluation. Regardless of your goals, you go through this process again and again in the course of gathering facts and compiling accurate family history. In this effort, the four-column chronological profile---Date, Age, Event and Location, and Documentation---is a valuable tool. First try creating a profile on one or both of your parents. We think we know a great deal about our parents until we go through this exercise. Then we see events we never asked enough questions about, facts for which we've never completed the documentation, and holes we'd like to fill in. Then try the profile for an ancestor you consider a "brick wall" or a "new" ancestor you've recently identified. If you like, rearrange the columns to suit your needs, but give this tool a chance to work for you. You may be amazed at its organized approach and your ability to focus on details. Best wishes for much success!

The secret of getting ahead is getting started. The secret of getting started is breaking your complex overwhelming tasks into small manageable tasks, and then starting on the first one.

Mark Twain

**YOU'RE KNOWN BY THE COMPANY YOU KEEP:
CLUSTER GENEALOGY, AN ESSENTIAL TOOL FOR RESEARCH
by EMILY CROOM**

Successful genealogists use more than a one-person-one-name approach to research. After all, ancestors lived among relatives, friends, neighbors, and same-surname families. Involving these people in your research is "cluster genealogy." The cluster technique helps you answer genealogical questions (especially names, dates, and places), confirm relationships (child-parent, husband-wife, siblings), learn more about ancestral families (life history, social history), research more efficiently, sort out individuals of the same name, and broaden the scope of research to break down brick walls.

The family cluster is always important---the spouses, children, siblings, parents, and others in each generation---because you often need to research individuals in the context of their family, especially when you're stuck or when "usual" sources aren't available. For example, when you can't locate a census entry by searching for the ancestor's name, try using another family member's name in the search engine or index. When you discover several people with your ancestor's name, evaluate the records you find in the context of known family facts to determine which person is likely your ancestor.

The cluster approach is especially helpful in studying families before 1850, when U. S. census records began naming household members. For example, the process of identifying the offspring of one early nineteenth-century Virginia couple involved land and probate records of the parents, several sons, and a son-in-law as well as a marriage record, showing parental consent, for one daughter. Six different records generated within the family cluster confirmed the names of the parents and their ten children, including the married names of two daughters. Any record alone would have given only a partial picture of the family.

General Strategy. Focusing your research on one or two ancestors or problems at a time helps you concentrate on details. A chronological profile on an individual and the family cluster shows you what you know and where the holes are. Tackle first the questions that you can address most easily or most quickly because (1) success is a great motivator and (2) new facts give you more to work with, especially when researching a "tough" ancestor. Learn to think "cluster" as you plan your research, and involve whatever cluster---such as siblings, neighbors, or in-laws---might help you answer any given question. Concentrate on original records or first-generation copies as much as possible, and evaluate your findings carefully. (If you don't have documentation for all details on the profile, start gathering that information early in your project. Don't get trapped by information in undocumented family trees and databases; keep an open mind as you research because reported "facts" and favorite theories may not be correct.)

Genealogists quickly learn to begin with themselves and work back in time, generation by generation. However, sometimes we need to research alternately forward and backward. Consider the search for one man with a common name whose whereabouts were unknown after 1922. Researching him in the context of his family cluster was essential in separating him from numerous others of the same name. Thus, the first effort used family tradition of where the man's parents had lived to research backward and learn the names of his parents, siblings, and grandparents---an essential family cluster. Then the research moved forward again. Finally, obituaries for his parents and siblings helped pinpoint his whereabouts in the late 1920s, locate his 1930 census entry, and approximate his death date.

Case Study. Research on one William Collins of North Carolina deeply involved an extended-family cluster. Descendants recalled that Collins considered himself a "64-slave," a term that suggests he may have been born about 1864. However, his 1912 and 1915 marriage records, 1920 census entry, and 1924 death certificate implied that he was born between 1846 and 1875, a 29-year range! How does a researcher deal with this wide variance? We first recall what Frederick Douglass said---that few slaves knew with any certainty how old they were, for their families knew little about the months of the year;

they measured ages by planting time, harvest time, winter time, and the like. Thus, for genealogists, reported ages are guides but not absolutes.

William's parents' names reported on his 1915 marriage record led the research to a couple with the same names, Bert and Jane Clark, in the 1880 and 1870 censuses (but no later censuses). Their household included Clark children but no William. Regardless, these censuses, along with a few other Clark records, helped narrow the date of Jane's birth (about 1834-1845), her marriage to Bert (by 1870), and William's birth (about 1859-1864). With a better idea of William's age, research could move forward again to look for his 1910 census entry. Thus, a family cluster had already provided a context with which to sift through the multiple William Collinses in the state.

The 1910 North Carolina census enumerated forty-two William Collinses, twelve of whom were black. The search went first to the counties where the subject William was known to have lived. The most likely candidate was William Collins in Pitt County, reportedly 45 years old (thus, born about 1864-1865), a widower, and head of a household of four nieces and a nephew surnamed Washington---a new and important family cluster. (William's earliest identified marriage occurred in 1912; his known children were born after that.)

Research next moved back to the 1900 census to try to identify the mother or father of these young relatives and learn how they were related to William. In neighboring Beaufort County, all five children lived with an older sister and their mother, Olivia Washington, age 33. Indeed, thirty years earlier, the 1870 household of Bert and Jane Clark included a three-year-old Olivia Clark. This apparent match---the two Olivias being the same person---and the fact that no other family yet presents positive evidence of a connection with William suggest that the 1910 William in Pitt County was indeed the subject of the research.

The new 1920 information that William was a widower helped narrow the 1900 field of eleven black William Collinses in North Carolina to one again in Pitt County, reportedly 38 years old (born in May 1862) with a wife named Harriet, age 57, whom he had married 20 years earlier. This information led to an 1880 entry for a William Colins (*sic*), reportedly age 21 (but perhaps actually younger), and wife "Harit," age 38. These two entries appear to report the same couple and the subject William; neither has yet been identified in the 1870 census or other records. However, William's providing a home to the Washington youngsters, and perhaps to the older woman reported as his wife, is consistent with family tradition of William as a kind and family-protective man. The facts and this family tradition probably mean that these 1880-1920 census entries represent the same man. The family cluster has been, and will continue to be, an essential tool for learning more about him.

When you sort out same-name individuals or encounter the lack or destruction of desirable genealogical records, tap into the details of the family and other clusters with whom your ancestors associated. Develop the healthy habit of thinking "cluster" as you plan and research. You may be amazed at your new perspectives and new successes.

THE U. S. NAVY'S FIRST SUBMARINE. After the successful raising of the CSA submarine *Hunley*, efforts are being made to locate the U. S. Navy's first submarine, the USS *Alligator*, which was sunk in a storm off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, in 1863. The *Alligator* was originally powered by oars, but later was operated by a hand-crank. The 47-foot vessel sank as it was being towed south to aid in the attack on Charleston Harbor. The sub never saw battle. It's only other mission was to attack a bridge on the Appomattox River in Virginia, but the water was too shallow. *Antiques & Collecting* (Nov. 2004)

Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.

Henry Ford

SWLGS JANUARY PROGRAM

January is the month for the SWLGS traditional "Show and Tell" program, which is presented by the members. ALICE PIPPIN, WILFRED BOULLION and ROBERT "BOB" LANDRY presented the program this year.

ALICE PIPPIN told that she was surprised to see a painting of a Cherokee Indian village in the *Jefferson's America and Napoleon's France Louisiana Purchase Exhibition* at the New Orleans Museum of Art. The painting, entitled *Souvenir of Tokou*, was done by the Italian artist Storelli in 1819, and was reproduced by a sketch made by the Duc de Montpensier. The painting showed log huts standing near the conical buildings of the Indians. People are shown in native, as well as European attire. Mrs. PIPPIN then purchased a book on the exhibit and took it to Tennessee, where she showed it to her sister.

Excitedly, her sister found a newspaper column entitled *Distinguished Visitors Included French Prince* in the *Knoxville News Sentinel*, dated 22 January 1978. The article stated that an early and distinguished visitor to the area was Louis-Phillippe, Duc d'Orleans, who later became King of the French. His younger brothers, the Duc de Montpensier and the Comte de Beaujolais, accompanied the Duc. The brothers were in voluntary exile from the revolutionary chaos in 1796. The article stated, "The 23-year-old king-to-be saw the inauguration of President John Adams and dined with former President Washington at Mount Vernon, but he couldn't find a chamber pot in Southwest Virginia, or hay for his horses in Rogersville, or butter at Joel Dyers house west of Rogersville. But he bathed in the river in Knoxville, enjoyed his visit to Tellico Blockhouse and was fascinated by the Cherokees along the Little Tennessee River. He was struck by the 'flirtatious ways' of the Cherokee women...and said 'no Frenchwoman could teach them a thing'." Louis-Phillippe kept a diary of part of his travels in America. In 1977 it was published in France and in 1978 was translated and published in English by Delacorte Press as *Diary of My Travels in America*. Mrs. PIPPIN and her sister determined that the village Louis-Phillippe called Toqouo (Tokou) was the ruined Cherokee Village on the Little Tennessee River, just a few miles from where they grew up!

Mrs. PIPPIN also showed the MITCHELL Family Diary, which was begun by her great-grandfather, CHARLES A. MITCHELL, in the winter of 1923-24. He reported that his father, JOHN D. R. MITCHELL, was born in Hartford, Connecticut, on 21 March 1812 and that his mother, CATHERINE A. EVANS, was born in Birmingham, England, on 10 June 1827. According to the diary, JOHN D. R. MITCHELL was orphaned at six years of age. A younger brother, CHARLES is mentioned. At age thirteen, JOHN D. R. moved to New York and apprenticed himself to a quill maker. He worked hard and was made a partner in the business, and later became sole owner. At age thirty-three, he read about the invention and patent of a steel pen. He sold his business, converted his money into gold, and traveled to England, where he met and married CATHERINE A. EVANS, the daughter of WILLIAM EVANS, a manufacturer of steel tools. JOHN and CATHERINE lived in London for eight years, and three children were born to them. In 1845 they sailed for New York City and lived there for a few years. In 1850, soon after the birth of CHARLES A. MITCHELL, the family moved to Sauk County, Wisconsin. Their home was the first house on the Little Baraboo River. At that time this was far-western country, inhabited by the Winnebago Tribe and a multitude of wild animals.

The diary was not just the ramblings of an old man, but is filled with much genealogical information.

WILFRED BOULLION showed the skeleton of a Gafftop catfish. Interestingly enough, the backbones of these catfish are shaped like a crucifix.

ROBERT "BOB" LANDRY delivered a history of his four-string 1910 Vega Tenor Plectrum Banjo, which is commonly used in Dixieland Bands. This differs from the common banjo of today, which has five strings and is used in Blue Grass bands, and the two are not tuned alike. The patent dates of the banjos are from 1890, 1893 and 1903, but the Vega name was not used until 1919, so BOB thinks

his was not made until the '20s. In 1956 he inherited it from his mothers's brother, VINCENT M. PATUREUA, who played in a band in Baton Rouge. BOB has used the banjo in Dixieland Bands around Lake Charles, in his family band, and in the pit band for Lake Charles Little Theater productions. He has not determined its monetary value because he intends to hand it down to his son. BOB played the banjo and members joined in singing several selections.

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA CEMETERIES

Southwest Louisiana has many old historic cemeteries, which are the final resting places of many of the area's pioneer families, as well as of veterans of many wars. The Southwest Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Library has many cemetery lists, and the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society, Inc. has published the records of various southwest Louisiana cemeteries in *Kinfolks*. An organization called "Save Our Cemeteries" (SOC) has been established to preserve the old cemeteries throughout Louisiana. Recently strong winds blew down a gigantic oak in the old Catholic Cemetery and damaged several of the old graves.

The oldest cemetery in southwest Louisiana is the **Bilbo Cemetery** on the lake in Lake Charles, which was founded about 1830. Other old cemeteries in the area appear below, with their founding dates:

Antioch-Big Woods Cemetery near Edgerly, ca 1841
Sallier Family Cemetery just west of St. Patrick's Hospital, ca 1844
Catholic Cemetery on Iris Street in Lake Charles, ca 1861
Reeves CME Graveyard, Common Street, Lake Charles, ca 1866
Corporation Cemetery just north of Interstate 10 in Lake Charles, ca 1869
Goos Family Cemetery in Goosport, ca 1870
Bagdad Cemetery in Westlake, ca 1870
Henning Cemetery, Sulphur, ca 1879
Farquhar Cemetery, Sulphur, ca 1879
Dutch Cove Cemetery, Moss Lake, ca 1880
Ritchie Cemetery, Ragley, ca 1880
Rigmaiden Cemetery, Mossville, ca 1889
Orange Grove-Graceland Cemeteries on Broad Street, Lake Charles, ca 1890
Magnolia Cemetery, Westlake, ca 1892
Newton Cemetery, near DeQuincy, ca 1897

POSSIBLE RESTRICTIONS ON BIRTH RECORDS

Because of the threat of terrorism and the fear that terrorists might steal identities, the U. S. House of Representatives is considering a bill, House Resolution No. 10, which seeks to restrict access to birth certificates. To protect access to these documents, it has been recommended that an amendment be added to the bill that would state: "However, nothing in this Chapter 2 shall be construed to require a State to change its law with respect to public access to (A) non-certified copies of birth certificates or to (B) birth certificates or birth records once a period of 100 years has elapsed from the date of creation of the certificate or record." Genealogists are asked to write their state representatives to advocate the amendment to the proposed bill. A copy of the bill can be reviewed at <http://thomas.loc.gov> by entering HR10 in the search box for "Bill Number." A list of state representatives can be found at www.house.gov/writerep.

You have not lived a perfect day, even though you have earned your money, unless you have done something for someone who will never be able to repay you.
Ruth Smeltzer

BON AMI, LOUISIANA

In a dense forest trees grow straight. The highest tree has the greatest fall. Old English Proverb

Among the ghost towns in southwest Louisiana is the town of Bon Ami, which was once a thriving sawmill town. The virgin hardwood forests in the area were home to bears, bobcats, panthers, foxes, raccoons, squirrels and wolves. Riverbanks and ponds were abodes of alligators, snakes and mosquitoes. Cypress, sweet gum, walnut, Southern Long-leaf yellow pine, oak and cypress trees, averaging about 100-130 feet tall and at least three feet in diameter, filled the forests. It was once a part of Old Imperial Calcasieu Parish, in the section of the parish that had been called "No-Man's-Land" or the "Neutral Territory," and had been home to various outlaws, fugitives and runaway slaves.

At the turn of the twentieth century, there were few roads, bridges or ferries in southwest Louisiana. The population, especially in rural districts, was sparse, but all that was soon to change. After the Civil War, there was a great demand for lumber to rebuild the war's damage and to construct new industries and elaborate houses for those who had made their fortunes from the war. The rich forests of southwest Louisiana beckoned to entrepreneurs. "Michigan Men," lumbermen who had decimated the forests of Missouri, Michigan and other states, discovered the virgin hardwood forests and flocked to the area. They built roads, bridges, sawmill camps and towns, and brought in the railroads. In 1901-1902, the King-Ryder Lumber Company, a subsidiary of the Long-Bell Lumber Company, moved its sawmill operations to southwest Louisiana and built the company town of Bon Ami. Long-Bell and its subsidiaries had mills in Texas, Arkansas, Indian Territory (Oklahoma), as well as western Louisiana. By 1904 the Bon Ami mill employees were working a day and night shift of ten hours each, cutting 300,000 feet of lumber per day; only the sawmill at Fullerton, Louisiana, cut more lumber.

Key personnel of the Long-Bell operation at Bon Ami included: B. H. SMITH, vice president of the company and general manager at Bon Ami; H. BALES, mill superintendent; G. E. DAVIS, sales manager; J. E. TODD and A. R. SIMMONS, shipping clerks; L. B. ABBEY, depot agent; ROY MATTHEWS and E. G. MATTHEWS, bookkeepers; O. C. MURRAY, time keeper; J. C. PONTIUS and J. K. SORRELS, planing mill foremen; A. F. SCOTT, yard foreman; A. F. BELT and J. W. WALKER, checkers; and Miss LOU SAILOR, stenographer. A woman stenographer at that time was a rarity.

In 1905 the Hudson River Lumber Company built a sawmill at DeRidder and constructed the DeRidder and Eastern Railway, which operated between Lake Charles and DeRidder, as well as serving the mills of Bon Ami and Longville. Lumber from the mills at Bon Ami was used to build the nearby town of Longville in 1907. At this time, B. H. SMITH was the general manager of the mills at Bon Ami and Longville.

Bon Ami is French for "Good Friend," and the virgin hardwood forests were truly good friends to the men who made a living from cutting them down. Bon Ami was located about three miles south of the town of DeRidder, in the heart of the piney woods. Bon Ami, like many other lumber towns, was a "closed town" or "company town," where the company owned the town, the buildings and all the land adjoining it. The company workers were paid in company script or tokens, which could be redeemed for goods at the company store or commissary, and was the center of much social activity. Water from several artesian springs and wells was piped to the mill and town by the Bon Ami water works. The Hudson River Ice Company at DeRidder supplied ice to Bon Ami, Longville and the nearby Long-Bell mills. Electricity from two dynamos powered the mill and gave illumination to the houses. There was also a telephone system within the plant and lumberyard. Bon Ami, like most sawmill towns, was "dry," with no saloon anywhere on company property. Most of the single men resided at the boarding house, and many of them caught the train to Lake Charles or went to DeRidder to celebrate on Saturday nights. (See "Milltown, Lake Charles" in *Kinfolks*, Vol. 28 #4 and "Frontier Town", Vol. 22 #1.) In his dissertation, Dr. GEORGE STOKES wrote that there were two boarding houses for whites and one for Negroes, as well as a YMCA for whites and a recreation hall for Negroes.

In its heyday, Bon Ami had a population of about 1,500-1,900 people and contained about 400 buildings, including residences with neatly kept yards, churches, commissaries, schools, a boarding house and a three storied-YMCA, which was unique in the area. The YMCA was an attractive building, equipped with gymnasium, bowling alley, pool tables, a soda fountain where drinks and sandwiches were sold, and a comfortable spot for reading before a fireplace. It also had a movie theater, attended by most of the community once or twice a week, as well as tennis courts. Palm-lined walks led up to the veranda that extended to all sides of the building. There was also a well-known hotel, the *Commercial*. In 1905 ESTELLA McLOUT and _____ SIMMONS taught the school and Rev. H. ARMSTRONG was pastor of the Methodist-Episcopal congregation.

Segregation was the order of the day in those times, and, in addition to separate housing for whites and blacks, Bon Ami had a Mexican "Quarters". The Mexican laborers came to Bon Ami sometime between 1910 and 1920. No Mexicans appeared in the 1910 census for Bon Ami (Ward Six, Calcasieu Parish), but about fifty were enumerated in the 1920 census (Ward Three, Beauregard Parish). The 1910 census contains about fourteen pages of residents of the Bon Ami Mill Plant, and by the 1920 census there are twenty-two pages of names listed for the town. Workers came from many places, including Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas, Mexico and Italy. Along with the people already mentioned, other residents of the town included JOHN MOSS ADAMS and wife, EVA ROSS; HEBERT HAYNES and wife, WANNA ADAMS, LOU HAYNES, GORDON and DUKE SHERMAN; Mrs. HOOPER, Mr. KILLION, PUG MORRIS, and NORRIS GALLOWAY.

Early Bon Ami had two college-trained physicians, Dr. J. Z. BARNETT, and his son, Dr. G. F. BARNETT, who cared for the many sawmill-accident victims and the residents of the town. Like many other towns of Louisiana and the Gulf South in the early 1900s, Bon Ami had several cases of yellow fever. In a letter to his daughter EMMA dated 11 August 1905, JOHN McNEESE, a famous Calcasieu Parish educator, wrote that "the weather is hot and close, which is just what yellow fever wants," and "the cases in Bon Ami are real cases. So the State Board has sent a Dr. and nurses there." He assures her that certain measures were being taken to prevent the spread of yellow fever, including cleaning up residences, putting screens on cisterns, posting town guards to prevent infected people from coming into the area and establishing detention camps for those fleeing from the disease. With cooler weather, the disease died out.

A baseball club was formed, and in May 1907, the Bon Ami team met with the teams of the nearby sawmill towns of Neame, Carson and Ludington to organize the Yellow Pine League. About the same time, the Bon Ami Dramatic Club presented the comedy-melodrama *Diamonds and Hearts* to a crowd from the nearby sawmill towns, and repeated their performance in DeRidder's Ford Opera House.

By 1908 the Bon Ami logging camp was established at Walla, a site between Newlin and Carson on Cowpen Creek. Walla quickly grew into a semi-permanent location due to the large volume of pine in the area and the turpentine distillery that Long-Bell operated there. About 300 men were employed at Walla, most of whom took the daily log-train back to Bon Ami. However, at Walla there was a variety of employee housing, some of which included two-room house cars bolted together and set on a flat car. At this time, the logging staff at Walla included C. E. RYDER, superintendent; L. L. RYDER, assistant superintendent; JOHN CONN, #1 skidder foreman; M. COVEY, #2 skidder foreman; C. P. GALLOWAY, saw boss; SHAD YOUNG, filer; TOM BURKE, steel (track) foreman; ED DIES and JOHN McKISSICK, locomotive switching engineers; W. A. HILL, carpenter foreman; and Mrs. McCLENDON, boarding house operator.

The sawmill at Bon Ami had twelve miles of standard gauge railroad track ending at Walla, plus two miles of spurs and temporary track. ROBERT CREASEY was the engineer. Sixty mules and horses, 8-wheeled log wagons, skidders and loaders brought logs to the Bon Ami mill pond. In 1907 and 1908, because of a decreased demand for lumber, the sawmill had reduced its schedule to one shift, but still employed about 500 men, 300 of whom were in the woods and the turpentine operation. The payroll was about \$30,000 a month. At that time key personnel at Bon Ami included W. S. PICKETT,

superintendent; H. BALES, assistant superintendent; F. E. MARTIN, sawmill foreman; A. S. MILLER, master mechanic; F. A. LOVE and W. F. PONTIUS, planer foremen; E. K. ELLIOT, stacker foreman; J. T. COMBS, yard foreman; CHARLES EDWARDS, dry kiln foreman; C. H. BENKE, filer; W. S. GOYEN, dock foreman; W. S. McCURDY and CHARLES SMITH, shipping clerks; J. M. FRYE, TOM SHUMAKE, JOHN EVANS, E. B. HOPKINS, sawyers; S. W. HOOPER and JACK GILLESPIE, mill engineers; T. H. PRIESKER, electrician; G. D. ALLEN, chief inspector; S. H. STEWART, deputy sheriff; Dr. C. W. SMITH, mill physician; C. B. KENNESON, chief clerk; CHARLES ALBIN, cashier; W. A. BOHNERT and C. L. YARBOROUGH, timekeepers; Misses A. CARPENTER and NORA VICK, stenographers; W. E. McNAIR, commissary manager; J. C. MOORE, dry goods clerk; GEORGE FEIFFER, H. G. ALBIN and EUGENE GORHAM, grocery clerks; DAISY KOONCE, commissary manager and telephone operator.

By 1908 Bon Ami had an experimental farm and peach orchard, with seventy acres of potatoes and six acres of tomatoes planted as fall crops. The pea crop was expected to yield 500 bushels, worth about \$4 a bushel. A yield of 200 tons of forage hay was expected. In July 1908, a rattlesnake bit SIMPSON MEDLEY while he was picking peas, but the snakebite was quickly treated by a physician and caused no ill effects.

Another unique feature of Bon Ami was its Federated Church, which was begun in 1917 by W. L. PRICKETT, who was the local manager of the Bon Ami mill. The church was a branch of the Federated Churches of Christ in America and brought together all denominations under its roof. Its first pastor was Rev. BLOOM. He was followed by Rev. T. J. SHOTTMAN (?) and Rev. E. S. WILLIAMS. In 1924 the executive board of the church consisted of: E. S. WILLIAMS, pastor; F. E. STEWART, president; W. W. EDWARDS, J. H. ADAMS, G. H. GRIFFIS, E. F. WALLING, S. E. ELLIS, F. D. WATERS, S. R. PLAKE and J. S. DUKE. The Sunday School staff included Mrs. R. E. HOLCOMBE, Mrs. HOWARD BOHON, Miss GEORGIA WILLIAMS, Mrs. V. YELVINGTON, Mr. DUKE, Mr. ELLIS, Mrs. MABEL EDGE and Mrs. M. C. KELLEY. About forty members are enrolled in the Christian Endeavor Society under Mrs. YELVINGTON. The church wielded a strong influence in the community.

Smallpox visited the small lumber town in the early months of 1919. It was said to have been brought in by an itinerant Mexican. One of the victims of the deadly scourge was LILLY LEE (STEWART) KING, the wife of ST. [SAINT] ELMO KING and mother of LILLY LEE, CAROLINE CECILE, JAMES V. and ELMA MILLER KING. The victims of the disease were buried in a nearby cemetery. (See interview below, *Mama's Life in Bon Ami*). Highland and Pleasant Hill Cemeteries are in the area, but there may also have been a small cemetery which is now abandoned and on private land.

After B. H. SMITH, Mr. RYDER and then W. L. PRICKETT were managers of the mill. Then came FRANK STEWART, who was manager until 1925. From 1915-1920 the superintendent of the mill was WALTER SEXTON. SAM ELLIS was the office manager, and the commissary manager was PRESS SEXTON. LESTER SEXTON was a foreman in the mill. Dr. MILLER was the company doctor. A. M. DUKE was manager of the YMCA. JOE CRUITHIRDS was the butcher and meat market manager. Lake Charles was about fifty miles away and DeRidder was only two or three miles away, but the towns were connected by roads and railroads. In 1913, the Calcasieu Reorganization Act separated Allen, Beauregard and Jefferson Davis Parishes from Old Imperial Calcasieu, and the town of Bon Ami became a part of Beauregard Parish.

An undated article found in the Vertical File of the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Library in Lake Charles states: "Bon Ami is at present going through a period of transition. The King-Ryder Company has recently finished cutting the timber in the territory and is moving out of the town. However, the Long-Bell employees who have been stationed at Camp Hoy are moving in." By 1925 Long-Bell had cut off all the timber in the area and simply moved out, leaving devastation in its path. The virgin forests were no more; they had become a wasteland of cut-over land and stumps. A few years later the buildings in the town were sold to private owners. Mr. MORRIS bought about 350 or

400 houses and ten public buildings for \$6,500, but the town was dead. Now all that is left of the once thriving town of Bon Ami are the railroad tracks and the pleasant memories of those who once called Bon Ami their home.

SOURCES: 1910 & 1920 U. S. Census Enumerations

Maude Reid Scrapbooks

John McNeese Letter, McNeese State University Archives

Beauregard Historical Society. *The History of Beauregard Parish*

Block. "Early Sawmill Towns of the Louisiana-Texas Borderlands"

Warren. *Longville, Louisiana, 1906-1934*

MAMA'S LIFE IN BON AMI

By MARY ELLEN SPILLER ROBERT

My mother has blessed me countless times by telling me about her childhood, her "growing up days." She shares with me the years gone by, and with my questions pushing her through the memories, she excitedly relives those precious hours. Today, at the age of 94, she lives alone in the house she moved into as a bride in Lake Charles. In these later years, recalling the days of her past unlocks the personal treasure which is held in her mind.

During our country's World War I era, Mama, CAROLINE CECILE KING, greatly enjoyed living in the sawmill time of Bon Ami. "It was a good life there," Mama has said, and although her family had no more or less than other families, everyone knew that hard work was the necessity of the day. Her father, ST. [SAINT] ELMO KING, was responsible for keeping the sawmill machinery running, and his title was "engineer." He had the mill position because "he was a very smart man." LILLIE LEE (STEWART) KING, was her mother, who with great pride took care of the home and family.

The Long-Bell Lumber Company provided jobs for the people of Bon Ami, which was located south of DeRidder, and it had everything a company town was supposed to have. Company houses, rented by the employees, had running water, "but the toilets were in the back." Electricity was brought to the house by light bulbs, each room having "one bulb hanging on a long cord from the ceiling."

The wooden houses stood in rows behind the lines of picket fences, which bordered the dirt roads. "Walking the picket fences" became one of Mama's favorite things to do. Flat, horizontal two-by-fours near the top of the pickets provided just enough "track" for the little feet. Evenly spaced, strong, vertical four-by-fours supported the cross board and pickets, but the fences were not designed for playing children. Mama, who liked the challenge of walking the fences has said, "It's a wonder I didn't fall and hurt myself, but I never did."

There was a commissary in Bon Ami for things like clothing and shoes, sewing goods, household items, groceries, tools, varied supplies and more. A church, school, and YMCA building figured prominently in the lives of the company people. Mama doesn't remember how many grades were taught at the school, but after some formal schooling, "the older kids would go to work at different jobs because everybody worked." The company doctor took care of everyone, and there was a nurse to help him. "House calls" were expected when illness made it necessary. There was a "big office building where men and women worked, with some women being smarter than the men." How could Mama know that? Children often repeat what they hear adults say.

When the KING family moved to Bon Ami from Lyman, Mississippi, where CAROLINE was born in 1910, they traveled by train from Gulfport to New Orleans, then on to Bon Ami. At that time Mama was about five years old, had an older sister, LILLIE LEE, whose given name was the same as her mother's and a younger brother, JAMES "JIM" VERNON KING. The family had watched the baby

side four miles, landed on the east side of the river; happy to find ourselves once more on Uncle Sam's land, and under the protection of his laws. The island belongs to the United States as the jurisdiction of the United States extends to the western bank of the Sabine. It is said to be forty miles long, low and marshy, the trees hanging over into the water. Every place on the low banks on the American side, where dry land could be found, was covered with fugitives, who were eager to hear news, and received the account of the victory with exclamations of joy.

Four miles from the Sabine, stopped at the house of JAMES LYONS and dined. Decent people. Mrs. LYONS is a pretty woman. Sixteen miles further brought us to HARDY COWHERD's [sic, COWARD], where we stopped and slept. Mr. COWHERD [sic] is from North Carolina; he has a very fine plantation in the midst of a poor country. A good farmhouse, very neatly kept. He told me his land produced in sugar 1500 wt. to the acre, and in cotton one bale. NEBLETT and DOBIE went on four miles further to Dr. ROBT. NEBLETT's.

Tuesday, April 26, 1836. Left COWHERD's [sic] after breakfast, at 8 o'clock. Bill, \$1.00. Stopped a short time at Dr. R. NEBLETT's, who then rode with us to Calcasieu ferry, thirteen miles from COWHERD's [sic]. Calcasieu is a beautiful stream, very deep and clear. Dr. R. NEBLETT says it is the largest river between the Mississippi and the Rio Grande. The public house and ferry is kept by Mr. REES PERKINS: very decent people; decent dinner; dinner 25 cents; ferry 50 cents.

At night we reached the house of ARSEN LeBLUE [sic] COMARSAC, the French Creole drover whom we had seen in Texas at WALLACE's. He was not at home, but his wife, a Virginian and a sensible woman, received us civilly. He is said to be worth \$100,000; their little girl, MINERVA, is beautiful; living coarse and mean; could get no corn for our horses, which we had to turn out on the prairie; no sugar in our coffee; no butter; and sour milk, although they said they had 1,000 to 1,200 calves. We slept on the floor in a new house, not yet inhabited, and were dreadfully annoyed by fleas. [EDITOR'S NOTE: Sand fleas often plague those who lived in sandy soil along the banks of the streams. To prevent this, boughs from the myrtle trees that grew wild in the nearby woods were placed around the perimeter of the house.]

Wednesday, April 27, 1836. Paid Mrs. COMARSAC fifty cents, and left her dirty mansion at half past 6 o'clock. Passed a drove of cattle belonging to TAYLOR WHITE, from near Anahuac; started with 500; said to have lost 170; had now only 330. Early in the day we were overtaken by a heavy shower of rain, and I got very wet. We reached MILES WELCH's cabin in the prairie about 11 o'clock, having ridden twenty miles over poor prairie land. His wife cooked us a coarse dinner; he refused us corn for our horses; after dinner he gave us corn; bill 50 cents. Went on over boggy prairie and in a hard rain. Crossed a marsh in the midst of an extensive prairie, which is here called Grand Marais. In the evening it cleared up, and the moon shone out. We reached the Bayou Mermentau at 7 o'clock; a beautiful stream, and a good ferry boat. Small house and rather shabby French style. ANDREWS, the landlord, a loquacious, vulgar, beastly looking man, but jolly, and civil in his way. Jabbers Creole French and English indiscriminately. His son-in-law, JOHN MOUTAN [sic, MOUTON], a civil, whiskey-drinking fellow, who was dreadfully afflicted with the hiccough. I dried my dripping clothes as well as I could, and got a good lodging. It rained excessively hard in the night. The thunder resembled the discharge of cannon. From WELCH's to Mermentau, twenty miles. The journey today has been forty miles, hard traveling, through mud and rain. We had woodland on our left all the way, but on the right it was all open prairie, except where we struck watercourses. Distance from the gulf, about thirty miles. Here we got plenty of corn for our horses.

Thursday, April 28, 1836. It having ceased to rain, and giving some indication of clearing up, we left ANDREWS about 1 o'clock. Bill \$2.25. At about six miles distant CADY, FLEURY and CATLETT left us, to go to St. Martinville, on the Teche. We continuing lower down, towards Vermillion [sic]. In crossing a little bayou, my mulish mustang horse bogged and fell down in the water, and I under him, by which I was thoroughly wet, and my saddle bags filled with water. At night we got to ABSHEAR's [sic, ABSHIRE], eighteen miles, where I did my best to dry my things.

Friday, April 29, 1836. It continued all morning to rain hard, heavy showers at intervals. Dr. NEBLETT insisted on going forward through the rain. I determined to stay and dry my things, so he and DOBIE left me. I would not consent to set out in the rain again. I found my watch had got wet and stopped, and the crystal, which I cracked in the famous passage of the Neches, now came entirely out. So I took a lead bullet and beat it out in size and shape of a crystal, and fixed it in, to protect the hands until I can get a crystal put in.

About 3 o'clock, it being fair, I started, with ASA ABSHEAR [sic] for my guide. We encountered a very heavy shower of rain, but I got only my boots wet. In a pond of water in the prairie I discovered an alligator about six feet long, which I rode up to near enough to shoot in the neck with my pistol. The blood flowed and he did not move much, so concluded it was mortal, and left him. Arrived after dark at the house of a herdsman, a Spanish Creole named SEBASTIAN NUNEZ, where we were kindly treated. These herdsman live very simple and apparently happy lives. They have little intercourse with the world, very little learning, no ambition, and have a ball every Saturday night. SEBASTIAN NUNEZ and ASA ABSHEAR are both going to a ball tomorrow night.

SOURCE: *The Diary of Colonel William Fairfax Gray, From Virginia to Texas, 1835-1837.* Edited from the original manuscript with an Introduction and notes by Paul Lack. This book was published by DeGolyer Library & William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies - Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, 1997.

http://www.smu.edu/swcenter/FairfaxGray/wg_r003.htm

THE RUNAWAY SCRAPE

When Texas rebelled against Mexico in October 1835, the history of Texas, Louisiana and the young United States was forever changed. From about 1820, hundreds of Americans under the leadership of STEPHEN F. AUSTIN poured into Texas, which was then a part of the Mexican state of Coahuila. His father, MOSES AUSTIN, had received a colonization permit from the Mexican authorities, with the provisions that the colonists obey Mexican law, pay taxes to Mexico, and be Roman Catholics. In effect, this opened the vast lands west of the Sabine to American expansion and colonization, and the conditions sounded very good to Americans who wanted more land and to adventurers who wanted to make their fortune. Yet, after a time, they chaffed under Mexican rule. Most of them had come from the Southern states and had brought their Anglo ways and speech with them...and their slaves. They paid only lip-service to being Catholic, registering as such, then ignoring or evading the provision, and they paid little attention to strict Mexican laws. Texas was a big land, sparsely settled, with few magistrates; who was there to enforce the rigid Mexican laws?

With colonists always came land speculators, and the Texas land speculators staked out thousands of acres to which they had no legal claim. By 1830, AUSTIN's Colony had attracted about 30,000 Americans. The Mexican population of Texas was about a tenth of that number, and the Mexican government began to discourage and then prohibit any further American immigration. Trouble loomed on the horizon. In 1829, Mexico had outlawed slavery, yet the Americans still had slaves. Furthermore, Mexico was losing money; the colonists paid no duty on imports, and speculators were threatening to remove some of the largest Mexican landowners from their legal holdings. In 1834, ANTONIO LOPEZ de SANTA ANNA came into power and decided to turn his attention on the troublesome colonists. His crackdown enraged the Americans who decided to secede from Coahuila and form a separate Mexican state.

SANTA ANNA considered this defiance a rebellion, and raised an army of thousands of soldiers, adorned in flamboyant uniforms, and marching to battle to bugles and drums. He made himself a general and led the army. They gathered at the Rio Grande, a preliminary to restoring order to the restless and rebelling Americans. Then they marched into Texas, and had a few minor engagements,

and then laid siege to the Mission San Antonio de Valero (known as "The Alamo") that had quickly been turned into a small fort. The defenders of the Alamo were legendary, and included JIM BOWIE, WILLIAM B. TRAVIS, DAVY CROCKETT and his Kentucky riflemen. Although the 183 defenders fought against 5,000 Mexicans for thirteen days to gain time for HOUSTON to gather his army, they were slaughtered to the last man. The battle at Goliad and the massacre that followed it made Texans determined to fight to the last breath and encouraged strong public sentiment in the United States. Men and supplies poured across the border to aid the Texans in their struggle for independence.

The colonists held another convention in March 1836, and declared their independence. The bloody battles at the Alamo and Goliad had bought HOUSTON enough time to gather an army...a collection of volunteers, disgruntled colonists and adventurers. He had recruited all men who were capable of fighting. Most of the men were experienced Indian fighters. HOUSTON rallied his men, and "Remember the Alamo" became synonymous with a cry for Texas Independence.

While the men were fighting the battles, old men, women and children were left to defend themselves or to escape from the path of the ruthless, invading Mexican Army. As SAM HOUSTON and his men retreated, the only path left open to civilians was to flee to the east. Time was precious and quickly running out. Without the men to protect them, the women and children were prime targets for hostile Indians, as well as the advancing Mexicans. Thousands of families from San Antonio to Nacogdoches took part in the "Runaway Scrape," literally running for their lives to cross the Sabine and into Louisiana and U. S. territory. Some families took time to hide or bury their belongings; others left in such a hurry that they had no time to gather up possessions. The lucky ones rode in ox-drawn wagons loaded with family and treasured items; some families brought along a cow or two; but most of them walked, because the men had taken all their horses off to battle.

Even the weather did not cooperate with the panic-stricken refugees in the "Runaway Scrape." The past winter and spring had been very rainy, and rivers were swollen out of their banks. The prairie land through which they walked was covered with deep mud, and many of those who walked lost their only shoes in the mire. Some wagons struck up to their wheel-rims and had to be abandoned with all of their precious possessions. Items that could not be carried had to be left behind, and the whole trail was littered with a variety of articles...furniture, spinning wheels, music boxes, trunks of clothes, handmade quilts, grandfather clocks, and dishes. Many of these things represented "Life Before Texas" and were treasured family heirlooms, relics of family ties in the east. Abandoned on the trail, these treasures did not last long; they were subjected to looting and the ravages of weather.

But precious household articles were not the only things lost on the trail. Often it was impossible to find enough dry wood to build fires to cook whatever they had for meals. Starvation loomed for many who had not the time or wisdom to pack provisions for the flight. As always, the oldest and youngest were most vulnerable to malnutrition and to the cold and wet conditions. Deadly measles and whooping cough spread through the caravans of refugees, and graves dotted the muddy surface along the trail. Fear, misery and grief marked every mile.

HENDERSON YOAKUM, a Texas historian referred to the "Runaway Scrape," and said, "On every road leading eastward into Texas were found men, women and children, moving through the country over swollen streams and muddy roads, strewing the way with their property, crying for aid, and exposed to the fierce northers and rains of the spring. The scene was distressing indeed..." Occasionally, a rider would bring news of advancing Indians or Mexicans, and the refugees would break up camp or hasten their pace, often leaving behind even more of their precious possessions in their haste, always traveling east toward the Sabine River. Rumors traveled as fast as facts.

The refugees of the "Runaway Scrape" took either a northern or southern route in their flight. The northern route took them through Nacogdoches and into San Augustine, while the southern route along the Atascocito Road led to Harrisburg and Liberty. Some refugees had left their homes five weeks before. At every river, they were forced to wait for a ferry. It had been stated that at the

Lynchburg Ferry, which crossed the river between Harrisburg and Lynchburg, there were at least five thousand people waiting for the ferry; they had to wait at least three days to cross the river. Colonel WILLIAM FAIRFAX GRAY tells of the crowd of people waiting for a ferry to cross Cow Bayou and Ballew's Ferry on the Sabine. (See article above.)

The War for Texas Independence ended on 21 April 1836, when HOUSTON and a small force attacked the Mexicans at San Jacinto. In the battle that followed, SANTA ANNA and much of his army were captured; the rest were killed in the battle. Although SANTA ANNA signed a surrender agreement and granted independence to Texas, the Mexican government did not concur. SANTA ANNA, in disgrace among his countrymen, was taken to Washington to meet with President ANDREW JACKSON. On his way through Louisiana, he stayed at Cantonment Atkinson, an army post on the banks of the lake in what would later become the city of Lake Charles. Mexico firmly refused to recognize the independence of Texas, although the Texans had established an independent republic with HOUSTON as its president. For the next ten years, Texas worked to be admitted as a state.

Most of the refugees of the "Runaway Scrape" returned home. Many found devastation, but others found homes still standing and a few things they had hidden; a few remained in U. S. territory, fearful of repeating the nightmare of marauding Indians and an invading Mexican army. The "Runaway Scrape" was one of the defining moments in Texas history. The courage of the men who fought the battles and the women who participated in the historic "Runaway Scrape" helped open the country for westward expansion.

SOURCES: <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/RR/pftl.html>
May. "The Runaway Scrape," *The Herald*, Vol. 27 #2 (Summer 2004), Montgomery Co., Texas
Chitwood, Owsley & Nixon. *The U. S.: From Colony to World Power* (1954)

ANCIENT BURIAL MOUNDS. Early travelers in Louisiana might have encountered the burial grounds of ancient Indians who roamed the swamps and prairies of southwest Louisiana. The *Lake Charles American Press* for 21 October 1929 reported that prehistoric burial grounds had been discovered that week along the banks of Calcasieu River at Green Acres, north of Lake Charles and had been excavated. The paper stated: "One ancient city of the dead at Green Acres was unearthed Thursday by workmen who were excavating for a pipeline at the home of W. E. LOGAN, for sewage purposes. After several hours digging, nearly a bushel basket of bones and skulls were taken out of one side of the mound. What is in the center and the other side is not known. Mr. LOGAN objects to the Smithsonian Institute or any other kind of institute further disturbing the rest of his underground neighbors, and further discoveries seem unlikely. Another circular mound nearby has not been disturbed, and if it contains the remains of ancient people, they too, like those in the first mound, will rest in peace."

LOUISIANA HISTORIC TRAIL LINKS ANCIENT BURIAL MOUNDS. Louisiana's new historic trail doesn't even have markers yet, but it links some of Louisiana's most historic sites. More than 700 mounds, raised between 4000 B.C. and the 1500s A.D., were in existence in the state when HERNANDO DeSOTO reached the Mississippi. "The Indians were still using the mounds basically until the 1800s," state archaeologist, TOM EUBANKS said. At first the trail will consist only of highway markers between Poverty Point and the Marksville State Historic Site in Avoyelles Parish. All but three of the fifty-four markers describe mounds that are on private property, but can be seen from the highway. A guidebook and site map is planned for next year. The biggest earthworks of the time can be seen at Poverty Point near Epps. Viewing the old Indian mounds is time travel, in a way. *American Press* (Lake Charles, La.) (9/7/2004)

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2005 DUES?

SOME FOOT PRINTS ALONG THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL
Lake Charles American Press (6/21/1923)

The route across the American continent trod by the citizenry of Spain wound and wended and twisted in irregular lines and turned at rambling angles, but from sun to sun unfailingly it went. The route is now overgrown with weeds and briars, with farms and villages, with cities and with sovereign state, but for all that, we can follow it by the foot prints still trailing on---here some sojourner tarried for a rest, then tarried longer; and then found a home; there a stream, a hill, a valley, to which still cling the romantic names that befell to them; and thus, link by link, we follow from ocean to ocean.

The imprint of Spanish occupancy is not deeply marked in the Calcasieu locality. In other parts of Louisiana, and other localities to the north, to the east and to the west, reminders are numerous and prominent. "The Calcasieu country," wrote Judge XAVIER MARTIN in 1837, "is a barren waste." The Spaniards seemed to have no great appreciation; they claimed sovereignty and they passed back and forth across it, possibly because it was convenient, but otherwise they paid it small attention. The western boundary of the province of Louisiana was for a long time involved in much obscurity.

When France ceded Louisiana to Spain (1763) and when Spain restored Louisiana to France (1803) and when France sold Louisiana to the United States, little was known or cared about the geography of the country they were peddling. The ignorance of the participating high dignitaries was glossed over with language, sonorous, but loose and far from, even approximate, precision. This ignorance, or carelessness, was the cause of great trouble and led to many bloody battles. A strip of country on the western edge of Louisiana, long in dispute between the United States and Spain, was known as the "Neutral Territory." As a matter of fact, it was far from neutral. There were many contentions between settlers of different allegiance. This, however, more particularly applies to the country further north.

The land records for this vicinity show very few names that bespeak Spanish nativity. The records make mention of settlers who were here in early days, but names like THOMPSON, SMITH, PERKINS, KING, RYAN, etc. are not suggestive of Spanish ancestry. After the Treaty of 1819 between the United States and Spain, the United States recognized and respected the land grants made by Spain, but did so only after the claimant produced absolute proof. With few exceptions, the early cessions of Calcasieu lands made by the United States were to actual settlers. The Act of Congress of March 3, 1823, provided "that all that tract of country situated between the Rio Hondo and Sabine Rivers, within the State of Louisiana, and previously to the Treaty of the 22nd of February 1819, between the United States and Spain, called the neutral territory, be and the same is hereby attached to the district south of the Red River; and the register and receiver of the land office in said district are required to receive and record all written evidences of claim to land in said tract of country, derived from, and issued by, the Spanish Government of Texas, prior to the 10th day of December 1803, according to the regulations as to the granting of lands, the laws and ordinances of said government, and to receive and record all evidence of claim founded on occupation, habitation and cultivation..."

An attempt to ascertain, or define, the boundaries of the so-called neutral territory is found in the testimony taken before the register and receiver of the Natchitoches land office in 1824. Testimony of SAMUEL DAVENPORT: "The neutral territory comprehend all the tract of country lying east of the Sabine and west of the River Culcashue, Bayou Kisachey, the branch of the Red River, called Old River from the Kisachey up to the mouth of Bayou Don Manuel, Lake Terre Noir and Aroyo Hondo, and south of the Red River to the southwestern boundary of the State of Louisiana." Testimony of JOSE M. MORA: "I have no other knowledge of the beautiful territory, as to its boundaries, but from the Rio Hondo to the Sabine River." Testimony of GREGORIO MORA: "In the years 1794 and 1796 I collected the tithes of all the residents who lived or who had stocks, west of the River Culcashue, of the Bayou Kisachey, of the Bayou Don Manuel and Rio Hondo, and south of the Red River, which were at that time within the jurisdiction of Nacogdoches and on the line of the Province of Louisiana."

Orthography and geography do not seem to have given any worry to the pioneers. When not opposed

by superior force they went as they wished; and when they spelled a word they went according to the law of least resistance. When one of them trimmed his quill pen, self-respecting letters that objected to orthographic mesalliance had to find safety in rapid flight. If any part of the alphabet objected to an entangling alliance, it was run, alphabet, run, or else be overtaken by the pioneer's quill, and be cast into doubtful company.

A number of parties appeared and submitted written documents in support of their land claims. These documents are quaint and interesting, but only a glimpse at them can be given here. It appears that the land grants under Spanish authority needed to be followed up by placing the grantee in actual physical possession. The following copy of a "process verbal of possession" is almost (except for change in names and description of land) word for word, like all. And, like all, it shows a lack of fixity in boundaries, but characteristically, verbosity is sought to make up for lack of precision.

"On this 29th day of December, 1795 in compliance with the foregoing decree, I JOSE CAYETANO de ZAPEDA, sindico procurador del comun Pueblo de Nuestra Senora del Pibar de Nacogdoches, went with the witnesses of my assistance, Don JOSE de la VEGA and VICENTO del RIO, to the place called Bayou of the Adaise, where the petitioner claims, and has built his house. In order to give to the said D. PEDRO DOLET, who is now living on the premises, possession according to the decree; wherefore, being of the designated place of the Bayou of the Adaise, and having inquired if any of his neighbors would be injured by this grant, and having well ascertained that there were no impediment whatever, and that none of the boundaries of the adjacent properties intersected or touched those designated by PEDRO DOLET is his foregoing petition, for which reason no injury can result to the nearest neighbors by giving PEDRO DOLET possession of the land he claims in his petition with all the extent and the boundaries therein mentioned. I have visited those boundaries and the land they surround, with the aforesaid witnesses of my assistance, and the said PEDRO DOLET, and, taking the latter by the right hand, I went with him a certain number of paces from north to south, and afterwards from east to west; and then having let his hand go, he went as he pleased on the said land of the Bayou of the Adaise, pulled up grass, made holes in the ground, planted stakes, cut bushes, threw dust into the air and on the ground, and performed several other things and capers, as evidence of the possession I had given him in the name of his majesty, whom God preserve, of the said land, with the extent and boundaries which he has demanded, and the proof of the property which he now holds in it as sole master by virtue of this act of possession, and also as a symbol of the right of property which he forever holds on said land, of one league on each course of the compass, in the manner, place and with the boundaries expressed in the foregoing petition, with all uses and privileges there unto belonging; and afterwards, I have designated the aforesaid tract of land by the name of San Pedro de las Adaise, so that it may forever go by that name; and, in order that said PEDRO DOLET may be forever quieted to the peaceable employment of his said land agreeably to law, and that the evidence of his right may appear, I have signed payments with the witnesses of my assistance at San Pedro de las Adaise, the day, month and year aforesaid."

The treaty of 1819 and the Congressional Act of 1833 locate the Aroyo Hondo as in Louisiana and east of the Sabine River. Quite likely the reader in Imperial Calcasieu would have as much difficulty in finding the Rio Hondo as in finding the Culcashue. On some of the older maps our lovely Calcasieu River is many times noted as Bayou Quelqueshue and sometimes Caldasheu--- never Quelquechoue, as some think was the original name. The country was roamed over and at many times occupied by Indians, and not always by the same tribe, and there is authority, apparently well founded, for the statement that "Calcasieu" is derived from a certain Indian word meaning "Eagle."

As late as 1831 in an act concerning elections to be held in the Parish of St. Landry. It is recited "That hereafter the votes to be received in the additional precinct election shall be taken at the house of REES PERKINS on the River Calcasion, in lieu of STEPHEN HENDERSON's." Some comparatively short time after the year 1800, there was a settler on Calcasieu River by the name of JOHN HENDERSON. His home was some eight or ten miles further up the river than the settlement of REES PERKINS. The name of REES PERKINS, as a land claimant, appears more than one time in the reports. The house referred to in the act of 1831 was probably on the "Tract of land lying within the

late neutral territory, situated on the right bank of the west branch of the Quelehue River, at a pine bluff about three miles from the mouth of said branch..."

There are items on the old maps that, to the mind of the writer, indicated that there was a ferry across Calcasieu River at a point near what is even unto this day known as Perkins' ferry; and that it was at this point that the Old Spanish Trail from east to west and from west to east passed over Calcasieu River. It is quite probable that the existence of a ferry across Calcasieu River and the existence of a road easily followed led to the change of voting precinct.

In 1824 the state of Louisiana granted to HYPOLITE GUIDRY the exclusive privilege of establishing and keeping a ferry over the River Mermentau (this name was sometimes, in those days, spelled Mementon), at a place where the wild river intersects with Bayou Nez Pique. This act was amended in 1826, and this time the name was spelled Mementae. Ignorance of, or indifference towards, the Calcasieu country is noticeable.

Calcasieu Parish, formerly a part of St. Landry Parish, was created in 1840. Its eastern boundary is given as the river Mermenton. In the following year the privilege of keeping a ferry about two miles below the mouth of the Nez Pique was granted to JAMES ANDREW, Sr., and he was required "to keep and maintain in perfectly good order a ferryboat or flat sufficient at all proper times to transport and ferry across the said River Mermentau all such wagons, horses, cattle, persons and property as may present themselves to be ferried across said river, and such ferryboat or flat shall be at all times provided with a good railing on each side thereof, lengthwise at least four feet high." A considerable number of people were established along the Mermentau River; very few west of there; and this may account for the seeming neglect of the state of affairs in what had been the "neutral territory."

Certainly no great wealth existed about here, for in the year 1841 it was provided that there should be two assessors to the Parish of Calcasieu, each of whom was to receive a salary of \$160 a year---one-half to be paid by the state and one-half to be paid by the parish. Large oaks from little acorns (sometimes) grow. The reader will find on this map of Louisiana, up near the town of Natchitoches, a small black line noted as "Rio Hondo."

NEWS FROM THE LAKE CHARLES AMERICAN PRESS (2/1/1929)

The Honor Roll for the third six weeks' period at the Fourth Ward School consists of the following names: 6B, CLYDE LEVINGSTON; 5B, CECILIA GUINTARD; 4A, PERCY BARNES; 4B, GORDON STEIN, VIVIAN DUDLEY, FANNIE LANDRY, IDA MAE LANDRY; 3A, JOHN NEWLAND, LANE PLAUCHE, NORA HEBERT; 3B, C. W. JEFFRIES, HILDA ZOE BRUNNING, MARIE EDMUNDSON, ANNA MAE HAMBURG, SYBIL HINES, LORRAINE LUST, DIXIE LEE MORGAN, WANA NAVARRE, ELAINE VINCENT, EUNICE WYNN; 2A, JEWEL KUTTNER, ROBERT GUINTARD, ANGUS WRIGLEY; 2B, LEON GASPARD, VERA LEE DUGAS, LELIA NEWLAND, BETTY STIFFEL.

Mr. and Mrs. LOES HOLTZMAN, Reid Street, announce the arrival of a little son, February 1.

Mr. and Mrs. TITUS MILLER announce the marriage of their daughter, ADELE, to Mr. NORTON PRATER, which was very beautifully solemnized in their home, South Street, Rev. G. B. HINES officiating. Mr. and Mrs. PRATER will begin housekeeping immediately and will be at home to their friends at their lovely house on the DeRidder highway, which has just been remodeled and redecorated. Their many friends wish them every happiness.

The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see.

PIONEER WOMEN OF THE LAKE AREA

[EDITOR'S NOTE: MARCH is celebrated as Women's Month, and in paying tribute to the women of southwest Louisiana, the following information was taken from an article written by MIKE JONES for the *American Press* for May 9th and 10th, 2004. Imagine Lake Charles without a bathtub in the entire town, and mothers having to go out and shoot for the food they cooked over an open fireplace. These are some of the reminiscences that Lake Charles mothers recounted for Mother's Day in a 1929 edition of the *American Press*. This story was presented by Miss CHARLOTTE MacLEOD at the Mother's Day Luncheon of the Enterprise Club in 1929.]

"There was a time when what we call the old-fashioned buggy had not yet made its appearance. Everyone rode horseback, and Ryan Street was but a trail. The ladies rode sideways on a saddle or on a seat back of their gentlemen friends, be he a father, brother, husband or lover. In those days, most of what is now Lake Charles was all woods and marsh. They used to shoot ducks, deer and wild turkeys where now stands the post office, Mrs. HASKELL's home and the THOMSON property. It was not at all uncommon to meet up with a bear between here and Bagdad (Westlake).

Pioneer women stayed at home and took care of their families. The only social activity was a weekly dance, and, on occasion, a picnic or fish fry. These pioneer mothers were body builders. They prepared meals for their children, made their clothes and put by herbs to be used for medicines when needed. There was no ready-made clothing of any kind. Piece goods were brought in from New Orleans, but travel was very slow; it took about a day to go from Lake Charles to Chloe. Ordinary staples, such as sugar, were considered luxuries, with syrup being used for most sweetening purposes. Sometimes several people would go down to the Gulf and spend some days evaporating water to get salt.

Mrs. [ELIZA MILHOMME] LeBLEU, born about 1800, was the grandmother of Miss EVELINA PUJO, Mrs. ARSENE PUJO, Mrs. C. M. RICHARD, and Mrs. J. W. (GRACE) ROSTEET, and lived in a house which was then on the Opelousas trail. In 1929, Mrs. JOSEPH C. [LEONAISE HEBERT] LeBLEU was still living in the same house. The first Mrs. LeBLEU's husband [ARSENE LeBLEU], in 1849 went to the California gold rush in the days when travel to the west was very dangerous; he was never heard of again.

In those early days there were just two pianos in town, one owned by Mrs. CAPTAIN HANSEN and the other by Dr. WILLIAM KIRKMAN's wife [CECELIA]. Mrs. KIRKMAN was MATHILDA GRAY's grandmother. The grandmother of SHELDON TOOMER, Mrs. BUCKINGHAM, started the first musical organization in Lake Charles; it was called the Philharmonic Society. Mrs. HARRINGTON, grandmother of Mrs. BOB KING, was nurse and doctor for the town at one time. Mrs. [WILLIAM HENRY HASKELL, Jr. nee SARAH ELLEN COOK] HASKELL was the druggist. Neither of these ladies knew how to write a prescription. They were interesting characters. Mrs. HASKELL, mother of FRANK and WILLIE HASKELL, was the proud possessor of the first kerosene lamp; it was made from an old lard lamp. She also brought in the first sewing machine and the first cook-stove. She came from Lowell, Massachusetts, and had a fine education. She taught school, along with her other activities. Miss MacLEOD told that Mrs. DADE, the mother of Mrs. FRANK HASKELL, taught school in early Lake Charles. Among her students were Mrs. WILLIE GAYLE, Mrs. FELIX PERKINS, Mrs. ADOLPH MEYERS, Mr. ARSENE PUJO, Mr. LEE MOSS, Mr. JOE STODDARD and Miss MOLLY GRAY.

During the Civil War the women were mostly on their own, with their husbands being off to the war. Mrs. [SOPHIE EUGENIE POULET] CHAVANNE and her husband [EUGENE JOSEPH CHAVANNE] arrived here from France not long before the war broke out. The Confederates captured him and put him into the army, leaving his wife and two small children to survive or perish. They were the parents of LEON, PHILIP and CHARLIE CHAVANNE.

During the war, in October 1862, a Union gunboat came up to Lake Charles and ordered the women and children out of the town because it was their intention to bombard the town. A Captain MAYNARD succeeded in saving the town, and the men in the gunboat satisfied themselves with demanding meat, potatoes, vegetables and other supplies. Captain MAYNARD was afterwards arrested as a spy. Mrs. HARRINGTON and Mrs. RYAN got word to their husbands, who were attending court in Opelousas, that Captain MAYNARD had saved the town. They were just about to hang him when these messages arrived and his life was spared.

The Howard Hotel surpassed all other hostleries in Lake Charles. (See *Kinfolks*, Vol. 26 #3.) Mrs. OLIVER MOSS [ROSE MARGUERITE PUJO] was one of the belles of her day, and her wedding finery is still in a good state of preservation. The beautiful hand-embroidered petticoat, the fancy fan and slippers, the wedding gown and veil all suggest that Mrs. MOSS was a very pretty bride. Her children were Mrs. LUCIUS and Mr. PAUL MOSS, Mrs. ROSETTE FOURNETTE and Miss PEARL MOSS. Before the Catholic Church was established, the priest used to come out every five years and baptize the children and perform wedding ceremonies. Sometimes young couples rode horseback all the way to Opelousas to have their wedding blessed.

In those "olden, golden" days, some of the mothers were experts with a gun, and when supplies were scant they shouldered their guns and sauntered out to get a turkey, some ducks or some prairie chickens. Wild game was plentiful, and a meat market was unknown. Among those who could bring down a bird on the wing were Mrs. JOE LeBLEU, LEONAISE HEBERT, and Mrs. BILLY FARQUE.

There was not a bathtub in the town. Tallow candles furnished light. The fireplace furnished heat and a place to cook. Instead of screened windows, there were open spaces with shutters or just a door closed at night with a wooden button. It was not unusual for a whole family to come visiting, bringing anywhere from two to fifteen. Beds were scarce, so pallets and shakedown covers covered the floor, and on those the visitors slept.

Among the women active in the early Methodist Church were Mrs. CORA MARSH MUTERSBAUGH, organist, Mrs. LEM DEES [ANNIE HUGHES], organist and Sunday School teacher, and Grandma LEWIS, mother of Mrs. Judge WELLS. The first Christmas tree was held in the Court House when Miss EVELINA PUJO was a little girl. There were no home Christmas trees in those days.

The very first "business girl" in Lake Charles was Miss DELLA NEAL. It was considered very bad taste for a girl to work outside the home. Upon her advent into the business world via the *American*, one of the progenitors of the *American Press*, other girls began to urge their mothers and dads to let them take advantage of opportunities offered, and soon a girl clerk took her place in the Muller store. Up to this time, the alternative for a girl was to get married and raise a family or to be an old maid dependent upon her relatives for a scant living. The girl of that period was not allowed to go out nights without some of the family around for chaperones. The carefree girl of today is far removed from the restricted surroundings in which her grandmother lived.

The main job of the pioneer mothers was to raise their children and to be community and nation builders. The only civic monument to a woman in Lake Charles is the Margaret Place, named for Mrs. MARGARET PERKINS. But Miss MacLEOD noted that the real monuments to pioneer mothers are their children and grandchildren. The HASKELLS, RYANs, LeBLEUs, FARQUEs, DEES and FOSTERs were among the leading residents of the Lake Charles area in 1929.

LAKE CHARLES STREETS NAMED FOR WOMEN

Some of the streets in old Lake Charles were named for women from prominent families. ANN and LAWRENCE Streets were named for ANN LAWRENCE, the wife of THOMAS BILBO; both were

pioneer settlers. ETHEL Street was named for ETHEL BURTON, daughter of C. H. BURTON, who was an early city engineer. HELEN Street was named for HELEN KNAPP, the daughter of Dr. SEAMAN A. KNAPP.

IRIS Street, one of the oldest streets in Lake Charles, was named for IRIS PITHON, the daughter of MICHEL PITHON; she married GEORGE PEAKE. MARY Street, now known as Gill Street, was originally named for MARY KIRBY, the daughter of SAMUEL A. KIRBY. PEARL Street was named for PEARL MOSS, the daughter of JOSEPH H. MOSS; she married ROY VINCENT. RACHEL Street, a short street near St. Patrick's Hospital was named for RACHEL FORD. TOUCHY Street was named for DORIS PITHON TOUCHY, the daughter of MICHEL PITHON. WEINCKE Street was named for THOMAS and MALVINA SALLIER WEINCKE. WOODRUFF Street was named for MARY WOODRUFF, who married HERMAN KNAPP, son of Dr. SEAMAN A. KNAPP.

STREET ADDRESSES

Street addresses help to locate homes or businesses, but in ancient times there were few towns, and these only had a few streets; people identified their residences or businesses by landmarks, such as rivers, marketplaces, churches, business places, statues, public baths, fountains, etc. By the Medieval Era, major streets and roads were identified by geographical features (Water Street, High Road, Broad Street), a historical figure (King Charles' Lane) or were given a generic name (Aster Street). Still, it was difficult to identify individual houses. It became the custom to use wreaths or floral arrangements to identify homes. The wealthy began to give their houses names, such as The Grange or Twin Oaks, and often had identifying signs erected on the front of their houses. By the late 1500s some German cities began assigning numbers to homes and businesses.

By 1772 London still did not use street numbers. Merchants provided "trade cards," which advertised their business and gave maps showing the location. When the system of street names and numbers was finally adopted, there were problems. Sometimes two or more streets in the town had the same name, and house numbers were not in numerical order; odd and even numbers often appeared on the same side of the street, and the numbers were often duplicated.

As late as 1857 Philadelphia was the first city to standardize street addresses. They renamed streets which had the same names, and renumbered buildings in sequential order. Other cities began to follow the "Philadelphia Plan," and by the early 1900s most American cities and towns were using a street address system. In 1888 London eliminated duplicate street names and renumbered houses based on their proximity to post offices.

There are still cities today that do not use street addresses. Managua, Nicaragua, uses a system based on landmarks and 100-meter blocks. An address would be something like "one block up (east) and two blocks toward the lake (north) of the Hotel Inter-Continental."

SOURCE: *History Magazine* (Jan. 2004)

VIKING BURIAL SITE IN ENGLAND. Recently a 10th century Viking burial ground was discovered in England, with men and women buried with swords, spears, jewelry and fire-making materials. It is the first burial ground discovered in England. Previously a Viking cemetery was found, but bodies had been cremated, not buried. *Antiques & Collecting* (Nov. 2004)

OWL GUMBO ANYONE? Long ago, barred owls were sold in the French Market of New Orleans as ingredients for gumbo. *Louisiana Life* (Autumn 2004)

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM *THE AMERICAN* (11 NOVEMBER 1896)

Information gathered by MICK HENDRIX, Member #1296

The hotly-contested election is over. President GROVER CLEVELAND is on his way out of office, and WILLIAM McKINLEY won the presidency, much to the chagrin of most southwest Louisiana residents. Louisiana gave her 8 electoral votes to WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN, the South's candidate, and his platform for Free Silver. Editorials claimed that BRYAN was defeated by big northern money interests and the influence of the administration which was in power. R. F. BROUSSARD is the winner in the local elections. Everyone is hoping for more prosperous times. The front page of the *American* referred to an article entitled "King Cotton's Slaves," written by WALLACE P. REED, which described the lot of the southern cotton farmer as "unprogressive and hopeless chaos." This observance is refuted by several gentlemen, who stated that the diversity of crops, cattle breeding, fruit-raising and truck-farming have made many southern farmers a good livelihood, and that many have "accumulated farms in this area ranging in value from \$5,000 to \$25,000." Game is plentiful in the rice marshes and ducks are fat.

Seven inches of snow fell in Illinois last week, so many northern visitors have come to southwest Louisiana to escape the winter. Included in this group are Mr. JOSEPH SHIVELY and wife, Mr. and Mrs. L. S. METZER with their grown son and four daughters, who come from Cerro Gordo, Illinois; Mr. METZER purchased the property adjoining the boulevard, upon which he erected a commodious residence. Mr. and Mrs. WILLIAM LOREE of Vinton, Iowa, arrived to spend the winter here, accompanied by Miss ALMA WITHROW, who will spend the winter with her sister, Mrs. HORACE EDDY.

Other visitors to the city were Prof. E. K. BROWN and A. E. BOGSLEY of Welsh and C. F. TAYLOR and MONROE BROWN of Raymond. The latter two gentlemen have resided in this parish ten or twelve years and have made a success of general farming. They were formerly of Iowa, and could not be induced to return to that country to reside. JAMES WATT is visiting with E. SCOTT and family. Miss MAYME SILING, who is teaching near Iowa, visited her parents. Dr. G. H. COLLINS, dentist from Atchison, Kansas, arrived with a view of locating here. Mrs. F. D. PRICE of Carrolton, Illinois, and Mrs. T. A. SMITH of White Hall are visiting the family of Mr. CROSS. Dr. F. M. HOWE, wife and son arrived from Croggen, Iowa, to make this city their home. He is a homeopath physician, and will practice his profession here.

Dr. B. C. MILLS is taking a few days vacation in the country. J. H. HOLLEMAN and a party of friends left for the Gulf to spend a few days hunting, fishing and oyster gathering. Mrs. J. H. HOUSEMAN returned from a weeks' visit to Oberlin. Mrs. J. M. MASON, who has been visiting with friends and relatives in Iowa, returned home. Mrs. J. W. WATSON and Mrs. G. D. CONNELLY visited with Mrs. BAKER south of town. Prof. J. G. MOSS returned from Coal Creek, where he has been teaching the last five months. Mrs. LEEKIE, the vocalist who has been visiting with Mrs. McIVER, left for her home in London, England. Mrs. F. H. BEARDSLEY returned home from Hot Springs.

Many improvements are being made in town. The Lake Charles Carriage & Implement Co. is painting the front of their store, and Messrs. CAMPBELL and CRAWFORD painted the front of the Tram Saloon and Restaurant. BOYER McCAIN is building an addition to his store room on South Ryan Street, and ELSTNER & KRETZ are enlarging their store room, due to increased business. PAT CROWLEY has purchased a fine wagon for his laundry; it was manufactured by J. K. McDONALD of this city and was painted by PETE MARTIN. J. S. SMITH, manager of Cramer's Book Store, leaves for New Orleans, where he will purchase the largest assortment of Christmas goods and novelties that was ever brought to Lake Charles; he will also visit friends and relatives in his old home at Poplarville, Mississippi. The improvements on J. C. SUTTLE's house are progressing nicely. E. MOCH was not satisfied with painting his house; now he is painting his fence. W. C. BOAZ has begun the erection of a fine residence on the corner of Hodges and Pujoe Streets for L. A. GOODMAN: it will be a handsome

two-storied house with modern improvements. Yesterday a tenant house belonging to JOHN BURNETT caught fire on the roof; the fire company put out the fire after it had consumed the roof.

FRANK HARMON has accepted a position with the Lake Charles Drug Store. Rev. CLAUDE JONES, pastor of the Christian Church, lost his umbrella; he needs a wife to look after him. The ladies of the Presbyterian Church will give a "Ten Cent Tea" at the home of Mrs. FRANK ROBERTS. A most delightful entertainment was given by Mr. and Mrs. ARAD THOMPSON at "Jessamine Villa," their beautiful home on Kirby Street, for the benefit of the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Dr. T. H. WATKINS and wife returned from their wedding trip and are now in their home on Moss Street, north of Broad. FRANK H. McCANN, freight conductor of the K. C. W. & G. Railway, returned home from his visit to Zanesville, Ohio, with a new wife. Mrs. OTTO MARSH has moved into her new home near the Central School building. Mrs. MURRAY moved into the EDGAR GEORGE house.

One of the most enjoyable entertainments of the season took place at the home of Miss ANNIE GILL. Among those present were: her sister, Mrs. G. T. ALFRED, Miss HEMPHILL, MAUDE REED (sic, REID), PEARL and MABEL DEES, BERTHA and FLORA MARSH, EMMA OLSEN, MOLLIE KINDER, _____ SWEENEY, GERSULA LYONS, NERVA FAUCETT, DAN GORHAM, WESLEY WELSH, ESTARGE LeBLANC, FRED WEBER and TED DEES. The first prize in the guessing games was a cup and saucer, which was won by FRED WEBER. Miss PEARL DEES won the booby prize, a rubber doll.

S. W. PIERCE is recovering from a two weeks' illness, which was brought on by over exertion. B. F. HETRICK, Road Master of the K. C. W. & G. Railway is quite sick with the pleurisy. JOE READ, editor of the *Lake Charles Press* is very sick; last night friends thought he was dying, but he rallied and is some better.

Marriage licenses for the week ending 6 November 1896 were issued for the following:

- November 4 -- JOSEPH A. LAWSON and MINNIE E. McKINZIE.
- November 4 -- DOOZIN SONIER and CELESTE GARY.
- November 4 -- BENSON H. PRATER and BEULAH M. ANDRUS.
- November 5 -- AUGUSTUS BRATTON and MATILDA HAYWOOD.
- November 6 -- JEFFERSON ABBOT and SISSY PONCHO.

It was announced that the marriage of ALFRED LAWTON and Miss MINNIE McKENZIE took place in the Church of the Good Shepherd in Lake Charles last Wednesday evening, with Rev. JOSEPH SPEARING officiating. The couple will reside at their new and elegant home on Lawrence Street, which was a present to the bride from her mother, Mrs. McKENZIE of Lake Charles. Mr. LAWTON is the engineer with the Lake Charles Rice Mill.

J. P. GEARY, Postmaster, advertised letters for the following persons for the week ending Saturday, 7 November 1896. Some of these people were transients; others may not have a permanent address or place of residence in the area. These lists may help to prove the location of our ancestors at a specific time and place.

LADIES LIST: Mrs. SIDDIE ALLEN, Mrs. F. B. BANTA, Mrs. ELVA BASARD, Mrs. EMANUEL BOURLAN, Miss GERTRUDE DUPREAST, Miss ADIE FARQUE, Miss MAY FOSSETT, Miss IDEL GANT, Mrs. BELLE GIDEAU, Mrs. MARTHA GOUDARD, Mrs. OPHELIA GOURLY, Mrs. E. H. GRAHAM, Mrs. ONNER GREENLIEF, Miss MARY HELLAN, Miss MANDA HENRY, Mrs. PHENA HUBBARD, Mrs. DILLYAN MANNING, Miss MARY O'QUINN, Mrs. EMMA PALLER, Mrs. GRACEY PALLERT, Miss PEGIL ROBINSON, Mrs. I. SIMPSON, Miss A. WASHINGTON, Miss SILVA WILLIAMS and Mrs. LILLIAN WILSON.

GENTLEMEN'S LIST: MELARNE BATEST, ISAM BROWN, P. COLUMBUS, B. F. COOPER, L. J. DUNN, E. E. FINNEY, CHARLIE FOURMAN, G. W. GIBSON, BEN GRAHAM, H. W. GRAY,

ROST GUILLORY, G. S. HONES, THOS. HOLLAND, JOSHUA HORTMAN, FANNAL HUZZY, J. B. JOHNSON, F. KENNEDY, J. J. KINGREY, JULES LeBLEU, R. E. LEE, LOUIS LOGUE, P. P. LOILLORY, JOSEPH MILLER, LUCIEN MOSS, C. L. ROBINSON, CHRISTOPHER SMITH, E. W. STARKS, H. E. WALTERS, JUDSON M. WATSON and G. W. WEBB.

Pupils at the Richardson School House, five miles east of Lake Charles, provided entertainment. The following persons took part in the program: CHARLES W. ALLEN, PEARL ALLEN, LOUIS BRASHEAR, BLANCHE COLLINS, MAMIE FARRELL, ROXIE FARRELL, Dr. JOE GOODMAN, MARINA GOODMAN, NETTIE GOODMAN, ELLEN LeBLEU, FARYOLE LeBLEU, FREDDIE LeBLEU, LILLIE LeBLEU, LOTTIE LeBLEU, FRANK MARSHALL, WALTER MARSHALL, CHARLES MUMMEY, MAUD MUMMEY, MINNIE MUMMEY and WILL MUMMEY. Miss ELLA RAY, teacher, awarded prizes to FRANK MARSHALL and ELLEN LeBLEU.

Advertisements in the paper were typical of the time. The German Kali Works, based in New York, were the makers of "Kainit," and advertised the potash based product to control "Blight," which they stated "costs cotton planters more than five million dollars annually." The Thinacura Co. of New York stated that their product contained no arsenic, and would cure people of being too thin, would make thin faces plump and would round out the figure. Parker's Ginger Tonic was advertised as a cure for "lung troubles, debility, distressing stomach and female ills." Parker's Hair Balsam was advertised to cleanse, beautify and promote a luxuriant growth of hair, while never failing to restore gray hair to its youthful color; it also cured scalp disease and hair falling. English Diamond Brand Pennyroyal Pills were touted as a "Relief for Ladies." The Great Wallace Shows announced that their circus would be coming to town. Three hundred horses in admirable condition, "are used to transport the circus."

Loyal advertisements included that of I. REINAUER, "The Leading Clothier," whose store was on Ryan Street; he advertised clothing for men and boys, with collars and cuffs a specialty. LEVY & BENDEL also called themselves "The Leading Clothiers." The Palace Grocery, with KELLY & WEBER as proprietors, advertised flour, meal, meat, potatoes, coffee, tea and fancy groceries. WOOLMAN's on the corner of Ryan and Pujos Streets advertised tobacco, smoking articles, ammunition, loaded shells and guns of any kind. The Lake Charles Ice, Light & Water Works Co., gave prices for wood and coal. D. R. SWIFT, "The Transfer Man" and proprietor of the Lake Charles Livery, Feed and Sale Stable on Ryan Street, advertised hauling, grading and ditching at reasonable prices, along with his "undertaking depot." EDDY Bros. Dry Goods Company advertised "Union Suits" and underwear for men, women and children, in wool, cotton and jersey.

ALL OVER THE PARISH

RAYMOND. The town polled 62 votes in the last election. J. W. RITTER commenced to thresh his rice. Miss NETTIE BROWN entertained friends at a dinner Thursday, in honor of her 18th birthday. BRIGGS and COOPER are sawing logs for C. F. TAYLOR. Rev. P. A. BROWN of Jennings preached here and visited with G. S. BROWN. The W.C.T.U. met at the home of Mrs. G. N. BROWN. L. R. PARKER's family moved to Jennings and rented the farm to FRANK RITTER for his father who is expected from Iowa.
(Signed) UNO

OBERLIN. Two light frosts culminated in a freeze; four feet rise in the Calcasieu River, with a prospect of more. Dr. PERCY is having his house ceiled, preparing for cold weather, Thanksgiving and Christmas turkeys. The doctor's countenance looks as long as the moral law on account of losing the Oberlin post office, while neighbor CLEMENTS and his assistants do not appear to be over well pleased at having received it. The Oberlin school enrollment for October was 40 students, with 17 absent or tardy last month. Among the most prominent visitors for the week are: JOSEPH MOORE, Jr., Capt. BACHEMAN, Father VAN de VEN, J. J. W. MILLER, JULIUS FRANK, Mrs. J. L. HOUSEMAN and children, Mrs. C. C. HILL and daughter, J. M. HOUSTON, S. BELDEN and G. W. RICHARDSON.
(Signed) XIOUS

(Continued next issue)

CIVILIAN DRAFT REGISTRATIONS: CAMERON PARISH, LOUISIANA

Continued from Vol. 28 No. 4

The following information was abstracted by RAYMOND H. BANKS from Cameron Parish civilian draft registration cards completed in 1917-1918. These draft registrations are not the same as inductions into the military; approximately 85% of the registrants never went into military service. Mr. BANKS explains that there was a particular problem with regard to Cameron Parish registrants. At that time in the parish, there was a high percentage of illiterate registrants, and, as a result, the registrars had to guess at the spelling of many names. Names in the following list are spelled as they appear in the records. Mr. BANKS has kindly granted *Kinfolks* the right to publish his research, but these pages may not be reproduced in any format for profit or presentation by any other organization or persons without written consent of the contributor, or the legal representative of the submitter. Files may be printed or copied for personal use only.

Almost 24 million men registered for the draft in World War I, but they did not always register in the county of their residence. Some men do not have birth locations listed because they registered on the final draft registration day in 1918 when this information was not recorded. These records are not actually military records. Original cards are housed at the National Archives branch near Atlanta, Georgia. Microfilmed copies of the original cards are maintained by the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Days Saints (LDS), and, for a small fee, reels can be borrowed from Salt Lake City for use at LDS Family History Centers. The compiler has not abstracted the registrant's address, the name and address of his next of kin, occupation, work address, general physical description and disability, if any; this additional information may be found on the original draft registration cards. Please consult the original card to verify all information.

NAME	BIRTH DATE	ETHNIC GROUP	BIRTH PLACE	REGISTRATION LOCATION
DAIGLE, BASILE	24 Apr. 1875	W		Cameron, LA
DAIGLE, EDWARD	30 Jan. 1896	W	Cameron, LA	Cameron, LA
DAIGLE, EUGUNA	Jan. 1884	W		Cameron, LA
DAIGLE, HENRY	26 July 1900	W		Cameron, LA
DAIGLE, ODEE	26 July 1887	W	Cameron, LA	Cameron, LA
DAIGLE, ODEE	26 July 1887	W	[card misfiled in C section]	Cameron, LA
DAIGLE, ZEPHERIN	12 Feb. 1895	W	Cameron, LA	Cameron, LA
DASHON, SEMIEN MILLIDGE	25 Mar. 1897	W	Hackberry, LA	Cameron, LA
DASHON, SEMIEN MILLIDGE	25 Mar. 1897	W	dad b. Johnsons Bayou, LA	Cameron, LA
DAVIES, CHERLEY	3 Sep. 1895	B	Grand Chenier, LA	Cameron, LA
DAVIS, DANIEL WEBSTER (WEBESTER)	18 Feb. 1886	W		Cameron, LA
DAVIS, JAMES RUSSELL	-- May 1890	W	Johnsons Bayou, LA	Cameron, LA
DAVIS, JOHN THOMAS	15 July 1894	W	Johnsons Bayou, LA	
DAVIS, WILLIAM TERRY	8 Feb. 1899	W		Cameron, LA
DELANEY, JOHN	21 July 1877	W		Cameron, LA
DELONEY, JOHN	21 July 1877	W		Cameron, LA
DEMANE, JOHN WESLEY	2 Mar. 1883	W		Cameron, LA
DEMAREST, ALIE	10 Nov. 1877	W		Cameron, LA
DEMAREST, EDMAND	12 July 1899	W		Cameron, LA
DEMARETS, CLEMENT	26 Mar. 1898	W		Cameron, LA
DEMARETS, JOHN DEMOSTAN	24 Feb. 1879	W		Cameron, LA
DEMARRY, DONATE	9 Jan. 1893	W	Calcasieu, LA	Cameron, LA
DEMARY, ANTOINE	27 Jan. 1889	W	Calcasieu, LA	Cameron, LA
DEMARY, CAMILE	17 Mar. 1891	W	Calcasieu, LA	Cameron, LA
DEMARY, EUCLID	5 Aug. 1895	W	Calcasieu, LA	Cameron, LA
DEMARY, JOHN BABTIST	30 Sep. 1898	W		Cameron, LA

son, CLIFTON, die of the "flux" shortly before the move to Louisiana. "Flux" was what we call diarrhea today, which means the baby probably could have been saved with today's medicine. "I remember riding CLIFTON on my back," Mama said. "When I went to his funeral I rode in the wagon beside my Aunt ARIEL, who was dressed prim and proper." The first-born son, S. E., younger than LILLIE LEE, had "burned up" when his flannel nightgown caught fire at the family's fireplace. So, three children traveled with Mr. and Mrs. KING to the state of Louisiana. The couple was to have one more child a daughter named ELMA MILLER, born in Bon Ami.

Shortly after arriving in Bon Ami, young CAROLINE accompanied her dad to a furniture store in DeRidder, to get furniture for their company house. She doesn't recall if the store manager had to order the selected furniture from a catalog or if it was in the store. When her dad was transacting his business, she noticed a little black purse with a chain handle hanging on a hook above her head. She evidently stared lovingly at it. "I wanted it so bad," she said. Her dad didn't buy it for her, but the manager gave her the purse before she left. She was thrilled with the unexpected gift! Louisiana Lagniappe!

As life unfolded in Bon Ami, it was my grandfather, S. E. (ST. ELMO) KING, who usually made the important store purchases. My grandmother, LILLIE, was always busy at home, I'm told, doing the many household jobs. She developed a close friendship with a lady who lived around the block, and on occasion CAROLINE and her mother would go to visit, but this did not happen often because the workload for women was so heavy. They took care of their children, did family sewing and mending, washed and ironed the clothes, cleaned the house, prepared meals and baked the breads and desserts. The multitude of tasks included raising food in the garden. "Once the man in the family had plowed the ground, his garden work was done. Not all, but most of the women had gardens so they would have vegetables to eat and can for the winter. Beans, peas, corn, squash, tomatoes and okra all came out of the garden," Mama said. Canning was a precise, time-consuming, demanding procedure, but was necessary for family nourishment and economy. Having ice for cooling food was also important. This was made possible because "the ice man came very day, and would stop in front of the house with his wagon load of ice."

Large ice blocks in the covered wagon were protected by straw and burlap sacks. The ice man used a saw to cut the correct size ice block, and often the shavings were delicious treats for children who could get some off the wagon. Mama said that the ice man's "usual order was for twenty-five pounds." He would bring the block of ice into the kitchen with large tongs, open the top door of the metal-lined ice box, and drop the ice into place. Food was placed in the bottom compartment of the ice box through a door that opened on the front.

Mama told, "There was a truck from DeRidder that brought the new 'light' bread to the commissary. It was a loaf of already baked bread you could buy, instead of baking it yourself. There was a lot said about it when it first came. You would have to slice it, but it was something not having to bake it! It was light in color. That's why we called it 'light' bread. We usually had hoe cake or biscuits for breakfast, and cornbread at the other meals. Sometimes we had milk and cornbread together, and it was good. The bread truck also brought cookies and doughnuts. Later you could buy the 'light' bread sliced."

Bon Ami was located near large pine forests, where trees were cut, then pulled out of the virgin timberland. The size of the pine trees was impressive. Mama said that they were so big around that people hearing them described today would not believe their size. When these gigantic pines were cut, "the falling of trees would shake the earth." She remembers running at recess time to the front of the school yard so she and her friends could watch the logs being pulled down the dirt road. There was a flat board across the top of the wooden fence and they would sit there watching the logs leave their trail in the dirt. A man would be walking beside the two or four mules that strained to keep the logs moving to the mill. He guided the mules as he walked by holding the reins of the team. The students were told that they would "get a whipping if you get on the other side of the fence."

Everyone stayed on the fence!

The logs were moved down the road, later put on railroad flat cars to be taken to the mill. Large pinchers and chains were used to put them where they should be. Once they reached the mill they were dumped into the pond. There were special times when CAROLINE's dad would walk with his older children down to the millpond so they could watch the log rollers. It was fascinating to "watch the men walking on the logs in the water rolling them with their fast-moving feet and guiding them with their long sticks, which had hooks on the end." They could pull a log out of its tight place, jump across moving logs, push and pull others to get them into the right area. Mama explained, "The man in charge would point to a log, locked in its place, and motion to the men to move it out of the pond. The men never failed to work the log where it should go," Mama told. To hear Mama describe it, she stood there a little breathless, "wondering each time if a man would fall into the water, but he never did." It was a grand way to spend time with her dad, who must have been proud of the expertise shown by the log walkers!

Logs were guided to a large trough which angled skyward many feet, and each log was pulled upriver by chains. Mama raised her voice when she said, "The noise was something to hear. Today you have no idea of the noise heard in the direction of the mill. There were loud screeching and clanging, thumping and grinding noises that a child would never forget." Children were not allowed to get close to the machinery. "The mill had the smell of wood, hot wood," she said, as the large saws ripped through the logs. A skidder would have first shaved off the branches and bark. When the bark around the logs was stripped away, the smell of pine was everywhere. Without the outer bark, the logs were ready for the planing mill.

Mama liked to take her dad his lunch. "Everything and everyone was within walking distance," she said more than once. Mama was told ahead of time where to meet her dad, and sometimes he was there, other times he was elsewhere checking on things and doing his work. He had to keep everything running properly, and he was serious about doing it right. When Mama took lunch to her dad, she had to walk through many stacks of lumber. As far as she could see the long planks were stacked high, a layer in one direction, the next layer in the opposite direction. The roads through the stacks "were traveled everyday, and there were always mules bringing in more lumber."

CAROLINE had a difficult time seeing beyond all the stacks, and I imagine it was somewhat like a gigantic maze for a little girl to walk through. She had to "drop her head back" to look toward the tops of the stacks. The sun kept the dirt and sawdust very hot, and Mama, barefoot, would "walk fast" to keep her feet from burning and to get to cooler spots on the way. "Kids in those days went everywhere barefoot," she said, but shoes were worn on Sunday, of course, and in the winter. It's easy for me to imagine a little red-haired, barefoot girl proudly carrying her dad's metal lunch pail during the middle of the day. It was an important task, and skipping through the sun-splashed, hot sawdust, getting closer and closer to the many loud sounds of the mill, must have made it an adventure. No wonder Mama remembers it so vividly! When her dad left his day shift at the mill, another "engineer" replaced him.

She tells me she was a very fast runner, "could outrun the boys," and was a good ball player. I don't doubt it. And with her deep auburn hair, which looked like it was on fire when the sun hit the many waves and curls in it, she wouldn't be overlooked. "I always had a good time," I have heard her say. "Kids don't know what they've missed...they have too much these days. We always did the right thing," Mama strongly stated, "or as near as you could do it."

Going to church in Bon Ami was expected and encouraged, so "most people went to church, the kind of church not being as important as the going." All Protestants attended the same church. One preacher led the flock of different denominations, who participated in Sunday School classes and church services. "I used to wonder why my Italian friends didn't come to our church," said Mama. "Later I found out they were Catholic, but I didn't know what that meant."

There was an area "at the end of the town" where Mexican employees and their families lived, and another area where Italians lived and had companionship with each other. Mama thinks that those who were of the Catholic faith met together in different places for church services, unless they traveled to DeRidder, which meant a wagon ride of about two miles. Few people had cars. The black employees and families "lived on the other side of the railroad track." There was a love of music among the Mexican people, and their guitarists played and sang on Saturday nights for many hours. Their stirring music frightened my mother because it was so different from what she knew. When she "lay in bed listening to it, it was always scary," and she would pull the sheet over her head.

LILLIE L. (STEWART) KING did not usually attend church. There was always a younger child or baby who needed home care, and there was, of course, the daily work of the home, which did not stop on Sunday. It was the older children who walked to church, for S. E. KING worked every day at the mill! There was always a race on the way home to get the funny papers. At that time there were four comic strips in the Sunday paper that CAROLINE loved to see and have read to her. They were *Maggie & Jiggs*, *The Katzenjammer Kids*, *Mutt & Jeff* and *The Houlligan Kids*. Mama, having shorter legs than her elder sister, did not always get to them first.

CAROLINE recalled, "One Sunday I pretended to be sick, because I wanted to read the funny papers before my sister. Mama gave me a dose of castor oil to make me feel better. I was never again sick on Sunday!" Castor oil provided an annual "cleaning out" for all the children. Mama remembers she'd be given three calma [chamomile] pills, which made her a little dizzy and pushed her to the out house. The next morning she would be given a dose of castor oil. Ugh!

"The young people of Bon Ami would take long walks to be with friends on Sunday afternoons." One or two would get together, decide to go to another friend's house, "not caring how far away it was," and walk there. Then those friends would walk to another's home "down the road." There was little to do, or little allowed to do, on Sunday, but there was fun in being together. Everyone who wanted joined the strolls. Older women did hand work or needle work when they weren't providing meals and cleaning up afterwards. Relaxing and visiting on Sundays was for all ages to some degree, and a slower pace was enjoyed by everyone.

Children would spend hours playing in the woods without grown-ups bothering them. Parents knew where their children were and that they were all right. A picnic was the most fun, as Mama describes it, and she still enjoys thinking about it. "Sometimes I would be sent to the butcher to get meat for dinner. If I told him we kids were going on a picnic he'd usually say, 'Let me give you some ham to take.'" Mama said that leftovers, including biscuits, were often part of the lunch, "but I guarantee it wasn't a sandwich. Kids didn't know what sandwiches were." She and her friends would take the food and go into the dark pine woods to play. As soon as they stepped into the woods, it would feel cooler and was "unlike any other place" they knew. It had a magical feeling all its own.

The older children, pulling younger ones in a wagon, could look up into the high branches of the trees, which swayed with every breeze. "The limbs were high because the trees were so thick that only the upper branches could grow." The trees were also very straight, and some were huge in trunk size. "Walking barefoot on the thick layer of pine needles felt good. They made a great slide because they were clean and slick," Mama remembered. The smell of pine surrounded the children, and the trees would sing as the winds moved through them. "The children made up games to play, and it was fun to take sticks, push the pine needles around to make outlines of rooms for play houses. No one worried about us," Mama added.

But the most astonishing things in the early summer were the large, wild violets which pushed up through the pine needles. "Bigger than any wild violets today," Mama has said more than once. "Great big ones!" And Mama thought they were beautiful. Picking violets to take home was a memorable activity. What joy for a child!

While talking about lunches Mama repeats the fact that a cold, baked sweet potato was often part of her school lunch. The potato was always hard to swallow, and she had to "hit my chest several times to make it go down." Today we know the sweet potato is one of the finest foods available to us. Bananas were one of Mama's most desired foods. When she was a child she told herself that when she was grown she would "get an entire stalk of bananas and eat every one." That, of course, never happened.

The disciplinarian at home was her mother. CAROLINE was serious when she said, "Mama didn't waste any time if you deserved a switching. And, oh, how your legs would sting. She pulled a branch off a bush and didn't take off the little shoots, because instead of one switch on your legs, you got a bunch. Her favorite bush for switches was the gallberry. I don't know why I wanted to do things I shouldn't, but I sure got my share of switching. After I was punished, she would make me sit under the kitchen table, which was a heavy, long table. Every time she walked by I would stick out my tongue at her, smiling to myself, thinking I was getting away with something."

Another of my mother's memories which surprised me was this one. She knew an older girl whose father was in charge of everything at the mill. The girl was an only child, had a horse, and was a friend to Mama, who verbally painted this scene. "We'd go the end of the road, get on the horse, wait for the passenger train, and race it! The train engineer would be waving us on. I sat behind my friend, my arms wrapped around her waist as I bounced up and down, my dress whipping in the wind. Sometimes we would beat the train before it got to the depot because it would slow down. I never knew if the train engineer slowed the train because he had to, or because he wanted to give us the thrill of winning the race." There were also freight trains, which carried most of the nation's goods rolling into Bon Ami. The depot must have been a place of interest to everyone in town.

Grown-up Mama later married a Southern Pacific Railroad engineer, JEAN LAFITTE SPILLER, so named because his father admired the pirate's role in helping Americans during the New Orleans battle of the War of 1812. I heard many railroad stories as I grew up, but with all of the things I heard, this story about Mama and her friend racing a train wasn't told to me until Mama was 94 years old. Remarkable!

(to be continued)

THE IMPORTANCE OF ORAL HISTORY

Everybody has a story to tell, something that makes his or her life unique. Experiences and knowledge that was commonplace in past times has been all but lost to us today, and stories of the past can only survive if they are passed on to future generations. Personal interviews and oral history are some of the most important sources of genealogical information and family history. Be sure that personal interviews are included in your family research.

DUMPS. The remnants of many old lumbering and turpentine camps still exist in the rural areas of southwest Louisiana. Walking through the woods, one might stumble upon an old rail, which was part of a tram road in days gone by. Trams usually led to a "dump," a location on a river bluff where logs could be dumped to be floated down the river. Bluffs were always on the outside curve of the river, so "dumps" were also located there. One such "dump" was Martin's Dump, near LeBlanc, Louisiana.

SEVEN MILES BETWEEN TOWNS. Many of the lumbering towns of southwest Louisiana were located about seven miles apart. The theory was that a man could walk three and a-half miles to work, labor for eight hours, then walk the same distance back home each day. When the forests had been cut three and a-half miles in very direction from the lumber camp, the camp was moved seven miles from the next settlement.

FERRY TALES ALONG THE RIVERS OF OLD IMPERIAL CALCASIEU PARISH, LA

Once upon a time the meandering old Calcasieu River, like other rivers and bayous of southwest Louisiana, was lined with moss-draped cypress trees. Wild animals...bears, bobcats, panthers and snakes...blended with the wild irises and spider lilies that lined their banks. Great bull-frogs croaked, alligators drummed, and mosquitoes, carrying deadly yellow fever and malaria, swarmed in the sunset and buzzed through the night. Virgin forests of cypress, walnut, pine and oak covered the land. It was a lovely, idealistic setting, full of opportunity for the enterprising, but fraught with danger for the unwary. When white settlers first came to southwest Louisiana, the only way to cross the many rivers and streams was to swim across or go by boat. As settlements grew up all along the rivers, some residents built hand-pulled log rafts or ferries to transport people, horses and vehicles. Most of the early ferries were toll ferries, a way for a man who lived along the river to make a living. Later, the state or local governing body set ferriage rates and rules. There are few records for early southwestern Louisiana; the population of the area was too sparse to warrant too much government surveillance or control, but it is known that ferries were here long before there were written accounts of them. There were probably ferries at important river crossings along the Old Spanish Trail before these ferries were legally established.

After the Louisiana Purchase, the earliest ferries in southwest Louisiana were privately owned and operated, and the privilege of establishing a ferry was given by the State of Louisiana. In 1824 the State of Louisiana granted to HYPOLITE GUIDRY the exclusive privilege of keeping a ferry over the River Mermentau, "at a place where the wild river intersects the Bayou Nez Pique." The earliest ferry on the Calcasieu River whose existence can be proved is **Divers' or Devers' Ferry**. This ferry was replaced when the State of Louisiana granted by a Legislative Act on 4 January 1830 the "exclusive privilege" of keeping a ferry on the West Fork of the Calcasieu to REES PERKINS and his heirs. There are lines on old maps that may indicate that there was a ferry across the Calcasieu at a point near what was later known as **Perkins' Ferry**. It was at this point that the Old Spanish Trail going from east to west crossed the Calcasieu.

After 1840, when Imperial Calcasieu Parish was carved from Imperial St. Landry Parish, permission to keep a ferry was given by the Parish Police Jurors. Five present-day parishes...Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron and Jeff Davis...were included in old Imperial Calcasieu, and the Police Jury governed them all. There were many ferries that crossed the inland waterways and rivers, and at least a dozen on the Calcasieu River. Most of the ferries were privately owned and operated, but on 7 June 1871 the Police Jury declared the following ferries to be public ferries: **Hortman's** and **Nix Ferries** on the Calcasieu, **Turner's** and **McCorquodale's** on the Sabine, **Carriere's** "on the Darbonne" [actually Bayou Nez Pique], **Leblanc's** and **Lopez Ferries** on the Mermentau. The following day the Police Jury ordained that these ferries would be leased "at Public auction, to the highest bidder at the Court House door, after an advertisement of thirty days in a newspaper printed in this parish."

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southwest Louisiana they remained for many years; in some of the rural parts of the country, ferries are still a fact of life. The old ferries were a part of life that will not pass this way again. Information on the old ferries of Imperial Calcasieu Parish was gathered and compiled by ANNA MARIE HAYES and BETTY TYLER ROSTEET, with the assistance of JEANNE FARQUE. A series of articles on the old ferries will follow in subsequent issues of *Kinfolks*.

DEVERS', REES PERKINS', BUCHANAN'S, & LYONS FERRY

Location: Calcasieu River near Westlake

Date of Charter to REES PERKINS, 15 March 1830

One of the earliest ferries in southwestern Louisiana was **Devers' Ferry** (also seen as **Divers' Ferry**), which was built at a crossing point on the Calcasieu River along the old Spanish Trail. It was operated by PHILLIP P. DEVERS sometime before 1830. This ferry crossed the Calcasieu River from present-day Westlake to the village of Lake Charles. Nothing more is known of **Devers' Ferry**, except that DEVERS is mentioned in the Louisiana Legislative Acts No. 261 and 276 (see below). DEVERS bought land from CHARLES SAVOYARD [SALLIER], then sold it to BURRELL FRANKS, who, in turn, sold it to GIBSON JOHNSON, who sold it to REES PERKINS before 1830. PERKINS was a prominent man in the area, and appears several times as a land claimant in the old records.

The following Acts pertaining to REES PERKINS' land claims were found in *Acts Passed At the Second Legislative Session of the Ninth Legislature of the State of Louisiana*.

261. REES PERKINS of the Parish of St. Landry, assignee of GIBSON JOHNSON, (who purchased of DEVERS, who purchased of BURRELL FRANKS) filed his notice claiming by virtue of occupation, inhabitation, and cultivation, a tract of land lying within the late neutral territory, situated on the north side of the west branch of the Quelqueshue [Calcasieu] river, about four miles above the improvement made by JOHN GILCHRIS, and containing 640 acres. In support of this claim the following testimony was taken before the board.

"BURRELL FRANKS, being sworn, deposeth that he knows the land since the year 1818, that about that time, and before February 1819, CHARLES SAVOYARD [SALLIER] made a settlement and improvement of about two acres, planted in corn, etc.; that said SAVOYARD made a verbal transfer of said settlement to this deponent who sold to DEVERS, who sold to GIBSON JOHNSON, who sold to the claimant, that the said land is situated on the north side of the west branch of the Quelqueshue river, and about four miles above the improvement made by JOHN GILCHRIS, at the first fork of the west branch." It is not shown that the land claimed was either occupied or cultivated February 22, 1819, by the claimant, or those under whom he held.

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WILLIAM HENRY PERRIN's book, *Southwest Louisiana Biographical and Historical*, published in 1891, addresses the "ferry question" that concerned many residents of the parish. Mr. PERRIN asked, "Why not have free ferries, or at least cheap ferries?" He goes on to say that some think it would be too expensive to maintain free ferries and the parish needed the revenue, but Vermilion Parish, which has only about three-quarters of the population of Calcasieu, has free ferries and bridges. He faults the Police Jury for creating monopolies on ferries.

Apparently the Police Jury listened to the demands for free ferries, for on 18 July 1890, the following report of the President of the Police Jury of Calcasieu Parish "relative to selling Ferries" was read and carried. The report was signed by ADOLPH MEYER. "Pursuant to a Resolution of the Police Jury of Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, I proceeded to sell, according to Law and said Resolution dated July 16th A.D. 1890, I did sell all ferries on Calcasieu River and it's Tributaries on the 12th day of April 1890 as follows:

Hickory Branch to IRWIN PERKINS for.....	\$ 5.00
English Bayou to A. BABIN & KIRKWOOD for.....	\$100.00
IRWIN PERKINS to J. H. MATERN for.....	\$ 35.00
MOSS Place to E. A. & M. D. MATERN for.....	\$ 12.00
CARR's Place to W. A. KIRKWOOD for.....	\$ 50.00
Bayou Dinde to THOMAS WINKEY for.....	\$ 5.00
PERKINS Ferry (West Fork) to W. SWEARENGER [sic] for.....	\$ 2.50
Total Amount.....	\$809.00
Paid J. C. GIBBS for Blanks & Bonds.....	\$ 25.00
ADOLPH MEYER, 10 percent of \$809.00 for making sales and	
Taking Bond for Ferries.....	\$ 80.95
Balance due and paid Parish Treasurer as per Report.....	\$703.35

On 8 February 1905, bids for running ferries were read and the following rates of ferriage were allowed to be charged from 5 A.M. to 8 P.M. on the ferries of Calcasieu Parish:

Foot Passengers - 5¢ each way	2 Horses & Buggy - 15¢ or 25¢ round trip
Horse & Rider - 10¢ each way	2 Horses & Wagon - 15¢ or 25¢ round trip
Horse & Buggy - 15¢ or 25¢ round trip	Ox team, 1 Yoke & Wagon - 25¢ each way and
	10¢ additional for each extra yolk of oxen

Rates of charge for crossing before 6 o'clock in the morning and after 8 o'clock at night were to be left to the ferryman and the person desiring to cross.

Police Jury Minutes for 7 February and 7 March 1905 listed the following ferry-keepers and their monthly salaries: WILLIAM BURLEY, \$25.00; HENRY BOND, \$20.00; A. E. GOOS, \$25.00; JAMES JOHNSON, \$30.00; A. MOORE, \$30.00; Mrs. E. MORGAN, \$25.00; and H. H. WHITE, \$30.00. After this date, ferry-keepers are no longer listed on the payroll in the Minutes.

The old ferries were poled or hand-powered, pulled by ropes that spanned the waterway; the ropes were attached to trees on either side of the river or bayou. On the rope-operated ferries, the ferry operator used a large wooden wrench, or paddle-like tool with a notch cut out, to catch the rope, then pulled as he walked the length of the ferry; when he came to the end, he dislodged his tool and went to the front of the ferry and started again, repeating the process until the ferry arrived at its landing. Later the ferries were made public transportation, owned and maintained by the parish, with no fee for their use. As the lumber industry developed, ferry makers built ferries right on the banks of the water, from smooth, pine or cypress, and launched them right into the water. As time passed, most ferries were made large enough to hold two or three vehicles; some could transport even more. SIDNEY ALBERT ARMISTEAD of Moss Bluff, who originally came to the area as a steamship engineer, built some of the early ferries. After World War II many of the old ferries were motorized, and the work of the operator was lessened. Now bridges span most of the streams, and the old ferries are a part of the past.

There are many accidents with the ferries. Sometimes they became unbalanced and sank. In other

cases, wagons, carriages or cars ran off one end of the ferry. In her interview with PAT GOOS in 1987, NOLA MAE ROSS writes about one accident: "When the river was low, it sometimes caused accidents. Once a man named MARTIN BATTLES drove his Model A Coupe onto the [Goos] ferry. When the ferry docked and ran up on the ramp, the back end sank way down. BATTLES, who was walking around the ferry, watched in horror as the car slid off into the river. When it came up, it was full of fish." In an interview in 1987, BILL LONG told about an accident at Perkins Ferry: "The vehicle was a Model T owned by a Mr. ALEXANDER. Brakes were not too good on some of the Model T's. This one drove onto the ferry and ran right off the front end. ALEXANDER was still in the Model T, and when he and the car popped up in the river, he still had his glasses on. He was rescued, and the Model T was pulled out." WHITE also recalled, "One time when my father was running the [Moss Bluff] ferry, a cattleman wanted to ferry his cows across the river. The cows were loaded onto the ferry, but they misjudged the weight, and put too many on. The ferry sank." Pictures of the accidents on the old ferries can be found in old newspapers and in the McNeese Archives. A picture in the *Lake Charles American Press* of 23 August 1987 accompanies Mrs. ROSS' article on ferries. It shows a Model T car with its roof folded down, hanging onto the ferry only by its back wheels; the front of the car is in the water at the West Lake Ferry.

Every change in water level and wind required adjustment, and ferry cables had to be changed to meet these differences. Most ferries were in service twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Many ferry operators fished and maintained small gardens near the ferry during their spare time. An article in the *Lake Charles American Press*, dated 25 April 1956, entitled "The Vanishing Ferry," stated that the "operation of ferries in Calcasieu Parish is the greatest single parish expense. Yearly maintenance and operation costs are usually around \$60,000. The ferries are at Indian Bayou, Perkins Ferry (behind the HUTCHINS Lumber Company), Dunn Ferry on the West Fork of the Calcasieu, Anthony Ferry on the Houston River and Gum Cove Ferry on the Intracoastal Canal." At that time, beside the parish-operated ferries, the state maintained the Gibbstown, Black Bayou and Creole Ferries in Calcasieu Parish.

Although there was mention of many ferries in the old records, there was little information about any of them. Some of the old ferries changed names as their ferry-keepers changed, so they are difficult to trace. The exact location of many of the old ferries is lost in time; old maps do not show their locations. Spelling varied, and, in some cases, it was difficult to tell if the ferries were the same ones; for example, there were several Perkins Ferries, but how many were at the same location? And was Whitten's Ferry the same as Whitman's Ferry? A great deal of the information in the following articles were extracted from the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury records and from the scrapbooks of Miss MAUDE REID, Lake Charles' unofficial historian, who also took information from the old Police Jury records. The handwriting was often so difficult to read that she remarked, "The records of this time are badly written." Other information has been taken from censuses, maps, various newspaper articles and *The Civil War Veterans of Old Imperial Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana*, which the SWLGS published. Some information on the old towns near the ferries was gleaned from JOHN GERMAN's *Louisiana Post Offices*. The names of ferry-keepers and overseers of the public roads near them are given to help genealogists locate their ancestors and their homes.

Among the ferries that plied back and forth across various places on the long, meandering Calcasieu River were: **Berry's, Blunt's, Buchanan's, Buller's, Burnett's, Cary's, Carriere's, Clement's, Clifton's, Cole's, Courville's, Divers' or Devers', Fruge's, Frugee's, Gillet's, Gilley's, Goos', Hall's, Handrechy's, Hebert's, Hortman's, Johnson, Kaough's, Lebleu's, Lyons, Maignaud's, Moss', Moss & Riddick's, Moss Bluff, Neal's, Nichols', Nix, Norris, Perkins'** (which was, in turn, also called **Buchanan's and Lyons**) and **Reid's**. Ferries that crossed the West Fork of the Calcasieu included: **Bendy's, Fitzenreiter's, Hix or Hicks', Indian Bayou, Lyles, Lyons, Morgan's, Moss, Parker's, Perkins', Richie's, Smith's, Stine, Swearingen's, Welsh or Walsh's**, and the **West Fork Ferries**.

These ferries all played a part in the early history and development of southwest Louisiana. In many parts of the country, ferries became obsolete relics and were replaced by bridges long ago, but in

southwest Louisiana they remained for many years; in some of the rural parts of the country, ferries are still a fact of life. The old ferries were a part of life that will not pass this way again. Information on the old ferries of Imperial Calcasieu Parish was gathered and compiled by ANNA MARIE HAYES and BETTY TYLER ROSTEET, with the assistance of JEANNE FARQUE. A series of articles on the old ferries will follow in subsequent issues of *Kinfolks*.

DEVERS', REES PERKINS', BUCHANAN'S, & LYONS FERRY

Location: Calcasieu River near Westlake

Date of Charter to REES PERKINS, 15 March 1830

One of the earliest ferries in southwestern Louisiana was **Devers' Ferry** (also seen as **Divers' Ferry**), which was built at a crossing point on the Calcasieu River along the old Spanish Trail. It was operated by PHILLIP P. DEVERS sometime before 1830. This ferry crossed the Calcasieu River from present-day Westlake to the village of Lake Charles. Nothing more is known of **Devers' Ferry**, except that DEVERS is mentioned in the Louisiana Legislative Acts No. 261 and 276 (see below). DEVERS bought land from CHARLES SAVOYARD [SALLIER], then sold it to BURRELL FRANKS, who, in turn, sold it to GIBSON JOHNSON, who sold it to REES PERKINS before 1830. PERKINS was a prominent man in the area, and appears several times as a land claimant in the old records.

The following Acts pertaining to REES PERKINS' land claims were found in *Acts Passed At the Second Legislative Session of the Ninth Legislature of the State of Louisiana*.

261. REES PERKINS of the Parish of St. Landry, assignee of GIBSON JOHNSON, (who purchased of DEVERS, who purchased of BURRELL FRANKS) filed his notice claiming by virtue of occupation, inhabitation, and cultivation, a tract of land lying within the late neutral territory, situated on the north side of the west branch of the Quelqueshue [Calcasieu] river, about four miles above the improvement made by JOHN GILCHRIS, and containing 640 acres. In support of this claim the following testimony was taken before the board.

"BURRELL FRANKS, being sworn, deposeth that he knows the land since the year 1818, that about that time, and before February 1819, CHARLES SAVOYARD [SALLIER] made a settlement and improvement of about two acres, planted in corn, etc.; that said SAVOYARD made a verbal transfer of said settlement to this deponent who sold to DEVERS, who sold to GIBSON JOHNSON, who sold to the claimant, that the said land is situated on the north side of the west branch of the Quelqueshue river, and about four miles above the improvement made by JOHN GILCHRIS, at the first fork of the west branch." It is not shown that the land claimed was either occupied or cultivated February 22, 1819, by the claimant, or those under whom he held.

We are, therefore, under the opinion that this claim ought **not** be confirmed, and in the abstract have classed it with claims of the 'fourth class.'

262. REES PERKINS of the parish of St. Landry, assignee of DAVID CHOAT, filed his notice claiming, by virtue of occupation, inhabitation and cultivation, a tract of land lying within the late neutral territory, situated on the right bank of the Quelqueshue river, about a mile above **Blunt's Ferry**, and the same distance below **Devers' Ferry**, and containing 640 acres. The claim is supported by the following testimony taken before the board.

"BURRELL FRANKS, being sworn, says he has known the land since the year 1818, and that since that time to present it has been constantly inhabited and cultivated by DAVID CHOAT; that about twenty-five acres were under fence and cultivation in corn, potatoes, &c., during the greater part of the time, and previous to February 1810, that the land is situated as described in claimant's notice." We are of opinion this claim ought to be confirmed, and in the abstract have classed it with claims of the 'third class.'

263. REES PERKINS of the parish of St. Landry, assignee of JOHN GILCHRIS [GILCHRIST], filed his notice claiming by virtue of occupation, inhabitation, and cultivation, a tract of land lying within the late neutral territory, situated on the right bank of the west branch of the Quelqueshue river, at a

pine bluff about three miles from the mouth of said branch, and containing six hundred and forty acres. The following testimony was taken before the board in support of this claim.

"BURRELL FRANKS, being sworn, says he has known the land since the year 1818, and from that time to present it has been constantly inhabited and cultivated by JOHN GILCHRIS (till about a year past), and by others under him ever since, that about thirteen acres have been cleared on said land, and cultivated in corn, potatoes, &c., before and since the year 1818, and up until that time; is situated on a west branch of the Quelqueshue river, and on the right bank, about three miles from the mouth of the branch by water, and at a pine bluff."

We are of opinion that this claim ought to be confirmed, and in the abstract have classed it with claims of the 'third class.' [*American State Papers, Public Lands*. Senate, 18th Congress, 2nd Session, pp. 139-140]

REES PERKINS, assignee of JOHN GILCHRIS [GILCHRIST] had a Rio Hondo claim described as follows: Lots 5, 6, 7, and 8 in Section 18 and Lot 4 in Section 19 of T9S, RSW on West Fork of Calcasieu River. [La. State Tract Book on Internet Website for the La. State Land Office]

267. REES PERKINS, of the parish of St. Landry, assignee of PHILIP P. DEVERS, filed his notice claiming, by virtue of inhabitation, occupation and cultivation, a tract of land lying within the late neutral territory, situated on the west bank of Bayou Quelqueshue at a place called **Devers' Ferry**, about a mile above DAVID CHOAT's settlement; containing 640 acres. This claim is supported by the following testimony taken before the board.

"BURRELL FRANKS being duly sworn, says he knows the land claimed by REES PERKINS in his above notice; that the same is lying and situated as is therein described; that the same as inhabited, occupied, and cultivated by PHILLIP P. DEVERS under whom the claimant hold, by his living and growing corn, &c., thereon, and on previous to February 22, 1819, that said inhabitation, occupation and cultivation has been constantly continued since that period by said DEVERS, and others by his permission, to the present time, and that the improvements on the land claimed embrace about ten acres." We are of opinion this claim ought to be confirmed, and in the abstract have called it with claims of the 'third class.' [*American State Papers, Public Lands*. Senate, 18th Congress, 2nd Session, pp. 141-142]

On 30 March 1830 the State of Louisiana granted to REES PERKINS and his heirs the exclusive privilege of keeping a ferry on the Calcasieu River for a term of ten years "at the place known by the name of **Divers** [sic] **Ferry**, now owned by the said REES PERKINS." The Act states:

ACT OF THE SECOND SESSION, NINTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA GRANTING FERRY PRIVILEGES TO REES PERKINS, 1830

An act to grant to REES PERKINS the exclusive privilege of establishing and keeping a ferry over the river Calcasieu in the parish of St. Landry.

Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the state of Louisiana in general assembly convened.* That from and after the passage of this act REES PERKINS, his heirs and assigns, shall have the right of establishing and keeping, for the duration of a term of ten years, a ferry over the river Calcasieu, at the place known by the name of **Divers** [sic-**Devers**'] ferry, now owned by the said REES PERKINS.

Sec. 2. *Be it further enacted, &c.* That the said REES PERKINS, his heirs or assigns, shall have the right to demand and receive in compensation of their services for the keeping and maintaining the said ferry, to wit: for very wagon and team, or four-wheeled carriage and horses, one dollar; for every ox cart and team, one dollar; for every pleasure two-wheeled carriage, fifty cents; for every cart and horse, fifty cents; for a man and horse, twenty-five cents; for a foot-man or lead horse, twelve and a half cents.

Sec. 3. *Be it further enacted &c.* That it shall not be permitted to any person to keep any other ferry over the said river Calcasieu, within the distance of six miles, above and below the place above fixed upon and designated, under the penalty of ten dollars for each and every day that the said ferry shall exist and be kept contrary to the present act; which penalty shall be recoverable against the

person or persons so offending, before any tribunal of competent jurisdiction in the aforesaid parish: provided that nothing in this act shall be so constituted as to prevent any person or persons from crossing in his or their own water-craft.

Sec. 4. *Be it further enacted &c.* That the said REES PERKINS, his heirs or assigns, shall be and they are hereby bound to keep the said ferry in the best possible condition during the whole term of ten years; and in default thereof, he or they shall be liable to a fine of ten dollars for each and every day that the said ferry shall be and remain out of order, which fine shall be recoverable before any court or competent jurisdiction in the aforesaid parish; or if the said REES PERKINS, his heirs or assigns should fail in any one time, for the space of one month, to keep the said ferry in good order, then he or they shall all be deprived of all the privileges herein granted.

Sec. 5. *Be it further enacted &c.* That any individual performing militia duties in the service of the state, or of the United States; all persons going to or coming from an election, or going and coming from fulfilling the duties of jurors, and all arms, baggage, accouterments and ammunition of every description, belonging to the state, shall be ferried over free from toll or expense, by the ferry established by this act.

A. B. ROMAN, *Speaker of the House of Representatives*
ISAAC A. SMITH, *President of the Senate, pro tem.*
JACQUES DUPRES, *Acting Governor of the State*

Approved, 15 March 1830

REES PERKINS lived eight or ten miles from JOHN HENDERSON, who had settled on the river shortly after 1800. In 1831, an Act concerning elections in St. Landry Parish transferred the voting precinct from JOHN HENDERSON's house to that of REES PERKINS, which was probably the house referred to as the "Tract of land lying within the late neutral territory, situated on the right bank of the west branch of the Quelqueshue River, at a pine bluff about three miles from the mouth of said branch."

An entry dated Tuesday, 26 April 1836 by Colonel WILLIAM FAIRFAX GRAY, who chronicled his travels in a diary called *From Virginia to Texas*, stated: "Left COWHERD's [HARDY COWARD's] after breakfast, at 8 o'clock. Bill \$1. Slept a short time at Dr. R. NEBLETT's, who then rode with us to Calcasieu Ferry, thirteen miles from COWHERD's [sic]. Calcasieu is a very beautiful stream, very deep and clear. Dr. R. NEBLETT says it is the largest river between the Mississippi and the Rio Grande. The publick [sic] house and ferry is kept by Mr. REES PERKINS; very decent people; decent dinner; dinner, 25 cents, ferry 50 cents."

REES PERKINS was one of the most prominent men in the area, was the first Justice of the Peace for old Imperial Calcasieu Parish and was a member of the original Police Jury. He was the son of JAMES PERKINS and MARGARET CHANDLER, and was born 6 April 1774 in Cheraw District, South Carolina. On 8 January 1796, probably in South Carolina, he married MARTHA MORGAN, who was born in 1780, probably in the Darlington District of South Carolina. They had twelve children, the first three of whom were born in South Carolina. The fourth was born in Mississippi, as they made their way to Louisiana, where the remaining children were born. Their children included: WILLIAM K. (married HARRIET JANE STEWART/WHITE); JAMES (married CATHERINE HENDERSON); HARRIET (married WILLIAM NEYLAND); MARGARET (married ALLEN COWARD); HEPSIBAR "HEPSY" (married WILLIS BUTLER); SAMUEL JAMES (married REBECCA ANN COWARD); REES WASHINGTON (married VIENNA COWARD); JACKSON (died before 1830); ELIZABETH ANN (married NEEDHAM COWARD); MARTHA L. (married Rev. WILLIAM S. TOWNSEND); MIRANDA (male, married LYDIA ANN FOREMAN); LETHY ANN (married WILLIAM HENRY COWARD). REES PERKINS died in Calcasieu Parish on 8 February 1845 and was buried at Big Woods Cemetery near Edgerly, Louisiana. MARTHA MORGAN PERKINS died 8 June 1865 at Galveston County, Texas, on 8 June 1865 and was buried in Magnolia Creek Cemetery.

According to the Police Jury Minutes of 1840, PERKINS proposed the small village of Baghdad as the parish seat. Baghdad was later spelled Bagdad, then changed to Lisbon and is now part of Westlake. In March 1838 REES PERKINS sold the ferry and land around it to JAMES H. BUCHANAN.

Buchanan's Ferry. The old **Devers/Perkins Ferry** became **Buchanan's Ferry**...at least for a while. A small settlement grew up around the ferry, on the west side of the Calcasieu River. When the post office was established in 1838, BUCHANAN became its first postmaster. At this time, the settlement was a part of St. Landry Parish, but became a part of Imperial Calcasieu Parish when the new parish was established in 1840. He allowed a man named HOLT to lay out a town, which was called "Lisbon." HOLT sold all the lots he could for whatever price he could get, pocketed the money and disappeared, with BUCHANAN "holding the bag with both ends open." As late as the 1930s claimants still came, professing that they had owned lots in Lisbon, but by that time the name of the town had been changed to Bagdad and was part of Westlake.

On 24 August 1840, JAMES H. BUCHANAN applied for and was granted ferry rights at this site for a period of five years by the new Imperial Calcasieu Parish Police Jury. At the same time, MICHEL PITHON, the Police Jury President, SEASAR BREAU [or BREAUT] overseer for the 3rd Ward of the Road from the Three Marias to Kioches [sic] Point, and JOSEPH BILBO from Kioches [sic] to **Buchanan's Ferry**. The site of the old ferry and the community around it were gradually absorbed into the town of Westlake. Ferry rights were then granted to WILLIAM LYONS, and the ferry became **Lyons Ferry**.

Lyons Ferry. On 7 December 1846, the Police Jury granted to WILLIAM LYONS, "a new charter to keep a ferry on the River Calcasieu for the term of ten years" at the "place formerly known as **Buchanan's Ferry**," on the same conditions which had been previously granted to REES PERKINS by the Legislature in 1830, provided that he made and kept "the road through the swamp, on the East side of the Calcasieu in good order at his expense, & free of any trouble to the Parish." **Lyons' Ferry** had originally been **Devers Ferry**, then became **Perkins Ferry**. WILLIAM LYONS was present at Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Meetings from 1841 to 1846.

According to the 1850 census for old Imperial Calcasieu Parish, WILLIAM LYONS was a ferryman, born in Louisiana and was 50 years of age. His wife was ELIZABETH, also born in Louisiana, and was 40 years old. They had six children, all born in Louisiana, who were: MARY (age 14); NANCY (age 12); WILLIAM (age 10); MARCELINE (age 6); ALFINA (age 4); and TABISY (age 2). HULDA SIMMONS, age 14, was also living with them. Also listed as part of the household were EMELINE LaGRANGE (age 28, ferryman), MARIE LaGRANGE (age 25), JEAN BAPTISTE SEPTMARIE (age 33, laborer) and ARTHEMISE SEPTMARIE (age 21).

SOURCES: Maude Reid Scrapbooks, RootsWeb on Internet, Perkins information from Jan Craven Seymour. *1850 Census for Calcasieu Parish Acts Passed at 2nd Legislative Session of 9th Legislature, State of La.* (W. W. Duhy, State Printer, Donaldsonville, 1830 (p. 82)
American State Papers, Public Lands, Senate, 18th Congress
Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Minutes
Perrin. *Southwest La. Historical & Biographical*. L. Graham & Sons: New Orleans (1891)

(To be continued)

A WORLD WAR II HISTORICAL MARKER was placed in Kinder, just north of the American Legion Hall. The marker commemorates the part Allen Parish played in the WWII maneuvers which took place all over the state from 1941 to 1944. Lt. Gen. WALTER KRUEGER, Commander of the Blue Third Army in the maneuvers, was based at the old Kinder High School Home Economics cottage. He later commanded the 6th Army in the War. His staff, which was headed by Col. DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, occupied the remaining school campus. A half-million soldiers took part in the maneuvers.

FROM VIRGINIA TO TEXAS: THE DIARY OF COLONEL WILLIAM F. GRAY

Colonel WILLIAM F. GRAY, a veteran of the War of 1812, wrote in his diary about his journey from Virginia to Texas in 1835 and 1836, describing the incredible obstacles of travel during this time. He tells of the hardships of the families fleeing from the Mexicans in Texas to safety across the Sabine to Louisiana during the so-called "Runaway Scrape" just before the Battle of San Jacinto. He describes a journey across nearby Orange County and names early settlers in southwest Louisiana, including HARDY COWARD, whom Col. GRAY calls "COWHERD," and gives a not-so-flattering account of the LeBLEU family. In 1837 GRAY brought his family to Texas and settled in Houston, where he died in 1841. GRAY's dairy, edited by PAUL LACK, has been published and is also available online. The Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society, Inc. was given permission to print excerpts from *The Dairy of Colonel William Fairfax Gray: From Virginia to Texas, 1835-1837* by the William Clements Center for Southwest Studies at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas.

Sunday, April 17, 1836.With some difficulty we swam our horses over, and went on to WALLACE's, where we stayed all night. While we were there, DOUGLAS came up and said the Mexicans had crossed at LYNCH's, that he went back, after starting, and saw them about the house. A French Creole, of Louisiana, who had come over to buy cattle, also slept here, named COMARSAC. [EDITOR'S NOTE: This man was ARSENE LeBLEU of Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, who had just bought a herd of cattle from JAMES TAYLOR WHITE on Turtle Bay near Anahuac, where many Texans were fleeing to Louisiana in the Runaway Scrape. LeBLEU was preparing to take the herd to New Orleans. GRAY encountered WHITE once more while the latter and his herd of 600 steers were at LeBLEU's "cattle stand," north of Lake Charles. Source: W. T. Block. *Pioneer Texas Cattlemen Use Opelousas Trail*, *Beaumont Enterprise* (31 Jan. 2004)]

Tuesday, April 19, 1836. This morning a heavy fog. My horse being hobbled, was grazing near us, but the others were not visible. DOBIE mounted my horse and went in pursuit, found them about a mile off. Went on across the prairie, taking our course by the compass. Towards noon approached timber, and striking the road, fell in with numerous fugitives, among them the McNEIL's (with their African Negroes), CATLETT, CADY, FLEURY and CAZNEAU. The poor, frightened fugitives had thrown away a great deal of furniture, emptied beds of feathers, bags of corn, etc. We stopped to feed our horses some corn that had been thrown out. Here we met the report that the Mexicans and Indians from Nacogdoches had come down, appeared on the Cow Bayou immediately in our route, which raised some apprehensions for our safety and the practicality of getting to the United States in that direction. Agreed with CATLETT and company to lodge with them and travel together for our mutual safety. Passed through the league of land bought of SEATES, called Pine Islands. Stopped at SHOATS and got a dinner of milk and bread. SHOATS says the Pine Islands are worth \$10,000, but that SEATES bought it off him and yet owes him \$115 of the purchase money. His daughter, Mrs. JACKSON, who is a fine looking woman, was in great wrath against the Texans for bringing on the war and its consequences, and was eloquent in her vituperation against the members of the late convention, particularly her neighbor, Judge WEST, whom she called "LAWYER WEST," an allusion to his early vocation, and said he ran off from Washington [on-the-Brazos] after signing the Declaration of Independence, before the ink was dry, and in his panic forgot his hat and coat, and came home bareheaded. Here was a poor woman, a fugitive, with three small children sick with measles. Paid for dinner 50 cents. At night we came up with CATLETT and company at WILLIAMS'; only one young man at home. Got supper and corn for horses. We all stood guard to-night, each one hour, there being eight of us.

Wednesday, April 20, 1836. This last night we kept guard by turns, each standing one hour. Mine was the last, from 4 till 5 o'clock. Left WILLIAMS' at 7 o'clock: \$1. As we approached the Neches [River], we found there was great uncertainty about crossing the river. The boats were said to have been taken from all the ferries and carried down to the lower bluff. Thither we bent our way, passing great numbers of fugitives, men, women and children, black and white, with all the accustomed marks of dismay. Arrived about noon at the lower bluff. The house is kept by JOSEPH GRIGSBY, an old

Kentuckian, who was an old acquaintance of TRIPLETT, and seemed very glad to see him. GRIGSBY says this is a fine site for a town. TH. F. MCKINNEY has laid out one near it, called Georgia. He says the entrance of the Sabine Lake is always good for eight and a half feet of water, and the Neches for nine miles has four to four and one-half feet, and at the lowest stage two feet: that there is a good landing on the inlet. The league is owned by one---McGAFFEY; that on the Louisiana shore of the inlet, opposite to McGAFFEY's league, there is also a bluff not yet surveyed by the government. A section would cover all the good land there. This place is built on a firm shell bank. GRIGSBY is the father-in-law of G. W. SMITH, who was a member of the convention. He owns a league of land on Clear Creek, 300 miles up the Neches, on which there is a mill.

The report of the Mexicans being on Cow Creek is not credited here. It is believed to have been circulated by RAINS, McLAUGHLIN, etc. There are many families here waiting to be ferried across the bay, a distance of seven or eight miles, and put on the United States shore. There are at least 1,000 fugitives here, among them MENIFEE, A. B. HARDIN, SMITH, JNO. PARKER, all members of the convention.

Thursday, April 21, 1836. TRIPLETT, FORBES and CAZNEAU have determined to go to New Orleans by water, in a vessel, the schooner, *Loau*, now lying in the bay, believing that it will be the most expeditious mode. NIBLETT, DOBIE, CATLETT, FLEURY, CADY and myself determined to go by land, by way of Beaumont. Started at 10 o'clock. Bill at GRIGSBY's \$2.25. Arrived at Beaumont 1 o'clock. Passed on the road the KUYKENDALL family. They have in charge the poor little lost baby, which each carries by turn. I took the pleasure of carrying it a short distance to relieve the old man.

At Beaumont, we found that all the boats had been taken away by the press gang, as they were called. Found several persons engaged in building boats, with which to transport their families across. We united with TALLY, BROOK and HAYNES, got timber from ROGERS, who lives at the place, and sent into the country and bought cotton to caulk with. My portion of cost, \$1.50. Commenced the work at 4 o'clock p.m. Here we met with REASON GREEN, of Liberty, who agreed to pilot us through the swamp. The town of Beaumont consists at present of only three or four houses. It is thirty miles from the head of the bay, and sixty miles from the gulf, thirty miles from BALLEW's ferry on the Sabine, 170 miles to Zavala by water, and seventy-five miles by land; to Liberty fifty miles. Nacogdoches 155 miles by the way of San Augustine. Here is a custom house, and Captain ROGERS is the collector. He is also principal proprietor of the town. He is anxious to get a section of the Pine Island league. He sets up a claim to the league, but says if we will let him have a section of it, which he has set his heart on, he will compromise it, and give us one of the best sections on Trinity [River] in exchange.

Friday, April 22, 1836. Slept in the woods last night on my blankets. Our boat being finished, they put us across this morning, about 10 o'clock, swimming our horses, and we commenced our journey through the swamp, our guide, GREEN, leading the way. We had to swim a number of little bayous, running out from the Neches, which is now so full as to overflow its banks, and run out towards Sabine Bay. This is the first instance of this kind of overflow I have seen in Texas. Arrived at ASHWORTH's ferry, we expected to find a boat there, but there was none. The family had left the place. Here we startled three runaway Negroes, who fled and lunged through a bayou at our approach. One of them had a gun, which he discharged in the woods, in our hearing, probably because he had got it wet.

We went on, and at a wide and deep bayou GREEN and CATLETT swam over with their horses, expecting to find a boat at a landing above, in which our baggage could be ferried. But here again we were disappointed; the boat was gone. Both parties now set to building rafts. We failed for want of tools and loose lumber. GREEN succeeded in making one on which he returned to us, but it was too frail. We now determined to go back to ASHWORTH's, and take the rails and planks there and build a raft. In this we ultimately succeeded, having to tote the timber two or three hundred yards, to a place

where it could float. When it was completed it would carry only two men [and] a small portion of the baggage, so we had to make four trips, and paddle with sorry paddles against a strong current to a landing from which we could get out of the swamp. While engaged in building our raft, a large, alligator, some twelve to fifteen feet long, was discovered cautiously approaching us. One of the party fired a rifle at him. It struck but did not hurt him. He slowly moved off, and remained in sight, as if watching our proceedings, for some time.

As our provisions were short, FLEURY took his rifle and shot a fine calf which was with a herd of cattle at the ferry. I took it on my horse and carried it to our raft. All these operations took us until 8 o'clock at night, when our last raft load reached the landing. We had our veal cleaned and some of it cooked, which we ate with good appetite, without bread, salt or pepper. We had coffee, but no sugar nor milk. Having finished our supper, we spread our clothes out to dry as well as we could, and lay down on wet ground and amidst briars, and I slept well! My coat and pants were nigh getting burnt up in the night by the fire spreading through the grass, which had become dry from the heat. This morning, on leaving Beaumont, I left old KUYKENDALL \$10.

Saturday, April 23, 1836. After breakfasting on veal without bread or salt, and coffee without sugar or milk, we started at half past 7 o'clock. Came to a house where a family named HATTON had lived. The family had fled. Father and son here this morning taking off some corn. Got a feed for our horses, 25 cents. HATTON advised us to go to PATTILLO's where we could get something to eat. No one at home. Got corn and fed horses, ground corn and made bread, comfortable meal. While here young HATTON also came with a bucket, which he filled with honey from one of the hives. We remonstrated with him, but he said his father wanted it, and it was free for anybody. GREEN, who knew PATTILLO, took a memo of what we need. We afterwards met PATTILLO on the road and paid him \$1.50.

We crossed today Cow Bayou, Adams' Bayou, Cypress Bayou and arrived at BALLEW's ferry after dark, passing for several miles through the worst road I have ever encountered in Texas. In one place we came upon a poor ox, bogged in the middle of the road. His head and a small part of his body were above the mud. His yoke had been removed and he left there to die. A horrible death.

At the ferry we found Colonel WILLIAM G. HILL, late of the San Bernard, who had been to take his family and that of E. WALTER to the United States. He is now on his return. WALTER, whom I saw in Beaumont, has charge of the Negroes belonging to himself and HILL. They were trying to take them up Red River. HILL's address will be Alexandria, La. Here I found my sorrel horse---in the hands of the press gang. I knew him by moonlight and took possession of him.

Sunday, April 24, 1836. At BALLEW's Ferry owing to the crowd of families now here, we could not conveniently cross the ferry today; bargained for flats to take us over in the morning. CATLETT's horse was missing this morning, hunted him all day unsuccessfully, concluded that he was stolen, offered him the use of one of mine as I had to take both along with me.

This is one of LAFITTE's old Stations. BALLEW is said to have been one of his confederates, likewise old SHOTE [sic], at the Pine Islands. Here stands an old shed, part of the shelter constructed for the African Negroes that he used to bring here. It is now a shelter for cows. We kept guard all night for the protection of our horses from the press gang, each man standing one hour. About 1 o'clock in the morning RAINS came riding up with the intelligence that HOUSTON had had a battle with the Mexicans on the 21st, at Harrisburg; killed 500 men and took all the rest. 650 prisoners. ALMONTE prisoner; COS killed, HOUSTON wounded. The letter was written with a pencil, signed JOHN REED, and addressed to Major CALDWELL. I do not fully believe it, but others do. It is likely there has been a battle and a victory, but the result is too much wholesale.

Monday, April 25, 1836. Left BALLEW's at half past 7 o'clock; \$1.25, ferry \$1.00. DOBIE 50 cents. Went down the river about one mile, turned the lower point of the island, and ferried upon the other

DEMARY, JOSEPH	30 Nov. 1887	W	Calcasieu, LA	Cameron, LA
DEMARY, NICHOLAS	22 Aug. 1896	W	he & dad b. Calcasieu, LA	Cameron, LA
DEVALL, HYMEN	20 Dec. 1896	W	Grand Lake, LA	Cameron, LA
DEVALL, HYMEN	20 Dec. 1896	W	his dad b. E. Baton Rouge, LA	Cameron, LA
DEVALL, SIMMIE	24 Feb. 1895	W	Grand Lake, LA	Cameron, LA
DEWEES, HIRAM	30 Aug. 1890	W	Johnsons Bayou, LA	Cameron, LA
DOIRON, ADAM	17 Oct. 1885	B		Cameron, LA
DOIRON, CLAIRVILLE	26 July 1880	B		Cameron, LA
DOIRON, ISAAC	13 May 1890	W	Hackberry, LA	Cameron, LA
DOIRON, MADISON SIMON	20 Feb. 1897	W	he & his dad b. Hackberry, LA	Cameron, LA
DOIRON, ZEDORE	17 Sep. 1874	B		Cameron, LA
DOLAN, SAMUEL SHELTON	8 Sep. 1877	W		Cameron, LA
DOLAND, AUBREY EARL	29 Nov. 1897	W		Cameron, LA
DOLAND, DAVID Y.	24 Oct. 1895	W	Grand Chenier, LA	Cameron, LA
DOMINGO, DOMINICK	2 Aug. 1888	W	Grand Chenier, LA	Cameron, LA
DOMINGO, LEON	20 Sep. 1884	W		Cameron, LA
DOXEY, ROBERT	19 Dec. 1896	W	Grand Chenier, LA	Cameron, LA
DOXEY, RUPERT MATHIAS ANDREW	31 Jan. 1894	W	Grand Chenier, LA	Cameron, LA
DOZEY, JOSEPH W. E.	28 May 1892	W	Grand Chenier, LA	Cameron, LA
DOZIER, JOHN	15 Feb. 1894	B	Cameron, LA	Cameron, LA
DOZIER, LETCHER	24 Nov. 1891	B	Grand Chenier, LA	Cameron, LA
DUCHON, VALMON	9 June 1894	W	Grand Lake, LA	Cameron, LA
DUGAS, OULIE	23 Mar. 1878	W		Cameron, LA
DUHAN, EUGENA	20 Oct. 1874	W		Cameron, LA
DUHON, ADAM	2 July 1897	W	he & his dad b. Cameron, LA	Cameron, LA
DUHON, ALBERT	4 Apr. 1879	W		Cameron, LA
DUHON, ALVA	18 Feb. 1893	W	Hackberry, LA	Cameron, LA
DUHON, AMBROSE	9 June 1892	W	Calcasieu, LA	Cameron, LA
DUHON, AMIA	15 Mar. 1884	W		Cameron, LA
DUHON, ANGEL	28 Apr. 1895	W	Cameron, LA	Cameron, LA
DUHON, ARCHILE	9 Dec. 1878	W		Cameron, LA
DUHON, BALLOMA	31 Jan. 873	W		Cameron, LA
DUHON, GILBERT ALADDIN	30 Oct. 1899	W		Cameron, LA
DUHON, ISRAEL	12 Nov. 1891	W	Cameron, LA	Cameron, LA
DUHON, JOHN BATIS (Jr.)	12 Mar. 1878	W		Cameron, LA
DUHON, JOHN HOMER	9 Sep. 1881	W		Cameron, LA
DUHON, JOHN SIMEON	10 Feb. 1899	W		Cameron, LA
DUHON, JOSEPH	19 May 1873	W		Cameron, LA
DUHON, LASTIE ESTEAN	2 Sep. 1887	W	Hackberry, LA	Cameron, LA
DUHON, LUC	4 May 1895	W	Cameron, LA	Cameron, LA
DUHON, NAPOLEON	15 Mar. 1877	W		Cameron, LA
DUHON, ODELON	4 Feb. 1875	W		Cameron, LA
DUHON, OLIZEAM	31 July 1878	W		Cameron, LA
DUHON, RAYMOND	28 Mar. 1889	W	Cameron, LA	Cameron, LA
DUHON, SIMEON	6 Oct. 1882	W		Cameron, LA
DUHON, URSIN	18 June 1900	W		Cameron, LA
DUHON, WATKINS	20 Feb. 1886	W		Cameron, LA
DUPIE, DOLZIE	7 Mar. 1890	W	Estherwood, LA	Cameron, LA
DUPIENE, ROSEMON	21 Feb. 1882	W		Cameron, LA
DUPUIS, ALIXON (ALIXOU)	21 July 1900	W		Cameron, LA
DUPUISE, ADOLPH	6 June 1887	W	Grand Chenier, LA	Cameron, LA
DUPUSIE, CLABERT (CLOBERT)	5 June 1896	W	Grand Chenier, LA	Cameron, LA
DUPUSIE, CLABERT (CLOBERT)	5 June 1897	W	he & dad b. Grand Chenier, LA	Cameron, LA
DUPUY, LOUIS S.	19 Feb. 1884	W		Cameron, LA

DUPUY, SEVERIN	8 Nov. 1888	W	Cameron, LA	Cameron, LA
DYSON, EDMOND	19 Mar. 1885	W		Cameron, LA
DYSON, PHILOGEN	-- July 1883	W		Cameron, LA
EAGLESON, ROBERT	27 Nov. 1899	W		Cameron, LA
EASTE, DALMA	28 Aug. 1882	W		Cameron, LA
ELENDER, AMAR	31 Aug. 1895	W	Grand Lake, LA	Cameron, LA
ELENDER, EUFAMON	25 June 1897	W	he & his dad b. Grand Lake, LA	Cameron, LA
ELENDER, JOHN CLERFA	27 Sep. 1875	W		Cameron, LA
ELENDER, PORTER	29 Apr. 1873	W		Cameron, LA
ELMORE, WILLIAM	9 July 1890	W	Canter, LA	Cameron, LA
ERBELDING, JOSEPH BELONE, Jr.	7 July 1896	W	Johnsons Bayou, LA	Cameron, LA
ERBELDING, T. G.	15 July 1896	W	he & his dad b. Johnsons Bayou, LA	Cameron
FARGUE, MELIA	22 Nov. 1878	W		Cameron, LA
FARQUE, SEMAR	5 Nov. 1888	W	Vermillion, LA	Cameron, LA
FAULK, ALCID	22 Feb. 1899	W		Cameron, LA
FAULK, AMAR	9 Mar. 1890	W	Abbeville, LA	Cameron, LA
FAULK, DEMA	23 Mar. 1884	W		Cameron, LA
FAULK, GABRIEL	15 Aug. 1896	W	he & dad b. Abbeville, LA	Cameron, LA
FAULK, NELSON	14 Apr. 1900	W		Cameron, LA
FAULK, NUMA	10 June 1878	W		Cameron, LA
FAURK, AMAR	9 Mar. 1890	W	Abbeville, LA	Cameron, LA
FAUVOR, JAMES HENRY	24 Nov. 1874	W		Cameron, LA
FAUVOR, RANDOLPH	14 Feb. 1895	W	Grand Chenier, LA	Cameron, LA
FAUVOR, THOMAS FRANK Jr.	16 Apr. 1880	W		Cameron, LA
FAVOR, JAMES HENRY	24 Nov. 1874	W		Cameron, LA
FAVOR, THOMAS FRANK Jr.	16 Apr. 1880	W		Cameron, LA
FEAGIN, JOHN BANKS	6 June 1886	W	Houston Co., GA	Cameron, LA
FONTENOT, JULE LONEY	7 Oct., 1883	W		Cameron, LA
FRANK, JIM	8 Dec. 1897	B		Cameron, LA
GALIER, EULISE	15 Mar. 1894	W	Jennings, LA	Cameron, LA
GALLIER, WILLIES	20 Nov. 1889	W	Cameron, LA	Cameron, LA
GARIE, CLARENCE	15 Mar. 1891	W	Mermentau, LA	Cameron, LA
GARIE, JOSEPH ISVILLE	22 Nov. 1885	W		Cameron, LA
GARY, JOSEPH ISVILLE	22 Nov. 1885	W		Cameron, LA
GILLETTE, GUSTAVE	3 Jan. 1879	W		Cameron, LA
GILMORE, ALON DEE	30 Dec. 1895	W	Baghdad, LA	Cameron, LA
GOTHRAUX, ONEZIME	19 Feb. 1880	W		Cameron, LA
GOTHREAU, ALEXANDER	19 Feb. 1880	W		Cameron, LA
GOTHREAU, ONEZIME	19 Feb. 1880	W		Cameron, LA
GRANGER, ALEXANDER	28 May 1895	W	Grand Lake, LA	Cameron, LA
GRANGER, CLEAMEN GARFIELD	28 Dec. 1896	W	Sweet Lake, LA	Cameron, LA
GRANGER, HENRY GEORGE	7 Apr. 1879	W	relative lives Bell City, LA	Cameron, LA
GRANGER, JULIEN	15 Mar. 1878	W		Cameron, LA
GRANGER, JULIUS	21 May 1885	W		Cameron, LA
GRANGER, PHILEMON	2 Feb. 1873	W		Cameron, LA
GRANGER, PHILEMON JOSEPH	29 Nov. 1898	W		Cameron, LA
GRANGER, THEOGENE	22 July 1894	W	Grand Lake, LA	Cameron, LA
GRIFFITH, FRED RAYMON	24 Nov. 1893	W	Johnsons Bayou, LA	Cameron, LA
GRIFFITH, HENRY	25 Aug. 1896	W	he & dad b. Johnsons Bayou, LA	Cameron, LA
GRIFFITH, JACOB FOSTER	16 May 1892	W	Hackberry, LA	Cameron, LA

(Continued next issue)

CEMETERY RECORDS (A TEXAS AND LOUISIANA COLLECTION)

Supervised by LORINE BRINLEY; Research Director, Houston State Genealogical Committee

Filmed by the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah, in August 1959

(Permission to print granted by Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah)

Names have been copied exactly as spelled on hand-written cards.

Continued from Vol. 28 No. 4

JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH, LOUISIANA

LIBERTY CEMETERY RECORDS

(Located 6 miles south of Elton, La.)

(Taken on March 10, 1957)

BERTRAND, VALCAN, b. 15 July 1878, d. 3 Aug. 1932
BERTRAND, Mrs. WILLIE T., b. 1883, d. 1949
BILLODEAUX, ARCHIE, b. 25 Jan. 1894, d. 15 Jan. 1928
BILLODEAUX, JOHN P., b. 18 Mar. 1897, d. 20 Mar. 1955
BILLODEAUX, TILLSMARK, b. -- Dec. 1895, d. 15 Apr. 1953
BOURQUE, EUGENE, child, d. 1 May 1943
BREAUX, JOSETTE, b. 20 Nov. 1890, d. 6 Mar. 1918
BROUSSARD, MARLINA BERTRAND MANUEL, b. 30 July 1900, d. 6 Dec. 1944
BROUSSARD, OLIVER, b. 29 Mar. 1902, d. 12 Jan. 1928
BULLER Infant, d. 22 Aug. 1950; parents - Mr. & Mrs. JOHN BULLER
BULLER, ELROY LOUIS, infant
BURLEIGH, PAMELA MARCANTEL, b. 22 Sept. 1870, d. 16 Oct. 1949
BUSHNELL, BERNICE, infant
BUSHNELL, INEZ, infant
BUSHNELL, ODELIA, infant
CHAPMAN, MRS. EMMA, b. 24 June 1868, d. 30 Nov. 1939
CHATMAN, EDME
CHATMAN, WILFRED, baby
COURMIER, TARVILLE, b. 1 Apr. 1889, d. 31 Dec. 1952
DELAFOSSÉ, LEZIDA B., b. 15 July 1878, d. 3 Mar. 1955
DELAFOSSÉ, OSCAR, b. 14 Aug. 1863, d. 7 Oct. 1937
DOISE, infant, b. 19 July 1920, d. 1 Sept. 1920
DOISE, AUGUSTINE, b. 28 Aug. 1873, d. 29 Nov. 1948
DOISE, CECILIA, b. 2 Mar. 1893, d. 2 Mar. 1949
DOISE, Mrs. ELOUISE, b. 16 May 1873, d. 16 Feb. 1944
DOISE, EM, b. -- Dec. 1902, d. 1 Jan. 1904
DOISE, FROLSIEUE, b. 24 Jan. 1875, d. 6 Dec. 1898
DOISE, GUSTAN, b. 17 June 1883, d. 18 Mar. 1889
DOISE, JOS., b. 7 Aug. 1850, d. 6 Jan. 1929
DOISE, L. ADAM, b. 28 Aug. 1911, d. 12 Dec. 1952
DOISE, LEZIDA, b. 9 Apr. 1869, d. 18 Dec. 1952; w/o ADAM BERTRAND
DOISE, MACERLIE, b. 26 May 1857, d. 15 Apr. 1931
DOISE, MYRTLE EVA, b. 1921, d. 1942
DOISE, OPHLIA, b. 17 Dec. 1904, d. 17 Mar. 1930; w/o SIDNEY DOISE
DOISE, S. YVES, b. 11 June 1913, d. 15 May 1943
DOISE, SIDNEY, b. 21 Feb. 1886, d. 12 Feb. 1948
DOISE, STEVFRIN, b. 1854, d. 1933
DOISE, TEZIER, b. 18 Oct. 1871, d. 12 Sept. 1947
DOISE, ANGELINE, w/o LANDRY MANUEL
DUHON, child, b. 21 Sept. 1920, d. 15 Feb. 1931

DUHON, ABNER, b. 1892, d. 1941
 DUHON, ADA V., d. 11 Nov. 1932
 DUHON, AZENA, b. 13 Sept. 1880, d. 6 Feb. 1938; w/o JOSEPH MANUEL
 DUHON, DELPHIE, b. 1861, d. 13 Mar. 1944
 DUHON, EDWARD, b. 1906, d. 1940
 DUHON, FRANK, b. 1864, d. 24 Nov. 1907
 DUHON, LASTIC, b. 1833, d. 23 June 1916
 DUHON, NOLA, infant
 DUHON, NORIS, infant
 DUHON, PHILOGEA, b. 1867, d. 1948
 FONTENOT, infant, d. 21 Mar. 1952
 FONTENOT, A. J., b. 16 May 1929, d. 31 May 1929; parents - M/M VALLERY FONTENOT
 FONTENOT, AMEET JOAN, b. 9 Jan. 1911, d. 20 Mar. 1911
 FONTENOT, DAISY, b. 1891, d. 1935
 FONTENOT, DELLA, infant
 FONTENOT, DROZAN, b. 1850, d. 1940
 FONTENOT, DUCLIDE, b. 1887, d. 1939
 FONTENOT, FROZIN, b. 15 Apr. 1884, d. 15 Apr. 1913
 FONTENOT, HENRY, b. 14 Nov. 1887, d. 6 June 1925
 FONTENOT, HOMER (adult), d. 1 July 1939
 FONTENOT, L. J., infant, d. 1 May 1940
 FONTENOT, LEVIA, b. 1882, d. 1954
 FONTENOT, LOYD, infant, b. 8 Sept. 1943, d. 14 Sept. 1943
 FONTENOT, LOYD HERMAN, infant, b. 3 Sept. 1945, d. 14 Nov. 1945
 FONTENOT, LUCIEN, b. 12 Jan. 1886, d. 8 May 1956
 FONTENOT, MARY MEADORA, b. 1893, d. 1926
 FONTENOT, OLIVA (adult), d. 24 Sept. 1948
 FONTENOT, OURA DESHOTEL, child
 FONTENOT, ROSALIE, w/o LANDRY MANUEL
 FONTENOT, SELTON, b. 3 Aug. 1884, d. 8 Dec. 1914
 FONTENOT, THEODULE (adult)
 FONTENOT, ZEPHYRIN, b. 28 Dec. 1899, d. 21 Dec. 1938
 FONTENT, JOSEPH CANCY, b. 21 Nov. 1929, d. 20 July 1950
 FONTONET, Mrs. AMEL
 FONTONET, DAVID, b. 5 May 1935, d. 5 May 1935
 FRUGE, ALFRED, b. 1865, d. 1936
 FRUGE, ALMA, b. 7 Apr. 1925, d. 1 July 1935
 FRUGE, AUGUSTINE, b. 20 Dec. 1875, d. 6 May 1953
 FRUGE, Mrs. CHRISTINE V., b. 1912, d. 1931
 FRUGE, ODEST, b. 3 Sept. 1923, d. 16 Mar. 1926
 FRUGE, VELLEN, b. 4 Aug. 1895, d. 25 Nov. 1954
 FRUGE, Mrs. VERA, b. 5 Apr. 1894, d. 10 Nov. 1941
 FRUGE, WILLIAM, b. 3 Mar. 1896, d. 16 Mar. 1910
 FUSELIER, LEONOR, b. 10 Sept. 1856, d. 2 July 1917
 GARBARINO, ALADIN, b. 21 Mar. 1900, d. 22 June 1922
 GARBARINO, JOHN B., b. 9 July 1863, d. 25 Dec. 1933
 GARBARINO, LEZINE BERTRAND, b. 1892, d. 1954
 GARBARINO, MARY, b. 1831, d. 1903
 GIDLOU, WILLIAM H., b. 1912, d. 1937
 HALMAN, Mrs. RALPH, d. 1904; w/o RALPH HALMAN
 HALMAN, DOT, infant, d. 1904; d/o RALPH HALMAN
 HARGROVE, DELLA LAFFOSSE, b. 16 Aug. 1866, d. 21 Dec. 1925; w/o STEVE HARGROVE
 HARGROVE, STEVE, b. 30 Nov. 1860, d. 14 May 1940; h/o DELLA LAFFOSSE

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LAKE CHARLES/WESTLAKE, LA CITY DIRECTORY - 1901

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GROCERS.

JOE SEMO, 1005 Ryan.
JOHN R. FOX, 804 Ryan.
Mrs. D. W. JESSEN, 305 Kirkman.
P. REIMERS, 606 Division.
W. A. PEARCE, 501 and 503 Ryan.
E. HULLER, 528 Railroad Ave.
P. MCCOY, 909 Railroad Ave.
BENDEL & MEYER, 513 Ryan.
CHAS. FITZENREITER, 724 and 726 Ryan.
Mrs. C. H. BOUTYETTE, 834 Ryan.
C. M. BUEL, 701 Nichols.

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Consumers' Market; Eddy Bros. Dry Goods Co.; Hemenway Furniture Co.

NO INFORMATION - PAGE 154

G's - PAGE 155

FRANK TURNOVER, 111 Gray.
J. H. KETTERER, 632 Gray.
Miss MAY GARRAWAY, 1423 Commercial.
G. HASTINGS, 502 corner Kirby and Hodges.

H's - PAGE 155

HARDWARE.

G. T. ROCK HDW. CO., LTD., 214 Pujo and 908 Ryan.
MURRAY-BROOKS HWD. CO., LTD., 707 and 709 Ryan.
C. M. BRADEN, 808 Ryan.

HAY AND FEED.

J. R. FOX, 804 Ryan.
F. TRIPLETT, 909 Lawrence.
CHAS. FITZENREITER, 724 Ryan.
W. A. PEARCE, 503 Ryan.

HARNESS MAKERS.

LOUIE RUNTE, 629 Ryan.
F. G. TIGNOR, 619 Ryan.
LAKE CHARLES CARRIAGE & IMPLEMENT CO., 530 and 532 Ryan.

HORSE AND MULE MARKET.

M. A. QUILTY & SONS, 1109 and 1111 South Ryan.

HOTELS.

HOWARD HOTEL, THEAUX & SULLIVAN, corner Bilbo and Pujo.
NEW IMPERIAL HOTEL, E. L. RIDDICK, Prop'r., corner Ryan and Iris.
WALKER HOUSE, 909 Ryan.

KINFOLKS

CRESCENT HOTEL, 1212 South Ryan.
LAKE HOUSE, THEAUX & SULLIVAN, lessees, N. Court.

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Carlson & Co.; Cramer's; Consumers' Market

Ts - PAGE 156

INSURANCE AGENTS.

LOUIS P. PAVIA, office 835 Ryan.
MAYO & GEORGE, office 919 Ryan.
LEON CHAVANNE, 727 Ryan.
PHILLIP JACOBS & SONS, Kaufman Building.
RICHARD, PERKINS & WASEY, office Old Court House Building.
J. C. ELSTNER, office 208 Broad.
A. COLBERT, office over Lake Charles Drug Store.
H. D. McCLEERY, office Calcasieu National Bank Building.
A. L. WATKINS & CO., state m'g'rs. Franklin Life Ins. Co., of Springfield, Ills., office 718½ Ryan.
J. A. KINDER, office Calcasieu National Bank Building.

IRON WORKS.

WARD BROS. & BARKER, corner Martha and Nix.
CALCASIEU IRON WORKS, A. McKINNON & Co., 301 Ryan.
REISER MACHINE SHOP, 113 Pine.

J's - PAGE 156

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

JOHN L. WASEY, Third Justice Court, office Old Court House Building.
J. BEN KIRKMAN, Third Justice Court, office 231 N. Court.

JEWELERS.

CARLSON & CO., 823 Ryan.
OTTO WINTERHALTER, Commercial Block.

ADVERTISEMENTS - PAGE 156

Consumers' Ice Company, Limited; Eddy Bros. Dry Goods Co., Ltd.; Hemenway Furniture Co.

L's - PAGE 157

LAUNDRIES

LAKE SIDE STEAM LAUNDRY, J. H. HUSTON, 121 Mill.
LAKE CHARLES STEAM LAUNDRY, P. CROWLEY, 508 Ryan.

LIGHT AND ICE.

CONSUMERS' ICE, STORAGE AND PROVISION CO., 822 Ryan.
LAKE CHARLES ICE, LIGHT AND WATER WORKS CO., office 311 N. Ryan.

LIQUORS - WHOLESALE

CAGNEY & CHRISTMAN, 817 Ryan.
N. SOLOMON, 807 Ryan St.

(Continued next issue)

INFORMATION FROM EXCHANGES

The SWLGS exchanges periodicals with more than 70 other genealogical societies. These publications are excellent research tools and are housed at the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Library, 411 Pujo St., Lake Charles. The following information has been gleaned from some of these periodicals.

"FORGOTTEN MILITIA: THE LOUISIANA STATE GUARD OF WORLD WAR II" by Barry M. Stentiford relates the story of an organization that was largely forgotten by the general public as soon as the war ended. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, the Louisiana National Guard, which was in federal service, was destined to serve as part of the army until after the end of the war. The National Guard had been created as the first line of defense against labor and racial unrest, natural disasters, and even invasions. To fill in the void left by the National Guard, Louisiana created a State Guard. The governor served as commander-in-chief, but municipal and parochial officials were empowered to call the Guard to active duty. A federal law passed in October 1940 permitted, but did not require, states to establish another militia to use when the National Guard was mobilized to federal service, whether or not the nation was at war. Thus, the State Guards were created under War Department Guidelines. For Louisiana, the War Department would equip no more than 1,500 men, a force about half the size of the National Guard. Membership in the State Guards did not exempt men from conscription.

SAM HOUSTON JONES of Lake Charles had been inaugurated governor in May 1940, and, for several reasons, including parish power and money, was reluctant to create a State Guard. By October 1941, Louisiana was the only state in the eastern and southeastern coastal states without such a force. Finally, the "Lee Street Riot" in Alexandria demonstrated the need for a state militia, and the governor appealed to the legislature to create a State Guard. It was to be composed of volunteers, and since most of the younger men were already serving in the war, most of those in the State Guard were veterans of the Great War. The force was never large; by April 1943, it had only 284 men, but grew larger later. Acquiring arms and uniforms was difficult in a time when all available supplies went to the war effort. The Louisiana State Guard received only 54 machine guns.

Training drills were held in local armories to teach military skills, marksmanship and riot control. Later there were training sessions at Camp Beauregard and Camp Polk. The State Guard was paid only when on active duty or when training. In 1943 the State Guard played a role in the "Little War," a political confrontation between Governor JONES and LEANDER PEREZ, the District Attorney of Plaquemines Parish. Unlike the Texas State Guard which had suppressed a race riot in 1943, the Louisiana State Guardsmen were not involved in quelling riots or hunting escaped P.O.W.'s. Instead, they were employed in combating natural disasters, especially floods. By 1946, there were about 1,000 State Guardsmen, but their units were soon dissolved. However, the structure remains in place if the National Guard would ever have to be replaced again. For additional information about the Louisiana State Guard, see the original article in *Louisiana History, the Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association*, Vol. XLV No. 3 (Summer 2004).

IN EARLY CANADA, some of the French settlers were buried inside the churches. Some of the leaders in the parish, such as the local judge, the Captain of the Militia, the local physician, etc., actually purchased a pew in the parish church, and some of them were buried under the pew that they owned. Some records show that priests were buried under the aisles of the local church where they were serving at the time of their deaths. Others are buried in the foundations of the church or in some other designated crypt within the confines of the building. One such was ETIENNE de LESSART, who was buried inside the Church of Ste. Anne de Beaupre, in recognition for donating the land for the church to be built upon.

American-Canadian Genealogist, Manchester, NH, Issue #101, Vol. 32 #3 (2004).

IT'S 2005. DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR GREAT-GREAT GRANDPARENTS ARE?

"ASK AND YE SHALL RECEIVE" --- QUERIES

Queries are free to members and will be printed as space permits. When you receive an answer, please acknowledge and reimburse for copies and postage. Please make all queries clear, concise and easily understood. Give **full names** of the person; **exact date**, if known, or an **approximate period** (ca); and a **location**. State exactly what information you are seeking.

CORMIER, WEST, LYONS, LeDOUX, RAVIA, FOLK (FAULK)

Seeking parents and grandparents of MARY AZAMA CORMIER, who m. ANDREW JACKSON WEST (b. 14 July 1836, La.; d. 1910/1911, San Antonio, Bexar Co., Tex.). He was age 14 on 1880 census of Jefferson Co., Tex., and was s/o ANDREW JACKSON WEST and SARAH "SALLY" LYONS of La., and grandson of THOMAS WEST and SUSANNA "NANCY" FOLK (FAULK) of La. March 2004 issue of *KINFOLKS* states that MARTHA LeDOUX was d/o ALEXANDRE LeDOUX and EZIMILY WEST, sister of ELIZABETH WEST (m. ANSELME RAVIA), both d/o RICHARD WEST. ALEXANDRE LeDOUX was the s/o ALEXANDRE LeDOUX and SUSAN CORMIER. Are MARY AZAMA CORMIER and SUSAN CORMIER related?

RICHARD D. CULBERTSON, 6428 Arthur Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76134

COWARD, BATES, WEATHERBEE, HENDERSON, FOSTER

Searching for information about ISAAC HARDY COWARD (b. 1776, SC; d. 1844, Calcasieu Par., La.; buried, Big Woods Cemetery). He migrated from Orangeburg District, SC in the early 1800s to Amite Co., Liberty, Miss. originally. He m. ELIZABETH BATES (b. 1787, Barnwell Co., SC; d. 1859, Calcasieu Par.; buried, Big Woods). She was d/o RICHARD BATES (d. Amite Co., Miss.) and JANE WEATHERBEE. Also searching for documentation for JOHN HENDERSON (b. 1769, Va.; d. Feb. 1833, Calcasieu Par.; buried, Big Woods; probably s/o WILLIAM HENDERSON) and daug., ELEANOR. JOHN HENDERSON m. MARTHA FOSTER (b. 26 June 1781; d. 29 June 1836, Natchez, Miss.), and was in Rapides Par. at least by 1797. Children were: NANCY HENDERSON (b. 17 April 1797, Natchez Dist.); LEVICY (b. 1801); ELIZA (b. 1802); HENRIETTE (b. 1804); ELEANOR (b. 1808, Rapides Par.; d. before 1831, Calcasieu Par.; m. RICHARD ADDISON COWARD [b. 11 April 1806, Barnwell Co., SC; d. 19 May 1867, Galveston, Tex].

JUNE RAIMER POOLE, 5229 Eden Roc Dr., Marrero, LA 70072 or <ClydeZP@aol.com>

TRAHAN, GUILBEAUX, CORMIER, AUCOIN, PITRE

How are NANETTE (NANTE) TRAHAH and JOSEPH TRAHAH, Sr. related? NANETTE TRAHAH m. CHARLES GUILBEAUX, and had dau., LUDVINE GUILBEAUX (m. 9 Jan. 1793, MICHEL CORMIER II). JOSEPH TRAHAH, Sr. and ELIZABETH AUCOIN, Acadians, were parents of JOSEPH TRAHAH, Jr. (b. ca 1762; m. 24 June 1782, Opelousas, FRANCOIS PITRE).

MICHAEL BABB NUNEZ, 3302 Oakmont Blvd., Austin, TX 78703 or <miken51@hotmail.com>

BRANDT, RULANG, DUCHARME

Seeking information on WILLIAM BRANDT (b. ca 1813, Bremen, Germany; d. 1887, Lafayette, La.). He. m. 1st, ISABELLA RULANG; 2nd, 1861, EUGENIE DUCHARME at Lafayette.

BEVERLY THERIOT BROUSSARD, Rt. 4, Box 690, Hemphill, TX 75948

GORDON

Need information on THOMAS JEFFERSON GORDON, who lived in Hecker, La. from 1870-1887.

ETHEL FONTENOT SACKER, P. O. Box 179, Kinder, LA 70648-0179 or <paulsacker@centurytel.net>

BREAUX, BROUSSARD, DAGAS (DAGAR)

Looking for information on DESPALLIERE BREAUX (b. 15 Jan. 1852; s/o FRANCOISE TERRANCE BREAUX and LOUISA DAGAS (DAGAR); m. CORRINE BROUSSARD). Stories tell he owned a cotton mill in Elton, La.

MARY GRACE BREAUX SIMON, 1189 Sailfish Dr., Bayou Vista, TX 77653

GLONDE, GLOBE

Desire information on CLEMENT GLONDE (or GLOBE) or on CLEMENTINE GLONDE of the Church Point area.

MARTHA L. MHIRE-MILLER, 2385 Southview Dr., Pottstown, PA 19464-2656 or <Grandmere1225@aol.com>

ELENDER/ELLENDER, REON

Am interested in any ELENDER stories, particularly about the land for the Elender Cemetery and the life of LEVI ELENDER/ELLENDER (b. 24 May 1835-1836, St. Landry, Par., or at Vincent Settlement, La.; d. 25 Feb. 1913, Lockport, La.; m. 1855, MARY MILESE REON.)

EVELYN BARNES, P. O. Box 119, Bayside, TX 78340-0119 or <ebarnes413@yahoo.com>

SINGLETON, CLARK

Need information on ELDRIDGE MADISON SINGLETON, who was married to SINA CLARK at the time of his death in Starks, La. If you are connected to him, please contact me.

DAVID BRYAN SINGLETON, 12018 Briar Forest, Houston, TX 77077 or <dsingleton@finsvcs.com>

FONTENOT, DESHOTEL, TRAHAN

Seeking parents of LEZIMA FONTENOT (m. 10 April 1883, MARCELIN DESHOTEL; m. 2nd, 17 Jan. 1890, PLACIDE TRAHAN.

HELEN ROYER THIBODEAUX, 4451 Pete Rd., Jennings, LA 70546-8266 or <helenrt@charter.net>

MORGAN, DOOLAN, NORWOOD, STOUT, STEWART

Need information on the following families: MORGAN, DOOLAN, NORWOOD, STOUT & STEWART.

DIANE BLAISE PEDLEY WELLER, 4407 The Court, Sacramento, CA 95821-2940 or <weredi56@netscape.net>

COCO/LaCOCO, MANICHIA, TAMURA

Looking for information about ROSA/ROSINA COCO (or LaCOCO) and VINCENZO/CHARLIE MANICHIA (m. 1913, Lake Charles by Father CRAMERS). He had grocery store on or near Railroad Ave. ROSA was widow of GUISEPPE TAMURA (d. ca 1905) and mother of ANGELINA (b. 1906), after her husband's death. I think GUISEPPE died in Lake Charles. Would appreciate verification.

LANA MARIE SULLIVAN, 2812 Newman St., Houston, TX 77098-1408 or <lsullivan@camh.org>

SONNIER, JACKSON, HASKELL, GUIDRY

Seeking cousins from the line of SAVENIA/SEVIGNE SONNIER and wife, MARGUERITE ANUNCIAD SONNIER, originally from Lafayette Parish. They were grandchildren of JOSEPH SONNIER Sr. and JULIENNE GUIDRY and were 1st cousins. Also looking for cousins from JAMES H. JACKSON and wife, ELIZA HASKELL, both of Barnwell Co., SC.

AUDREY LEE CROCKETT, 280 Woodberry Lane, Odenville, AL 35120 or <lcroc51@cs.com>

HAGGART, JOHNSTON

Searching for information on DANIEL HAGGART (b. ca 1792, Scotland). Son, DUNCAN HAGGART (b. Oswegatchie, NY; d. 14 Jan. 1901, Iowa, La.) came from the state of Iowa to the town of Iowa, La. His wife was CATHERINE JOHNSTON (b. 1846, Canada; d. 20 April 1903, Iowa, La.). Both are buried in Pine Hill Cemetery in Iowa, La.

MARY KALEIBE HAGGART, P. O. Box 1039, Woodruff, WI or <maryh@newnorth.net>

MOST OF US are familiar with federal census enumerations which began in 1790, but did you know that many territorial and colonial censuses were made before, and in addition to, the federal census records? Contents of these special census records vary, but may enhance the records of your ancestor.

MEMBER # 234

Ancestor Chart

Name of Compiler Beverly DELANEY Person No. 1 on this chart is the same person as No. _____ on chart No. _____Address 130 Delaney Rd.City, State Lake Charles, LA 70607Date Revised 12-04

Chart No. _____

b. Date of Birth
p.b. Place of Birth
m. Date of Marriage
d. Date of Death
p.d. Place of Death4 THERIOT, Adolph(Father of No. 2)
b. 3 Mar. 1868
p.b. Chenier Perdue, La.
m. (2) 25 Jan. 1889
d. 7 Mar. 1955
p.d. Chenier Perdue, La.2 THERIOT, Adolph Jules(Father of No. 1)
b. 18 Jan. 1908
p.b. Chenier Perdue, La.
m. 20 Jan. 1928
d. 19 Feb. 1994
p.d. Lake Charles, La.5 MAUBOULES, Ernestine(Claudia)
(Mother of No. 2)
b. 21 Aug. 1873
p.b. Golden Meadow, La.
d. 29 Jan. 1954
p.d. Chenier Perdue, La.1 THERIOT, Beverly Donab.
p.b.
m.
d.
p.d.6 MILLER, Junius J.(Father of No. 3)
b. 7 Mar. 1881
p.b. Grand Chenier, La.
m. 1 Sep. 1908
d. 27 Mar. 1962
p.d. Lake Charles, La.3 MILLER, Winnie Bernice(Mother of No. 1)
b. 7 Feb. 1912
p.b. Grand Chenier, La.
d. 5 Oct. 2003
p.d. Lake Charles, La.7 DEMAREST, Evelyn(Mother of No. 3)
b. 27 Mar. 1888
p.b. Grand Lake, La.
d. 21 Aug. 1974
p.d. Lake Charles, La.DELANEY, Hugh Pershing(Spouse of No. 1)
b.
p.b.
d.
p.d.8 THERIOT, Jean Bapt. Vill(Father of No. 4)
b. 6 July 1828
p.b. St. Martinville, La.
m. 24 Oct. 1855
d. 29 Oct. 1899
p.d. Chenier Perdue, La.9 RICHARD, Cleonise(Mother of No. 4)
b. 6 June 1836
p.b. St. Martinville, La.
d. 10 June 1916
p.d. Chenier Perdue, La.10 MAUBOULES, John J.(Father of No. 5)
b. 26 Sep. 1826
p.b. Pau, France
m. 14 Apr. 1863
d. 7 July 1920
p.d. Rayne, La.11 PIERCE, Malvaina(Mother of No. 5)
b. 29 Jan. 1843
p.b. Bayou Lafourche, La.
d. 15 May 1927
p.d. Morse, La.12 MILLER, Aladian(Father of No. 6)
b. 14 Oct. 1853
p.b. Grand Chenier, La.
m. 23 July 1877
d. 23 June 1926
p.d. Grand Chenier, La.13 NUNEZ, Anora(Mother of No. 6)
b. 29 Oct. 1860
p.b. Abbeville, La.
d. 19 June 1929
p.d. Grand Chenier, La.14 DEMAREST, Toussaint(Father of No. 7)
b. 12 Oct. 1856
p.b. Grand Lake, La.
m. ca 1876
d. 19 Jan. 1911
p.d. Grand Lake, La.15 BLANCHARD, Nanette(Mother of No. 7)
b. ca 1862
p.b. Grand Lake, La.
d. -- 1894
p.d. Grand Lake, La.16 THERIAUT, Charlesb. -- 1785
p.b. 8 Feb. 1823
d. ca 183717 POIRIER, Scholastiqueb. 28 Aug. 1805
d. (Mother of No. 8, Cont. on chart No. _____)18 RICHARD, Rosemondb. 28 Apr. 1795
m. 29 Sep. 1817
d. (Mother of No. 9, Cont. on chart No. _____)19 POIRIER, Anastasieb. 1 Sep. 1790
d. (Mother of No. 9, Cont. on chart No. _____)20 MAUBOULES, Jeanb. 4 July 1793
m. 29 Nov. 1817
d. (Father of No. 10, Cont. on chart No. _____)21 LABORDE, Catherineb. -- 1794
d. (Mother of No. 10, Cont. on chart No. _____)22 PIERCE, Jackson (Andrew)b. -- Oct. 1820
m. 8 Nov. 1841
d. 15 Dec. 1903 - La.
(Father of No. 11, Cont. on chart No. _____)23 MELANSON, Celoniseb. -- Sep. 1822
d. (Mother of No. 11, Cont. on chart No. _____)24 MILLER, Michelb. 23 July 1829
m. ca 1849
d. ca 1864
(Father of No. 12, Cont. on chart No. _____)25 BROUSSARD, Elenab. 24 Aug. 1833
d. 30 May 1895
(Mother of No. 12, Cont. on chart No. _____)26 NUNEZ, Sebastainb. 14 Oct. 1829
m. ca 1853
d. 24 Jan. 1877
(Father of No. 13, Cont. on chart No. _____)27 TRAHAN, Ameliab. 8 Feb. 1835
d. 9 Nov. 1924
(Mother of No. 13, Cont. on chart No. _____)28 DEMAREST, Elieb. 25 Apr. 1833
m. 4 Mar. 1854
d. 31 Oct. 1862
(Father of No. 14, Cont. on chart No. _____)29 BROUSSARD, Marieb. ca 1839
d. 29 Aug. 1891 - La.
(Mother of No. 14, Cont. on chart No. _____)30 BLANCHARD, Belonieb. 8 Dec. 1815
m. 12 Feb. 1842
d. -- 189331 LEBOUEF, Marie Eloiseb. 28 Aug. 1822
d. -- Sep. 1915
(Cont. on chart No. _____)

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Lake Charles American Press (12/29/1929)

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