



# 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**EDITORIAL POLICY** - We encourage and welcome contributions for inclusion in *Kinfolks*, especially unpublished material pertaining to Southwest Louisiana.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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**SOCIETY NEWS**  
**SWLGS Web Site – <http://www.rootsweb.com/~laslgs/swlgs.htm>**

**SEPTEMBER MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society, Inc. will be held on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006, at 10:00 A.M. in the Carnegie Meeting Room of Southwest Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Library, 411 Pujo St., Lake Charles. Coffee and fellowship begin at 9:30 A.M. Guests are always welcome.

The program will be "Historical Structures of Lake Charles" presented by A. C. BOURDIER of Lake Charles.

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**NEW MEMBERS**

- 1482. EMMA HARPER HOBBS, 590 W. Houston River Rd., Sulphur, LA 70663
- 1483. JOHN SELLERS, 1312 Azalea Lane, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482
- 1484. DONALD FUSELIER Jr., P. O. Box 864, Westlake, LA 70669
- 1485. MACILE H. LEJEUNE, 3205 Hwy 90 W., Sulphur, LA 70663

Membership To Date: 388

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**OCTOBER IS FAMILY HISTORY MONTH.** It is a time to share your knowledge and research with family members. Although not everyone will be interested in in-depth genealogy, tell them simple and intriguing things...what the surname means, why the family came to the area, the national origin of the family/families, stories of grandparents or interesting ancestors. It is a time to get youth interested in our families and to teach valuable lessons of the past.

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**NEW ADDITIONS TO THE SW LA GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL LIBRARY**

*ALLEN PARISH MARRIAGES* – Index 1913 - 1983, Marriage Records 1913 – 1925  
*CALCASIEU PARISH* – Mortgage Books 1893 – 1979, Conveyance Books 1961 – 1979  
(Note: Anyone interested in indexing any of this collection may contact us at the Library.)

*Passenger and Immigration Lists Index*

*From England – to Barbados – to Carolina, 1670-1700*

*Indian Wills, 1911-1921*

*Revolutionary War Period – Bible, Family and Marriage Records, Vol. 22*

*Missouri Genealogical Gleanings: 1840 and Beyond, volumes 3, 5, 6, 7, 8*

*Missouri Miscellany: State-Wide Genealogical Records, volumes 11, 14, 16*

*Moss. Our Moss Family (1790s – 2005)*

*Chaumont. Footsteps of Joseph Narcisse Chaumont*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

**2006**

**SEPTEMBER 16 – SATURDAY – SWLGS REGULAR MEETING – 10:00 A.M.**

**CARNEGIE MEETING ROOM, 414 PUJO ST., LAKE CHARLES, LA**

**SPEAKER: A. C. BOURDIER of Lake Charles**

**PROGRAM: "Historical Structures of Lake Charles"**

**OCTOBER 21 – SATURDAY – LAFAYETTE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

**WHAT:** Genealogy Conference – 9:00 A.M. to 3:15 P.M. – 4 sessions, 4 different topics

**WHERE:** Grace Presbyterian Church, 518 Roselawn Blvd., Lafayette, LA – free parking

**SPEAKERS and TOPICS:** CASSANDRA FREDERICK (Writing Your Genealogy), EDNA JONES (What's in a Name), DOROTHY BURLEIGH (Daughters of the American Revolution), JEAN KIESEL (Using Land Records), CHARLES PATTERSON (Scanning and Using Photographs in Genealogy), BRENDA FUSELIER (Southwest Louisiana Records), EARL GATES (Computer Genealogy), CINDY HOFFMEISTER (Using Courthouse Records). Other speakers to be added.

**PRE-REGISTRATION:** Until October 7<sup>th</sup>, \$20.00 for non-members; \$35.00 includes membership through 2007). Mail check to Lafayette Genealogical Society, PO Box 52041, Lafayette, LA 70505. After that date - \$25.00 and \$40.00.

**AMENITIES:** Conference syllabus containing 2-page summaries of each presentation, 40 pages total, Bag Lunch (sandwich, chips and soft drink), and Coffee.

**NOVEMBER 18 – SATURDAY – SWLGS REGULAR MEETING – 10:00 A.M.**

**CARNEGIE MEETING ROOM, 414 PUJO ST., LAKE CHARLES, LA**

**SPEAKER: C. J. CHRIST of Houma, La.**

**PROGRAM: "WWII in the Gulf of Mexico"**

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**NOVEMBER 11 IS VETERAN'S DAY.** In 1919, this day was called Armistice Day and celebrated the end of the Great War, World War I, with programs and parades. On 11 November 1921, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was dedicated to honor all the unidentified military personnel who died in the war. In 1954, President Eisenhower signed legislation that changed Armistice Day to Veterans' Day, to honor all those who served their country during every war. Poppies were chosen as a symbol of remembrance and sales of artificial poppies on Poppy Day helped disabled veterans and the widows and orphaned children of veterans. The poppy theme was inspired by the following poignant lines from the poem written by JOHN McCRAE.

### **FLANDERS FIELDS**

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place, and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly.  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.



## **WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT BURNED? IS ALL YOUR RESEARCH UP IN SMOKE?**

***"To hear the statement there was a fire, flood or other disaster should be the beginning of your investigative research, not the end."*** John A. Sellers, 2005

JOHN A. SELLERS, who has family connections with Lake Charles, was the speaker for the May meeting of the SWLGS. Mr. SELLERS is a nationally recognized genealogist and speaker. He spoke on the many alternative sources that researchers can use if documents have been lost in courthouse disasters, such as the conflagration which destroyed the courthouse and Catholic Church records in Lake Charles in 1910. He presented the following outline.

**Preliminary research before you visit the courthouse. Consult the following resources to learn original county and neighboring counties where records might be located:**

1. *The Handybook for Genealogists*, USA, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, Everton Publishers
2. *Ancestry's Redbook*
3. US GenWeb for individual county sites

Check for prepared inventories that may have been completed by local genealogical societies, county or state governments, or the WPA.

If you determine that there is a documented disaster and a possible loss of records, you should not give up, but push forward in your research.

There are courthouses that are burned that have a MINIMAL or NO LOSS of records. A great example, Hopkins County, Tex. burned in 1874, with no loss of records except possibly some personal papers of county judges.

Even in courthouses with loss of records, certain offices and record groups may not have suffered complete loss. *Have you ever tried to burn a book?* Another fallacy is the beliefs or excuses of some clerks who do not know certain records are there or care to get them.

One source says that there are only three completely burned courthouses: Butler and Franklin, Alabama, and Twigg's County, Georgia. 66 counties of 120 counties in Kentucky have suffered some loss.

**Records that still may exist in courthouses:**

1. Records may have been stored elsewhere during the fire.
2. Records may have been saved during fire or only certain offices received fire damage.

### **After the fire**

**Deed Records-** records are re-recorded or recorded for the first time years after the transactions. Clerks may offer free recording fees to encourage land owners to record their deeds again. Land that was mortgaged was usually re-recorded. Sometimes clerks offered free filing fees after a fire in order to get deeds re-recorded.



Other counties that were formed out of the burned parent county often transcribed deeds from the parent county to begin their records. These records could have been done before the fire. Example: Franklin Co., Tex. was formed in 1875, and transcribed land records from Titus Co. that applied to the new county. Titus burned in 1895, but these records still exist in Franklin.

**Court Records**-Cases to clear land title may recreate land transactions and probate that occur before fire. Affidavits of heirships may be presented in land and court cases.

**Records that exist outside of the courthouse.** Tax and other records often sent to state level.

**Records that replace missing courthouse records.** A record may be copied or stored at another level of government. Example: A copy of tax records sent to the State government is sometimes the only record that exists for a certain county in a certain time period.

**Probate records**-If the deceased had land in neighboring counties or in the area where he previously lived, some of the cases may be recorded in other counties. Pay attention to county's history and boundary changes. Records may be in neighboring counties.

**Court records**-Records of cases that were appealed or handled by other courts. Check records up to the State Supreme Courts. Example: There were records from Jackson Co., Tenn. in the State Archives on a case that was appealed to the Supreme Court.

Check adjacent counties for all records. Land may cross county lines, or lines may change over the years.

**Church Records:** for vital statistics. Also establishes years of residence.

**Check Local Libraries and Archives.** They may have manuscripts, diaries, store ledgers, etc. that may cover the time period where public records are scarce or nonexistent.

**Funeral Home and Sexton Records**-For location of burial sites and death and burial dates.

**Federal Census Records**-Both Population and Agricultural schedules-1850 and 1860 schedules indicate land ownership values. Agricultural schedules indicate amount of acreage improved, crops raised, and type of livestock.

**Title or Abstract Companies**-Private entities. Their card files or similar systems dealing with tracts of land may have unique records in documenting ownership. May be expensive to search.

**Private Land Offices or Attorneys**-Their early records could have been placed in local archives.

**Fraternal Records**, such as Masonic Lodge records, may establish residency and death dates.

**Newspapers**-check for legal notices and land sales.

#### Selected bibliography

Johni Cerny and Arlene Eakle. *Ancestry's Guide to Research*. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, Inc., 1985

Eichloz, Alice. *Ancestry's Redbook: American State, County & Town Sources*, Rev. ed. Salt Lake City:

Ancestry Publishing, 1992

Everton, George B., Jr. *Handy Book for Genealogists*. Logan, Utah: The Everton Publishers, Inc. 1991. 8<sup>th</sup> Edition.



## AMERICAN WARS AND THE RECORDS THEY GENERATED: AFTER THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

From the Revolutionary War to the War of 1812, there were great changes in the country. By 1798, there was fierce internal strife within the country between those who sided with France and those who favored England. Feelings intensified, and the unpopular Alien and Sedition Acts were passed. They affected many Americans, as well as aliens, before they were revoked. They provided for deportation or imprisonment of any alien who endangered the country, raised residence requirements for naturalization from 5 to 14 years, and provided heavy fines and imprisonment for those found guilty of writing or speaking anything of a "false, scandalous or malicious nature" against the government or any government official.

In 1800, when Washington, D. C. became the nation's capital, the National Anthem was *Hail Columbia*. The population of the country was over five million, and thousands of emigrants fleeing from the ravages of the Napoleonic Wars continued to pour in. By 1800, the cotton gin had proven its worth. There was a huge demand for cotton, but cotton, a labor-intensive crop, wore out the land, so new land and more slaves were constantly needed. The average cotton farmer moved at least twice in a generation, wearing out the soil and then moving on. The planter class, however, farmed larger acreages and lived in permanent homes. Land was in great demand and settlers became interested in the ancestral lands of the Indian tribes, who refused to sell or cede it to the U. S. Problems along all frontiers accelerated into Indian Wars, but the Indians rarely won, and were gradually forced from their lands. In 1803, the U. S. bought the vast Louisiana Territory from France, doubling the size of the country. This resulted in planters getting more land and to the expansion of slavery. Before the Purchase, most of the slaves were limited to New Orleans, Natchez, and a few large plantations along the Mississippi River. After adding the lands of the Louisiana Purchase and those of the Florida Parishes, much of the land became slave-holding states, which created a division in the country that ultimately led to the War Between the States.

Resentment toward the British increased. They damaged American trade, impressed American sailors, and refused to surrender their forts in the Northwest Territory as stipulated after the Revolutionary War. They had armed the Indians and incited them to prey on frontier settlements. The Indians had never surrendered or admitted defeat. In 1806, in a bid for Indian control of the land, the Shawnee chief, TECUMSEH, preached a crusade to unite the Indians and to eliminate white men. In the Northwest, he united the Cherokees, Delawares, Hurons and Shawnees, who allied themselves to the British. Then TECUMSEH went south to recruit other tribes to harass the southern frontier. Only the Choctaws chose to fight on the side of the Americans. Indian raids and massacres set the frontiers ablaze. By 1813, the Creeks had attacked the Alabama-Georgia frontier settlements.

Both England and France had been impressing sailors to augment their navies, claiming the men were actually deserters. Within a few years, England had impressed over 6,000 American seamen, and France had captured over 500 American vessels. In 1807, when three black deserters from the English ship *Malapus* enlisted for service on the American frigate *Chesapeake*, the British demanded their surrender. Although it was established that the men were of American birth and had been impressed, a battle resulted between the American frigate



*Chesapeake* and the British *Leopard*. The *Chesapeake* was forced to surrender, and the British Navy retook the black men. Americans became incensed over the audacity of the British to attack a U. S. warship; until this time, the British had only attacked merchant vessels. When war was declared in 1812, most impressed seamen refused to fight against their countrymen and were thrown into British prisons.

The U. S. continued to grow in population and power. According to the 1810 census, the population of the country had reached 7,200,000. New York was the country's largest city with 96,973 people. Philadelphia was next, followed by Baltimore, Boston and Charleston, but the country was mostly made up of rural communities consisting of farms, a store or two and churches. Manufacturing was done on a small scale; cottage industries, such as lace making, thrived. Transportation was still by boat, wagon or horse, but everything was changing. New roads were being built to lead thousands of immigrants westward, and in 1807, Robert Fulton launched the first steamboat, the *Clermont*. In 1813, DAVID MELVILLE demonstrated a gas light and charged 25 cents to see it. The following wars took place in the period between the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

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**SHAYS REBELLION** of 1786 took place in the western Massachusetts, where depression had hit hardest after the Revolutionary War. Prices were too low for farmers to sell their crops and livestock, and they asked that livestock be made legal tender. This was considered absurd, and, led by Captain DANIEL SHAYS, the farmers began a series of shotgun reforms. To stop the rebellion, wealthy citizens of Boston raised money for troops. A battle was fought when the rebels tried to get control of the arsenal at Springfield. They were defeated; their leaders were arrested, and later pardoned. Men who took part in this insurrection were born about 1740 to 1765.

**NORTHWESTERN INDIAN WAR, 1790-1795**, occurred when a group of Indians of the Miami Confederation...Miamis, Shawnees, Potawatamis and Chippewas...under the leadership of LITTLE TURTLE continued depredations on frontier settlements. In 1790, WASHINGTON sent two forces of men to teach the Indians a lesson, but they were defeated. A third force under Gen. "Mad" ANTHONY WAYNE, a Revolutionary War hero, was successful. The Indians were defeated and almost annihilated at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in August 1794. They ceded land in the Northwest Territory, including the site of the future city of Chicago, for a mere \$10,000...and the frontier was pushed further westward. Veterans of this Indian war were born between 1740 and 1775.

**THE WHISKEY REBELLION of 1794** was another revolution over taxation. It was easier and more profitable to transport whiskey than raw corn, but in 1791, a heavy tax had been put upon domestic whiskey that placed a heavy burden on farmers from Pennsylvania to the southern states. Discontent turned to violence. WASHINGTON sent 12,000 troops to quell the rebellion, and most of the "Whiskey Boys" just went home. The leaders of the rebellion were tried for treason; later they were pardoned. Men in this rebellion were born about 1750 to 1775.

**UNDECLARED WAR WITH FRANCE: THE XYZ AFFAIR of 1796** was an undeclared war with heavy fighting on the seas. In 1795, the French began to capture American merchant

ships and impress American sailors. JEFFERSON sent GERRY, PINCKNEY, and MARSHALL to France, but the French Directory refused to see them. Instead, TALLEYRAND sent messengers with code names "X," "Y," and "Z" to the American ministers, saying he could stop attacks on American shipping for \$250,000. PINCKNEY replied, "No, No. Not a sixpence!" MARSHALL stated "Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute," and this became the American's rallying cry. WASHINGTON was called from retirement to lead the army. The Navy Department was organized; three new heavy frigates were built, and over 400 privately owned vessels were commissioned as privateers to hinder French commerce and seize French ships. The Americans captured 80 French ships, but their losses were heavy. Men who fought during this undeclared war were born between 1750 and 1780.

**NORTHWESTERN INDIAN WAR, 1798-1800.** An Indian uprising in the Northwest Territory ravaged the frontier. Men born between 1750 to 1780 might have taken part in this war.

**FRIES REBELLION** in 1798 was the result of the earliest Federal tax. In order for U. S. to become financially stable, in 1798, Congress imposed a direct tax on residences, lands and slaves. Lands and houses were taxed according to value, but the value of a house was determined by the number and size of its windows. Slave owners were taxed 50 cents a year on every slave between the ages of 12 and 50. Therefore, it was necessary to have all these items listed, along with the names of their owners. Each piece of real estate was described and assessed, with a complete inventory of all dwellings and outbuildings. Buildings were described as to dimension, construction, number of windows and window panes, location and value. Residents of eastern Pennsylvania, led by JOHN FRIES, rebelled against the house tax, and the U. S. Army was sent to quell the rebellion. The size of the dwelling and the value of the property give a direct clue to the socio-economic status of the family. Outbuildings, such as a grist-mill or smithy, provide clues to an ancestor's occupation. Ownership of slaves may also provide a clue to a family's wealth. Like a census, names of neighbors on this list might be clues to family connections. These old federal tax lists may be found in the archives of the first states. Some lists have been published. Men who took part were born between 1750 and 1780.

**TRIPOLITAN WARS,** wars with the corsairs of the Barbary States of the small Moslem countries that rimmed North Africa...Algiers, Morocco, Tunis and Tripoli...were fought from 1801 to 1805 and again from 1811 to 1815. As outposts of the Ottoman Empire, they controlled the Straits of Gibraltar and demanded tribute from ships passing into and out of the Mediterranean. Failure to pay tribute resulted in the capture of a ship's passengers, crew and cargo; the ship was taken as a prize. The people involved were either ransomed or enslaved; few could pay the exorbitant ransoms, so most captives became slaves. Escape was virtually impossible. Therefore, the leading shipping interests of Europe paid an annual tribute.

Until the Revolutionary War, the British Royal Navy had protected American commerce, but with independence, British protection ended. In 1792, Congress approved an annual payment of \$100,000 for tribute to Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli, as well as \$40,000 to ransom enslaved American crews. Algiers failed to honor the arrangement, and in 1793, seized eleven American ships and crews. WASHINGTON asked for a naval force to protect Americans in the Mediterranean, but Congress had no money for such a project. In 1794, Congress authorized the construction of six frigates, but incredibly, stopped construction on the ships and agreed to a



demand for one million dollars and a 36-gun vessel for the pirates! Such weak policies against piracy encouraged others. The French seized demanded money to stop their piracy in the Mediterranean (See XYZ Affair, above.) The "Washington Frigates" were finally finished. The American Navy had begun!

In 1800, the Barbary States raised their demands. In 1801, the Pasha of Tripoli demanded \$230,000 and cut down the American flag. This was an Act of War, and JEFFERSON sent a squadron of four ships to blockade the coast of Tripoli. The small squadron failed, so a second squadron was sent in 1802, and a third squadron followed in 1803. Then, after hitting a reef, the frigate *Philadelphia* was captured by Tripolitan pirates. Since the ship could not be recaptured, it was decided to destroy it. On 16 February 1804, STEPHEN DECATUR, who would gain greater fame in the upcoming War of 1812, led a night commando raid into the harbor and set fire to the *Philadelphia*, and the commandos escaped just before the ship blew up. Another night raid convinced the Pasha to cancel his demand for American tribute and to accept a \$60,000 ransom for the enslaved crew of the *Philadelphia*. In addition to the sea attacks, an overland operation headed by a pretender to the throne and backed by an American, WILLIAM EATON, helped defeat the Tripolitan pirates, and the Pasha signed a peace treaty in 1805. The American ships sailed away from the North African coast, but their troubles, unfortunately, were not over.

During the War of 1812, the Barbary pirates became the scourge of the seas once again. The Dey of Algiers captured an American ship, and President MADISON sent DECATUR back to North Africa with ten ships and a treaty stating that the U. S. would abolish all tributes and requiring the Dey to pay an indemnity for enslaving Americans. In 1815, the *Constitution*, "Old Ironsides," entered the port of Algiers, and DECATUR threatened to sink every Algerian ship. The Dey released all Americans, paid for captured American ships, and renounced all demands for American tribute. DECATUR went on to Tripoli and Tunis, which also agreed to pay indemnities. In 1819, a treaty at Aix-la-Chapelle, France demanded the abolishment of piracy and ended the centuries-old reign of the Barbary pirates. Although they faded into history, their name lived on in the infamous Barbary Coast District of San Francisco that was destroyed by the earthquake of 1906 and in the line of the Marine Corps Hymn, "From the Halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli." Veterans of the Tripolitan War were born between 1750 and 1790.

**TECUMSEH'S WAR in 1811** was an Indian rebellion in the Northwest that occurred when TECUMSEH, a powerful Shawnee chief made a religious crusade to remove all white settlers from Indian lands. Backed by British allies, the Indian tribes began a rampage on the northwest frontier, capturing several American outposts, including Detroit. Then TECUMSEH went south to cajole the Creeks and other tribes to violence. He predicted an eclipse and an earthquake. The eclipse plunged the parts of the country into darkness, and the New Madrid earthquake shook the Mississippi Valley and changed the geography of the land, proving his power. Gen. WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON was sent with 11,000 men, "the Second Northwestern Army," and some Kentucky volunteers to quell the Indian rebellion and to recapture Detroit. When HARRISON received word from OLIVER HAZARD PERRY that Lake Erie was in American control, he attacked, defeating the British and crushing the Indians. TECUMSEH was killed, but a thousand miles to the south, his message had taken root as Indians in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida began a struggle with the white settlers that would last for thirty years. Men who took part in this Indian uprising were born about 1760 to 1790.

**THE CREEK WAR of 1813-1814** was a civil war between factions of the Creek Indian Nation which escalated into an attack on white settlements along the Alabama frontier. Retaliation against the Creeks became a small war within the larger War of 1812. Led by Red Sticks, young cruel warriors who were identified by their red-painted war clubs, and some Creeks, heeding TECUMSEH's message to resist white encroachment and a plan to build a railroad across their lands, went on a rampage of killing. The U. S. became involved in this chaos in July 1813, when some white settlers and mixed-blood Creeks attacked Red Sticks carrying ammunition provided by the British in Spanish Florida. The Creeks forced the whites to retreat to the fortified house of PETER MIMS in the Mississippi Territory, about 40 miles north of Mobile. On 30 August 1813, Creeks attacked and burned Fort Mims, slaughtering about 250-275 men, women, children, and friendly Indians in barbaric ways. About 30 or 40 persons escaped to tell of the savage massacre. Americans reacted with anger and fear...fear that other frontier settlements might meet the same fate. In a fight to eliminate as many Indians as they could, a large force of Tennessee militiamen and volunteers led by ANDREW JACKSON defeated the Creeks at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. Among the volunteers were SAM HOUSTON and DAVY CROCKETT. The threat to the Georgia-Alabama frontier was ended forever, and about 23 million acres of Creek land in Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi were opened up to white settlers. It is said that the old saying, "If the Creek don't rise..." comes from this period. Men who took part in this war were born between 1763 and 1795.

#### **THE WAR OF 1812, 1812-1815**

Feelings were strong against the British who regularly searched American ships, impounded the cargoes and impressed about 6,000 sailors to sail on British ships. British embargoes were curtailing American commerce, making ships idle, costing merchants' fortunes and putting seamen out of work. Furthermore, the British had never abandoned the western forts after the Revolutionary War and were inciting Indian tribes to violence on the frontiers. "Warhawks" pushed for war, but the country was unprepared for war. The army consisted of about 6,000 poorly trained men. Most of the officers were Revolutionary War veterans, and the rest were young and inexperienced. Veterans formed home guard units, but the fate of the country depended on its untrained civilian militia. On sea, the country was weaker still, with only sixteen small vessels to oppose the entire British Navy. Privateers, heavily armed, privately owned ships, were recruited to help.

Federalists, interested in commerce and trade, opposed the war. Massachusetts refused to send soldiers to fight outside her borders, and threatened to secede. Vermont, New Hampshire, and northeastern New York ignored the embargo, and traded with the British in nearby Canada and through privateers or neutral shipping through the Spanish and Portuguese. According to the *History Magazine*, "one British officer estimated that 80% of the beef cattle eaten by British troops in Upper Canada came from Vermont and New Hampshire. Roads to Canada were so clogged with cattle that drovers had to find their way through the woods to get to the border." Smuggled goods also poured into Georgia and Louisiana from nearby Spanish colonies.

War was declared against Great Britain on 4 June 1812. The Army was increased to about 15,000 men, backed by 50,000 militiamen. Thinking that the conquest of British Canada would be easy, "On to Canada" became a popular slogan, but the campaign ended in disaster, and the Michigan Territory fell into British hands. The British and their Indian allies massacred the



garrisons at Fort Dearborn (Chicago) and took Fort Detroit. The frontier burst into flames! WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON defeated the Indians at the Battle of Tippecanoe and became a national hero; later he became president. TECUMSEH, the Shawnee chief who had led the Indian Confederacy, was killed, and the Indian menace on the northwest frontier decreased. Fighting continued along the Canadian border into 1814, until OLIVER HAZARD PERRY captured the British squadron on Lake Erie and forced the British to retreat from Detroit and into Canada. The Northwest Territory was American property again.

War on the sea was an uneven battle England's Navy was the finest in the world, but the American Navy was so small that the British laughed at the "few fir-built frigates, manned by a handful of outlaws." However, they soon learned. In October 1812, one of the most famous naval battles of all time took place between the *HMS Guerriere* and *USS Constitution*; shells bounced off the *Constitution*, gaining her the nickname "Old Ironsides." Within thirty minutes, she had disabled the British vessel. Although the blockade had bottled up most American frigates, privateers continued to plague the British Navy. The *London Chronicle* reported that 500 privateers had captured 1,200 merchant ships. Never had Britain suffered such losses, but the British blockade wreaked havoc on American shipping. It caused a shortage of goods and supplies; inflation soared. It became necessary to ship goods overland to points where privateers might take them as cargoes. Some privateer captains and merchants made vast fortunes from smuggling, but others lost their ships and cargo. Captured privateering vessels were sold with their cargoes; profits went to crews who captured the ship and the man who financed the venture.

As the war progressed, experienced troops from the Napoleonic Wars poured in. One British Army marched down from Canada; another was sent to attack the capital at Washington and the city of Baltimore; a third went to capture New Orleans to control the Mississippi River. New York and Maine were invaded, and the blockade grew tighter. As the British advanced on the nation's capital, the government fled to Virginia. The President's wife, DOLLY PAYNE MADISON hurriedly packed silver, important state documents and GILBERT STUART's famous portrait of GEORGE WASHINGTON, fleeing just before the British entered the city. On 24 August 1814, the British took control of Washington and burned many of the homes and public buildings, including the White House and the Capitol, claiming that this act was in retaliation for the burning of York by the Americans in the preceding year.

Three weeks later, British land forces attacked Baltimore. As their ships bombarded Fort McHenry guarding the harbor, FRANCIS SCOTT KEY, who was a prisoner-of-war aboard a British ship, observed the shelling. The British land and sea attacks were unsuccessful, and in the dawn's early light the American flag was still waving! The poem KEY wrote about the battle was set to the tune of an old English drinking song and became *The Star Spangled Banner*.

From the southwest came tragic news that the Creek Civil War had resulted in a barbaric massacre at Fort Mims near the Alabama border. The Americans launched a counter-offensive against the Creeks, Chickasaws, and Seminoles, who were British allies. ANDREW JACKSON, with a group of Tennessee militia men and volunteers, eliminated most of the Creeks and solved the Indian problem on the southern frontier. As a result, in 1814, JACKSON was appointed Commander of the Southern Military District. He seized the British base at Spanish Pensacola that was supplying the Indians with arms and ammunition and hung two British agents who were

accused of inciting the Indians. This action in neutral Spanish territory aroused anger against JACKSON and the U. S., but JACKSON went on to Mobile, and then to New Orleans, where his exploits brought him the fame that eventually made him president.

The third British force was sent to capture New Orleans, the port city that controlled the Mississippi River, the pathway for most of the nation's river traffic. The British also needed to stop the intrigues of French veterans in the city who had myriad schemes to liberate NAPOLEON and to establish him as emperor in the new lands of the Southwest. As the British sailed up the Mississippi from the Gulf, slaves erected protective earthworks and stacked cotton bales as troops rapidly assembled to defend the city. They included the Bayou Sara Mounted Rifles, Beale's Rifles, five companies of the Battalion d'Orleans, Hinds' Mississippi Dragoons, Coffee's Tennessee Cavalry, a band of Choctaw Indians, free colored troops, Laffitte's pirates from Barataria Bay, townspeople, militia, and other volunteers. Led by JACKSON, they defeated the larger, well-trained British Army in the Battle of New Orleans, the final engagement in the War of 1812. Ironically, it was fought 8 January 1815, after the war had officially ended. A peace treaty had been signed on 24 December 1814, but because of the slow communications of the day, the news was not known until later. It was not until 17 March 1815 that the battered British fleet sailed away. It was the last foreign invasion of American soil until the Japanese invaded the Aleutian Islands in World War II.

The Battle of New Orleans made JACKSON a national hero. He became a senator, and served for two terms as president. After JACKSON became president, the Battle of New Orleans became a national holiday, and for many years its anniversary was celebrated with feasts, dances, speeches and parades. Between JACKSON's death in 1845 and the War Between the States, the glory of the old battle faded and was no longer celebrated, and now the battle that changed our country is all but forgotten. However, a living history encampment at Chalmette National Battlefield on the 8<sup>th</sup> of each January still honors the memory of those who fought this battle, and the Daughters of the War of 1812 have a wreath-placing ceremony at Jackson Square in New Orleans on that date. Some of the dead from this war, particularly those who died in Louisiana, are buried in the Chalmette National Cemetery. Names of these men can be found listed in *L'Heritage*, the quarterly of the St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana Genealogical Society.

A great number of records were generated by the War of 1812. They include military records, such as enlistments, muster rolls, discharge papers, battle records, casualty and prisoner lists, bounty land applications, pension records, widow's claims, civilian claims for supplies or damages, etc. Accusations and trials of some Americans who gave aid and comfort to the enemy are on record. Lists of British veterans and their military records also exist. Original records can be found in the National Archives, or, in the case of militia and other volunteers, in the archives of the state from which they served. However, many records for militiamen were not turned over to the War Department and may not exist. Newspaper articles and personal recollections in journals, diaries and old letters supply first-hand accounts of the era and tell of the battles. Many of the old records have been printed and microfilmed. *Louisiana Soldiers in the War of 1812* (Pierson. La. Genealogical & Historical Society) is an alphabetical index to the compiled service records of Louisiana men, including their rank and regiments. Men from southwest Louisiana served in the War of 1812, particularly at the Battle of New Orleans. One of these was MARTIN CAMERSAC, who served as a private in the 16<sup>th</sup> (Thompson's) Louisiana Militia.



During the war, Congress passed laws encouraging men to enlist and remain in the army for a specified period of time. One of these laws provided 160 acres in the Illinois, Arkansas or Missouri Territories to any one who served in any branch of the service, or to the widows and children of those who died in service. For a short time during the war, bounty land was doubled to 320 acres. Changes made bounty land requirements more liberal, and by 1855, anyone who served as little as 14 days or had participated in a battle was eligible. Pensions were provided for those disabled during service and to the heirs of officers killed in the war. These were the only pensions available until after 1871, when almost any veteran or his widow, even if remarried, was eligible. Since there were only 31 years between the end of the Revolutionary War and the beginning of the War of 1812, it was not unusual to have an ancestor who served in both wars. Boys as young as 12 were drummer boys, and men in their seventies manned the home guard and took part in battles near their homes. Consider each male ancestor who was born from 1740 to 1800 as a possible veteran of the war. Consider each female as the possible widow of a veteran. Half a million men fought for the U. S. during the War of 1812, but most of them were militia. Thousands of American men fought, died or were disabled in battles, on land and sea. The last surviving veteran of this war was HIRAM CROOK, who died at the age of 105 years in 1905.

Several hereditary societies exist for descendants of veterans of the War of 1812. The Military Society of the War of 1812 was founded for descendants of commissioned officers, aides-de-camp, and commanding officers of privately armed ships. The Sons and Daughters of the War of 1812 are lineage societies for descendants of those who were in the military, naval or civil service. The General Society of the War of 1812 is restricted to male lineal descendants of those who served in the military or on privateer vessels. For information on veterans, see [www.militaryheritage.com/1812.htm](http://www.militaryheritage.com/1812.htm).

The war affected millions of other people. Farmers lost crops and livestock. Merchants suffered heavy losses. Soldiers and civilians were killed. Settlers on the frontiers lived in constant terror of an Indian attack; some moved back to more civilized locales. While the war was costly in many ways, it opened up new lands for settlement. After the war, emigrants from Europe settled the new lands on the westward frontier. New innovations flooded the country. The invention of the cotton gin created a demand for more cotton, so new land and more slaves were constantly needed to produce it. White settlers moving South and West wanted lands the Indians had claimed for countless generations. Steamboats and railroads took passengers and cargoes more quickly and safely to all parts of the land. Industry expanded, sea lanes were open, and trade with Europe flourished. The U. S. gained international recognition and new power.

A few "ifs" might have changed history. If there had been faster communication, war might have been averted. The British had already passed a law against impressments, but war had been declared before the news reached the U. S. If skeptical naval officers had listened to ROBERT FULTON, inventor of the steamboat, who had launched the *Demologos*, the first steam warship in 1814, the war might have ended sooner. The War of 1812 is often called the "Forgotten War," but it changed the lives of our ancestors and the history and geography of our country.

Sources for *American Wars*: *American Press*, Lake Charles (1/5/2005); "Everyday Life during the War of 1812," *History Magazine* (September 2003); Elson. *History of the U. S.*; Gateau. *History of the U. S.*; Remini. *The Battle of New Orleans*; Utley & Washburn. *The History of the Indian Wars*; *Our Heritage*, San Antonio Gen. & Hist. Soc.

**AMERICAN WARS-TO BE CONTINUED**

## **GERSTNER FIELD GENEALOGICAL GLEANINGS**

Contributed by SHIRLEY BURWELL, Member #13, and LINDA GILL, Member #728

Gerstner Field was an aviation training camp located about twelve miles south of Lake Charles in Calcasieu Parish on what was then called the Lacassine branch of the Southern Pacific Railway near Holmwood. Even though the history of Gerstner Field covered a very short period from August 1917 to June 1919, the many lives affected by its existence numbered in the thousands.

Construction of the airfield employed many from the local area. The area, chosen because of the flat terrain which was used originally for rice fields and was partially under water, was converted into a showplace with construction of buildings all painted green with white trim and landscaping with shrubbery, flowers and manicured lawns. The camp covered 6,000 acres with 3,000 troops, 94 buildings, 24 hangers that housed 140 airplanes, a hospital with 75 medics and nurses, two schools, two fire stations, a YMCA, a photography studio, shoe and clothing repair shops, tennis courts, and a band pavilion.

The people of Lake Charles welcomed the personnel by inviting them into their homes and driving them around town. The aviators provided an air show for early risers by flying in formation and performing maneuvers of turning, diving, and cutting capers. For night flying the men poured gasoline on the ground, ignited it, and the flyers came in "on a wing and a flame."

The most exciting pastimes for the officers and their wives at the field were buying vegetables and riding motorcycles. In fact, the only known court martial was that of Private WAR RICKETTS, who was charged with going joy-riding on a government motorcycle, breaking it up, and leaving it at a farmhouse.

When the Hurricane of 1918 hit, the field was badly damaged by 120 miles per hour winds. Three men were killed. The men were warned to keep away from the area of the big steel water tower which swayed three to four feet from the vertical. It survived the storm, but the storm wreaked havoc on the base, blowing airplanes about and crashing walls of the hangers---a plane was driven into the wall of the meteorological building.

Some 20 men in the service at Gerstner Field were examined by J. C. KETLETT, naturalization examiner, for the purpose of naturalization. A soldier in the service could be naturalized without the long line of formalities which the private citizen must go through in order to become a full-fledged citizen of the United States.

Some distinguished military personnel who were at Gerstner Field include: IRA LONGANECKER-commanding officer, JOSEPH B. MILGRAM, FRANK MILLS-flying instructor, Col. WILLIAM C. McCHORD, Dr. LORENZO FOSTER LUCKIE, Major Gen. CLAIRE LEE CHENNAULT, Brig. Gen. JIMMY DOOLITTLE, ARTHUR A. JOHNSON, Major WYNNE, Capt. SHIELDS, Lt. RANDOLPH HARRISON, Lt. PRICE, Lt. CATCHING, Lt. ZELLER, Lt. HUGHES, Lt. GILAN, Lt. OSBORNE, Lt. THOMAS, Lt. DAVIS, Lt. BROCK, and Major MAXWELL KIRBY.



In addition to the deaths at the base from accidents, sickness and the hurricane, many were killed after they left the training field. On February 5, 1918, a German submarine sank the *Tuscania*, a British troop ship, off the coast of Ireland. One hundred sixty-six American servicemen drowned in the attack. Among the dead were about 27 men of the 158<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron who had trained at Gerstner Field and had left the base less than four weeks before.

Deaths at Gerstner Field, taken from the Lake Charles *American* included the following:

BURTON, ARTHUR, 14, train accident at aviation camp (12/1/1917, p. 1)  
JONES, J. T., instructor, first accident at Gerstner Field (12/24/1917, p. 1)  
MONTAIG, Cadet, died Saturday (12/24/1917, p. 1 and 12/27/1917, p. 4)  
ASHBAUGH, CLARENCE V., died Thursday, cadet at aviation field (2/9/1918, p. 1)  
PLUMMER, Lt. L. F., died 2/11 in airplane accident (2/12/1918)  
MCKEAN, Lt. EGBERT, airplane accident (2/12/1918, p. 1)  
MAGILL, Lt. WM. L. plane crash, Big Lake (2/28/1918, p. 1)  
COUCH, WILLIAM, died Saturday, Gerstner civil instructor (3/4/1918, p. 3)  
FRUSHER, Corp. W.A., died Wednesday at Gerstner Field, heart disease (3/15/1918, p. 1)  
CAMERON, HAROLD, died 4/11 at Gerstner (4/12/1918, p. 1)  
GROVER, MARVIN C. died 4/11 in plane crash, mechanic at Gerstner (4/12/1918, p. 1)  
KELSO, SAMUEL, died 4/12 at Gerstner (4/12/1918, p. 1)  
POLK, Lt. LATHAM of New York, age 19, s/o CHARLES F. POLK, accident at Gerstner (5/22/1918, p. 1 and 5/23/1918, p. 2)  
WILLIAMS, Lt. SPENCER CHASE of Buffalo, age 25, s/o CHARLES E. WILLIAMS, accident at Gerstner (5/22/1918, p. 1 and 5/23/1918, p. 2)  
HEGARTY, Lt. JOHN L., s/o Mrs. ANNA E. HEGARTY, New York, plane accident (6/7/1918 and 7/1/1918, p. 2)  
HALTON, Lt. TRAVIS LEE, s/o E. J. HALTON, San Antonio, plane accident (6/7/1918, p. 1)  
FERRY, Lt. CLINTON S. of Shelton, Mo., died 7/4 in plane crash (7/5/1918, p. 6)  
MITCHELL, Maj. JNO. PURROY (photo), plane accident, failure to buckle up (7/13/1918, p. 1)  
RENFRO, WILL of Harriman, Tn., died 7/10 at Gerstner, mechanic (7/11/1918, p. 1)  
VASQUEZ, ESPERDON, died 7/11 at Gerstner (7/12/1918, p. 1)  
DODD, SIDNEY S. of Dubuque, Iowa, died Sunday at Gerstner Field (7/15/1918, p. 4)  
RISTINE, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. RICHARD of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, died 7/23 in plane crash (7/24/1918, p. 4)  
WELSH, Pvt. CHARLES J., died 10/25 at Gerstner (10/25/1918, p. 1)  
SIMMONS, LOUIS P. of Ellijay, Ga., 37, died 12/2 (12/22/1918, p.1)  
KANE, Pvt. EDWARD J. died Saturday of pneumonia at Gerstner, buried Mansfield, Mass. (12/9/1918, p. 2)  
ROSS, Lt. DUNNING H. of Wilkenburg, Pa., died of pneumonia at Gerstner (12/9/1918, p. 3)  
WESLEY, JOHN C. of Nova Scotia, died Saturday of pneumonia at Gerstner  
ROCKWOOD, Pvt. EVANS B. of Norfolk, Mass., died 12/9 at Gerstner (12/10/1918, p. 4)  
HURBURT, A. J., age 29 of Gerstner, died of pneumonia at Love Field (12/28/1918, p. 3)  
BRADSHAW, HUGH EDWARDS, Jr., died Saturday at Gerstner, s/o H. E. BRADSHAW (1/13/1919, p. 3)

**IMMIGRANTS** who were not naturalized in the U. S. may have filed alien registration papers, especially in wartime. Send a Freedom of Information Act request to the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Service at [www.uscis.gov/graphics/formsfee/forms/files/g-639.pdf](http://www.uscis.gov/graphics/formsfee/forms/files/g-639.pdf).

## THE HURRICANE OF 1918

While the Great War raged in Europe, the Great Hurricane of 1918 struck the coast of southwest Louisiana. The Gulf Coast has always been devastated by hurricanes, but the unnamed hurricane that struck our area on Tuesday, 6 August 1918 was among the most destructive at that time. Before Hurricane Rita struck at the end of September 2005, the Hurricane of 1918 was the mark of time used to measure events; they either occurred before or after "The Hurricane." The deadly hurricane claimed the lives of 29 people in or around Lake Charles and destroyed many homes and other buildings in the town and surrounding communities.

Without modern weather forecasting equipment, there was little warning of an impending storm. Old timers looked to the skies for signs of bad weather, while the more scientific minded checked barometer readings, but no one seemed to anticipate the killer hurricane that was coming their way. At any rate, there were only a few preparations to make. Water had to be drawn, animals safely stabled, and loose objects lashed down. Except for coastal areas, no one thought of evacuating. The storm blew out of the West Indies and struck in the afternoon with strong winds and torrential rains that lashed the countryside for over three hours. Almost every building in Lake Charles received some damage, and some were completely destroyed. Thousands of windowpanes were broken in homes and stores, letting in rain to damage valuable goods. Roof tiles and entire roofs were lifted off, and outhouses of all descriptions were blown away. Nearby communities, including Iowa, Welsh, Westlake, Sulphur and Vinton also sustained heavy damage.

Because of the abundance of lumber, most of the houses in the area were built of wood. As the storm raged, some people sought shelter in more secure brick buildings, such as schools, the city hall and the courthouse. Not a store along Ryan Street, the main thoroughfare in the town, escaped damage. Trees were blown down; some of them fell on homes and others blocked the streets. Telephone and electric lines blew down. Streets all over the city were made impassable by fallen trees and large branches, wrecked buildings and other debris. Mayor TROTTI announced that 75 men would patrol the city, assisted by many soldiers who were in town from Gerstner Airfield and other area training camps. Gerstner Field, just east of Lake Charles, was damaged and several soldiers and ladies there were injured, but no lives were lost. The town of Sulphur, just west of Lake Charles, was rumored to have been virtually wiped out. However, all the lines were down, and there was no way to confirm or deny the rumor. There was no communication with the outside world. The only lights were kerosene lamps and candles, which added to the danger of fire.

Among the buildings destroyed by the "Big Storm" were the Episcopal Church and the Lake Charles Carriage & Implement Co. The Elks' Home and the Masonic Temple were nearly a total loss. The Arcade Theater and the brick Temple Sinai were badly damaged. The stone structure of the Church of the Good Shepherd was destroyed. The old Presbyterian Church, which was used as an annex, was demolished, but the new building had only a few broken windowpanes. The Methodist Episcopal Church South was damaged severely when a piece of the building was detached, and the First Baptist Church lost its roof. Both sustained further damage when rain and wind entered the structure. Damage to the Simpson Methodist-Episcopal Church was comparatively light. The new brick building of the Catholic Church was only slightly damaged,

but the Westlake Baptist Church, a wooden structure, was lifted off its foundation and left standing in the street. Many residences were badly damaged.

Fires inevitably follow hurricanes, and are just as destructive. The LOCK-MOORE Lumber Mill at Lockport was destroyed by fire, and the CLOONEY Shipyard was heavily damaged. The LAMBERT Chemical Co., which dealt in sulfur products, was blown down and then destroyed by fire. The lumber mills at Goosport to the north of the city also sustained heavy damage. The STOUT Lumber Mill blew down and burned. The LONG-BELL Mill was also destroyed. The warehouses of the Lake Charles Rice Milling Co. were wrecked by fire, which was contained before it burned the mill.

During the hurricane, the *Borealis Rex*, the pleasure boat that was the pride of Lake Charles, sank in front of the KING residence at Prien Lake. Forty passengers were on board when the steamboat was driven ashore. They landed safely, but fifteen minutes later the old boat was a total wreck. S. W. SWEENEY, a passenger on the *Rex* later stated that in his opinion Cameron had sustained greater damage than Lake Charles.

Considering the ferocity of the storm, casualties were light. Fatalities in Lake Charles included a Negro man {unnamed} who was hit by a flying brick; Mrs. BERTHA VIOLA THERRELL, age 21, wife of C. C. THERRELL, a resident of Hi-Mount; and Mrs. HACKBURY HEINZE, an elderly resident of Prairie Farms who was injured internally. An unnamed white man, whose chest was crushed, was in the hospital and was not expected to live. Other fatalities, mostly from other area communities included: PETE MADISON; LOUIS JOHN's daughter; RALPH MOSS, 112 Jackson; FRED BARBIE; EMILE CANMON, Hi-Mount (age 50); ALICE WADDELL, Hi-Mount; MYRTLE JONES; SYLVIA MOORE, daughter of Major MOORE; MARION JEANETTE HALTEN (age 5 months); Sgt. GEORGE McGENNES, Gerstner Field, Mrs. RADEKA and 2 children, Sulphur; unknown Negro woman, Sulphur; Mrs. ALBERT LeBAUVE and child, Big Lake; WATKINS DUHON, Big Lake; unknown White woman, Oak Grove; three unknown Negro men, Oak Grove; unknown Negro woman, Oak Grove; FRED NELSON and son, DeQuincy.

Those injured in the storm were: Mrs. Z. F. WHITT; ARNIE WINBUSH; Mrs. GEORGE RYAN; Miss LAURA REISER; Mr. and Mrs. JESSEN, Hodges St.; DAN LEVEQUE; Miss ARLINE POWELL and mother; Miss LATINA BOUDREAU, 1136 Ryan St; M. JAMES, Bilbo St.; BERT KINGHAM; Miss ANNIE KING; Miss LEMOINE, sister of W. W. LEMOINE; Mrs. LOUIS BARBE; Mrs. D. F. GORHAM; Rev. J. W. REGAN; Mrs. RAPHAEL BARBIE; Miss ANNIE BARBIE; Miss JOSEPHINE BARBIE; two children of LOUIS JOHN; Mrs. J. R. MILES; Mr. HOOVER, South St. Road; TOM ROLLO; Mrs. H.[HACKBURY] HEINZE's daughter; Dr. CAROLINE CHANCE; Mrs. A. G. RENFROE, Hi-Mount; Mrs. D. S. A. HARMON; CORA BLANCHARD; Mrs. SOPHIE MASTERSON, Sulphur; Mrs. and Mrs. MIKE WHITAKER, Sulphur; Mr. and Mrs. HETHRWICK, Sulphur; Mrs. BEN FARQUHAR and daughter, Sulphur; two Negro women, DeQuincy; WALTER and CLEM MOSS, Big Lake; Miss DUVAL, Big Lake; ALBERT LeBAUVE's mother, Big Lake; Mr. SLOOBER and child, Prairie Farms Lands; Mr. and Mrs. L. E. HALTEN, Prairie Farm Lands; JOE MILLER, Black Bayou; Mr. and Mrs. GEORGE FALSZT, Buhler; PIERRE TRAHAN, Creole; Mrs. PIERRE BROUSSARD, Creole; and HERBERT SAVOIE, Creole.



Everyone had a story to tell about the "Big Storm." All through the young years of my life I listened to stories of the 1918 storm. My grandparents, THOMAS SHERMAN and MAUD REID TYLER lived in a two-story wooden house at 414 Burnett St. During the storm, the roof blew off and they were afraid that the whole second story would be blown away. The brick chimney in the kitchen, which had originally been connected to a wood cooking stove, collapsed and made such a noise that the family thought their house was surely falling down. It was impossible to walk upright in the fierce winds. They tied themselves and their sons together and crawled across the street to the home of CHARLES and MOLLIE KINDER KIMBALL, a one-story house where they thought might be safer. Just in that short distance, their clothes were blown into tatters. Ever after, my grandfather watched for signs of approaching storms and regularly checked the big barometer that was located on the lawn of the City Hall. At the first sign of bad weather, he awakened everyone in the house and made them put on their best clothing and sit in the living room until the storm passed. How we hated to get up in the middle of the night, but in many households, the procedure was the same. The "old folks" who had survived the "Big Storm" were taking no chances.

In her stories about the 1918 hurricane, my mother told how her parents, OSCAR and AFFA HARDING FULLINGTON lined the children up on the stairs and dared them to move. The roof blew off and filled the house with water, dirt and mud---but the children did not move off the stairs. Mother recalled the wind-driven dirt in her hair and all over her face. Just east of the city limits, the storm struck hard. The porches and top story of the home of JOSEPH W. and GRACE LeBLEU ROSTEET were blown off and tossed into the yard. Trees were blown down or broken and littered the yard. Ironically, even though the home was badly damaged, each time a storm threatened, the entire family gathered there for safety at the big, old house.

After the winds abated, heavy rains continued, damaging goods and property in homes, stores, and other buildings where roofs had been ripped off by the storm. A conservative estimate placed the damage in Lake Charles at one million dollars. Like people everywhere, the survivors of the Hurricane of 1918 began picking up the pieces of their lives. Without government help, they began removing debris almost immediately and began to repair their homes and businesses. The citizens were able to cope with the greatest disaster that had befallen their city!

Sources: *Lake Charles American Press* (9/7/1918; 9/11/1994; 7/6/1995, 2/14/1997)

*KINFOLKS*, Vol. 10 #3 (1986)

**DID YOU KNOW THAT** the Hurricane of 1900 claimed over 6,000 victims and almost wiped out Galveston. Then the state abolished the existing municipal government and appointed a commission to run the city, because it was feared that the notoriously corrupt politicians of the city would not rebuild Galveston. The results of professional city management were impressive and created other reform movements.

*Lagniappe* (9/15/2005)

**DO YOU REMEMBER** special smells? Before air conditioning and room deodorants, your nose could tell you a lot. Schools smelled of used books, of sweaty bodies, of paste and ink. A movie theater smelled like popcorn, the only snack sold there in the early days... Restaurants were redolent with the smell of onions and fried foods; low-carb and cholesterol were not even words, more less a way of life. Your mother's cooking smelled different from that of the neighbors, and each house smelled different.

## STRANGE MALADY SPREAD TERROR THROUGH THE MARSHLANDS

Extracted from the Baton Rouge *Advocate Sunday Magazine* (9/1/1961)

Information Contributed by Jeannie Farque

On the morning of December 4, 1942, the wife of a trapper living on the Little Chenier, deep in the wild and wind-tortured coastal marshes of Louisiana, went to bed with what she dismissed as only a headache. But, ten days later she was dead and within a month a strange and deadly malady had spread sickness, fear and death through the Acadian country. Characteristically the Acadian people are self-contained, self-centered and self-reliant and no stranger to tragedy. But this time the danger reached well beyond the marshlands, and when outside help, first the State Department of Health and later the U. S. Public Health Service, was called, the people were subjected to what PHS reports term, "the most severe quarantines ever voluntarily submitted to by the American people." This was because the area was surrounded by defense plants and military installations plus the vital Port of New Orleans to the east, all playing a vital part in the nation's defense efforts in early World War II. Fearing a panic, state and PHS officials asked for and got a voluntary news blackout so effective that even today people who live within half a day's drive of the stricken area are not aware of the mysterious epidemic which emerged from the marshland to threaten them.

ODELIA BOUDREAUX MILLER couldn't have had any idea of the momentous chain reaction that started with her headache early in December. Her only concession that day was that she did not help her husband, RAYMOND, pelt the muskrats which he trapped in the flat, verdant marshes surrounding their home. They lived comfortably near the community of Creole on the Little Chenier, one of the old ocean beaches stranded centuries ago in the marshes which rise today like mountain ranges above the sea of deep grass that is the marshland. Between these cheniers lies what the Creole natives call the "prairie tremblast," or trembling prairies, because it [the land] trembles under the tread of man.

Four days after the first headache, RAYMOND MILLER took his wife to a hospital at Ville Platte, 120 miles to the north of their home. Her illness was diagnosed as pneumonitis. Attending physicians saw no reason for undue alarm, but on the thirteenth day of her illness she began coughing up thick, bloody mucus. On the fourteenth day, despite the efforts of the late Dr. YVES ARDOIN and Dr. R.E. DUPRE, Mrs. MILLER lapsed into a coma from which she never emerged. She died on the fifteenth day of her illness. Shocked and grieved, RAYMOND MILLER returned to the marshes where he was known and respected for his uncommon ability as a hunter and trapper.

The Ville Platte doctors suspected that in Mrs. MILLER's case they had encountered something new, and on December 14, six days after Mrs. MILLER's death, there was no room for doubt. Miss LOUELLA BRIGNAC, a nurse who had attended the trapper's wife, became ill, obviously with the same disease. On January 6, Miss BRIGNAC died. Almost immediately members of her family and friends who had been in close attendance became ill. Miss BRIGNAC's case alone gave rise to another six cases. Her father and mother died with the disease. The father passed it on to his son. The son, LAMONT BRIGNAC, died and transmitted it to his wife, who recovered after a long illness. While the disease was virtually wiping out the BRIGNAC family,

terror spread through the Creole country. The trappers found the marshlands filled with dead muskrats and told one another that a Japanese submarine had put a deadly germ ashore.

The disease presented a mystery to the doctors. The patient would feel fine, refuse to remain in bed, only to collapse suddenly and die within hours. Older doctors argued that it was influenzal pneumonia, the scourge that swept across the U. S. in World War I. The younger doctors argued that it was not, but the old heads just wagged stubbornly and said, "You don't know. You didn't see it." Dr. WADE L. TREUTING, with the State Health Department, who had been called in by local doctors, realized that the situation called for a full-scale scientific investigation. In response to his request, the PHS sent Dr. BYRON J. OLSON, a 34-year old epidemiologist to Ville Platte. Dr. OLSON and Dr. TREUTING had to see to the sick and dying; they had to stop the spread of the disease; and they had to determine what it was. Meanwhile it had spread from Creole and Ville Platte to other communities further inland, Rayne and Bunkie.

The major newspapers in the area agreed to a news blackout, provided that they were informed on an off-the-record basis. While this blackout served its purpose, it proved a stumbling block to efforts to track down possible carriers. No public appeal could be issued, so with the cooperation of state and parish health agencies, more than 500 people were tracked down and put under quiet surveillance. Those who showed signs of illness were placed under observance and quarantine. Those going about their business as usual were simply watched. Amazingly this cloak-and-dagger operation turned up only one new case.

Dr. OLSON went in the marshes to see RAYMOND MILLER, hoping to learn where Mrs. MILLER might have contracted the disease. He found only a cold trail--an empty house, for RAYMOND MILLER was dead. He had become sick on Christmas Eve and died January 26 without leaving the marshlands. From neighbors, Dr. OLSON learned that the MILLERs had not been out of the marshland for at least two months prior to Mrs. MILLER's illness. They had no visitors from the outside. The disease must have come from within the marshlands. Far from narrowing the possible sources, this opened a vast and complex field. The marsh presents to the eye an almost monotonous picture. But biologically it is a setting of unparalleled complexity. Dr. JAMES GOWANLOCH and TED O'NEIL, both of the Louisiana Department of Wild Life and Fisheries, were assigned to help Dr. OLSON. They told the epidemiologist that the marsh never sustains a normal state of month-to-month stability. Changes in the water level, and near the coast and storm overwash, alter the environment constantly, and the plant and animal life responds. Also, the marsh is in the path of one of the great "flyways" used by migratory birds on their instinctive flight across the hemisphere. Despite the silence of the marsh, it is a hotbed of activity and a new biological agent can be introduced or eliminated at any time. The muskrats, which had inspired the rumor of the Japanese submarine, were the first suspect. They staunchly resisted efforts to infect them with the disease. The nutria, which was introduced to the marshes in 1938 and flourished, also resisted infection. The marsh yielded nothing.

A study of existing cases showed that the disease was spread only by fatal cases and then only during the last 48 hours of life. Only one fatal case had failed to give rise to others, and that was the case of RAYMOND MILLER. A perfect illustration was in the case of the fifteenth victim. A wholesale salesman, he had worked on the first day of his illness, coming into direct contact with 14 people and indirect contact with 33 members of their households. Not one of these

developed the disease, but of the seven people who came in contact with him during the last two days of his life, three contracted the disease and only one recovered.

On March 3, the focus of the epidemic shifted from Ville Platte and Rayne to New Iberia. Miss ANTOINETTE BOURGEOIS, one of the nurses from New Iberia who had volunteered to help at Rayne, felt a pain in the base of her neck. Miss ANTOINETTE BONIN, also a nurse who had helped, felt the same pain plus a headache. They were returned to New Iberia and placed in quarantine in a duplex. Dr. EDWIN L. LANDRY attended them and five women volunteered to care for them. The volunteers were: Miss CECILE BOURGEOIS, a sister of ANTOINETTE BOURGEOIS, two sisters of Miss BONIN, Miss HELEN HOBERT and Miss RAMAS GERHART. The physicians and Miss KATHERINE AVERY, Iberia Parish public health nurse, entered the house frequently, always taking elaborate precautions. The townspeople, however, were deathly afraid of the disease. Some crossed to the opposite side of the street before passing the house. When groceries were delivered, they were left on the sidewalk. Dr. LANDRY and Miss AVERY were shunned.

Miss BOURGEOIS died on March 17, 1943 and three days later Miss BONIN died. Both women were buried without a funeral, a bitter sacrifice for friends and relatives in a Catholic community. Dr. LANDRY battled to save his patients. Dr. OLSON took suspect material to the PHS hospital and New Orleans confirmed preliminary findings. It was a new deadly virus.

The nurses waited for their 21 days of quarantine after the death of the two nurses. On the twelfth day, hope vanished. Miss GERHART awoke with a dull headache. In spite of precautions, she had contracted the disease. For the first three days of her illness, Miss GERHART was attended by the other four women. But the people of the community then decided that they had assumed more than their fair share of risk and an old plantation home, six miles outside town, was obtained. Three of the women were put in quarantine out there, and Miss HOBERT, who was a Canadian, volunteered to remain with Miss GERHART. Miss IDA CHATELAINE and Miss RITA SPEYER, both graduates of the Hotel Dieu School of Nursing from New Orleans, came to New Iberia as volunteers to help Miss HOBERT. Miss HOBERT recovered, and on the tenth day was considered out of danger. With her recovery, the spread of the disease was stopped and the quarantine was broken.

The danger was over for the Acadian country, but Dr. OLSON and others devoted themselves to identifying the deadly virus and to develop a vaccine. They found that neither muskrats or nutria developed the disease, and after two years of research, decided that the virus was a new member of the virus family that caused parrot fever. The trapper's wife must have contracted it from one of the thousands of birds which stop or live permanently in the marshes---and no one came up with a better explanation. In 120 days, the disease ran rampant---from one case to nineteen before it stopped. It killed eight people. The graves of ODELIA and RAYMOND MILLER lie side by side in a lonely cemetery in the marshes, and above them, year in and year out, fly the magnificent formations of birds.

**BATTLESHIPS** were named for states (Alabama, Utah); cruisers were named for U. S. cities (Indianapolis). Destroyers were named for important or heroic people; and aircraft carriers were named for Revolutionary War battles (Lexington, Yorktown) or stinging insects (Wasp, Hornet.)



## LOUISIANA LUXURY TAX TOKENS

By ANNA MARIE SILVIA HAYES, Member #260, and BETTY ROSTEET, Member #78

Tokens have been used for thousands of years by countries, states, cities, banks, business firms, buses, and carnivals to collect taxes, promote business, give change or credit in odd amounts or give free prizes. Even churches and houses of ill repute had special tokens. Most tokens were made of a light metal or metal alloy, with a round, triangular, rectangular or square hole in the center. However, some tokens were made of wood. The proverbial wooden nickel, good for a free soda pop or hot dog, was a business token used for advertisement.

A two percent Louisiana Luxury Tax was passed specifically to provide property tax relief for homestead tax exemptions, for Old Age Assistance, aid to the needy and dependent children, and for State Hospitals. To supply the needed taxes, tokens were issued to provide change in increments of a fraction of a cent. The tokens had a short life and were used only from 1 October 1936 until they were withdrawn at the end of December 1938. They came in two denominations...a one-mill aluminum token whose value was  $1/10^{\text{th}}$  of a cent and a five-mill brass token worth  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent. These tokens were about the size of a nickel, but thinner, and each had a triangular hole drilled in the center. A schedule for paying taxes that involved the fractional part of a mill included a detailed list of instructions. For example, on the sale of 3 cents to 7 cents inclusive, pay one "1" token; for 33 cents to 37 cents inclusive, pay one "5" token and two "1" tokens, or seven "1" tokens; for 93 cents to 97 cents inclusive, pay one cent and one "5" token and four "1" tokens. Although the number of Luxury Tax tokens that were made is unknown, within ten days of their issuance more than four million tokens were in use in New Orleans alone. A person who counterfeited the tokens was considered guilty of a felony and was sentenced to not less than a year and not more than three years at hard labor in the State Penitentiary. Failure to pay the tax would result in a penalty of ten percent interest on the debt.

The Luxury Tax Law was very confusing about what items were to be taxed. It puzzled merchants and consumers because many items taxed as "luxuries" were actually necessities, and items such as cigars and alcoholic beverages were exempt. Loaves of bread were exempt from the tax, but rolls were not. Juice in bottles was exempt, but canned juice was taxed. More than seventy-five items were exempt from the tax, and included the following: alcoholic beverages, beans and peas, bottle openers, cigars and cigarettes, chewing tobacco, coffee, farm implements, flour, fresh fruit and vegetables, fresh meat and milk, fresh fish and seafood, fresh poultry and eggs, fuel oil, gasoline and kerosene, grits, ice, kitchen utensils, lard, natural gas, newspapers, pepper, plum pudding, rice, salt, soft drinks, sugar, syrup (cane, corn, and maple), tea, and many other items. Canned foods, soap and all cleansing agents selling for ten cents or less were not taxed. "Water" distributed through pipes into homes and places of business would be exempt, but spring waters, mineral water, medicinal waters and seltzer waters would be taxed.

Shoes and clothing selling for \$3.00 or less were also exempt from the Luxury Tax; however, any clothing containing silk, regardless of price, was taxed. Apparently the law also confused Miss ALICE LEE GROSSJEAN, Supervisor of Public Accounts for the State, who wrote to E. L. RICHARDSON, Attorney for the Supervisor, for his interpretation of the law. His answering letter lists some of the clothing articles, selling for \$3.00 or less and not made of silk, which would be exempt. They included such items as bathing suits, bathrobes, belts, coats and rain

coats, costumes, dresses, girdles, knickers, lounging pajamas, neckties, negligees, skirts, slacks, smoking jackets, etc. It also listed taxable "luxury" items, which included all merchandise sold by the yard, sheets, towels, tablecloths, napkins, quilts, blankets, laces and trimmings, buttons, elastic, yarn, hair pins and nets, curlers, safety razors and blades, perfumes, cosmetics, combs and brushes, deodorants, watches, clocks, walking canes, umbrella, pillows, paper, kodaks, greeting cards, purses, linoleum, slip covers, mattresses, kitchen furniture, toys, games, luggage, candy, cakes, pastries, automobile tires, garden hose, powered wringers, porch swings, venetian blinds, photographs, pictures, clothespins, rat traps, brooms, mops, lamps and lamp shades, electric irons, clothes lines, wall paper, paints, ice boxes, etc.

Another letter to the Supervisor of Public Accounts for the State from Attorney RICHARDSON stated that "hand tools"...anything used in the performance of manual labor...were exempt, and a detailed list of some of these "hand tools" was given, as well as a list of crafts in which the tools might be used. For example, straight razors, garden tools, hand wringers, lawn mowers, manicuring tools, paint brushes, scissors, washboards and wash tubs were exempt from the tax, as were tools used by blacksmiths, barbers, carpenters, cobblers, farmers, gardeners, laundresses, masons, machinists, painters, plasterers, seamstresses, tailors, etc. A detailed list of farm tools and implements that were exempt is found in one letter from the Attorney to the Supervisor. Hand-sewing needles were exempt, but sewing machine needles were classified as luxuries. Hand-smoothing irons were also exempt, but electric irons were taxed as luxuries. Letters were also exchanged between GROSSJEAN and RICHARDSON about the taxing of motors, trawls and other equipment used in commercial fishing; about prepared foods and meals bought in restaurants, cafes, drug stores, etc.; about improvements and renovations on properties; about farm implements and equipment. Would potato forks, rakes, sickles, shoves, plows, etc. be taxed as luxuries or not? RICHARDSON prepared a detailed list of exempt items.

Mrs. GERTRUDE "PETE" SARVAUNT SILVIA agreed that the law was confusing and that the tokens were a headache. At the time the Luxury Tax tokens were issued, she was about 15 or 16 years old and was newly employed at the S. H. Kress Store in Lake Charles, working at the candy and cosmetics counters. She said the tokens were given in change when someone purchased an item and the 2% was added to the bill. If the total purchase cost \$1.59 ½ and the customer gave the clerk \$1.60, the ½ cent in change was given in a five-mill token that could be used to pay the tax on another purchase. Ladies had to carry an extra coin purse for the tokens and the cash drawers did not have slots for them, so sales clerks had to find places for them.

Louisiana's Luxury Welfare Tax was so unpopular that it was replaced by the Public Welfare Act of 1938. The deadline for redemption on the "Luxury" tokens was 31 December 1938, and eight million five-mill tokens and forty-nine million one-mill tokens were struck for the Public Welfare Tax. This law taxed more items, but taxed them at the lower rate of 1%. It was equally unpopular and was one of the issues in the Governor's race in 1939. As a result, Governor SAM JONES, a Lake Charles resident, approved its repeal in July 1940. Deadline for redemption of the tokens was 31 March 1941, but fewer than seven million tokens were redeemed. The use of tokens declined as times became better and people decided not to worry about a fraction of a cent. Today, few young people think that it's worthwhile to bend down and pick up a penny or a nickel. Can you imagine how they would have reacted to saving tokens to pay taxes?

Sources: [www.bestofneworleans.com](http://www.bestofneworleans.com) ; Act 75 of the Regular Session of 1936, Luxury Tax Act  
Letters from Supervisor of Public Accounts, Baton Rouge, LA to Attorney for the Supervisor

## **FERRIES OF OLD IMPERIAL CALCASIEU PARISH**

Researched and written by Anna Marie Hayes, Member #260 and Betty Rosteet, Member #78  
(Continued from Vol. 30 #2)

### **CLEMENT'S FERRY**

Using land records and maps from the State Land Office, and judging from the names of property owners, it appears that **Clement's Ferry** probably crossed the Calcasieu River at Philips' Bluff, and originally may have been operated by WILLIAM FRUGE, then by JAMES COLE, and later by DAVID COURVILLE. On 17 July 1884, the Police Jury granted the petition of citizens of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward, asking for a public road "leading from J. M. SWILLEY's on the south side of Whiskeychitto by the way of WILLIAM ILES, thence to W. WALKNER's on Bundick's Creek, thence on to or near JOHN FOSTER's on the road leading from GEORGE HEARD's to **Clement's Ferry** on the Calcasieu River." The following were appointed as commissioners to lay out the road: W. WALKNER, JACOB MARTIN, WILLIAM ILES, P. P. FORD, JAMES W. TYLER and F. B. CAGLE. S. J. L. ANDRUS was appointed overseer of the road "from J. M. SWILLEY's to the **Clement Ferry**." Although the given name of this ferry keeper is unknown, he may be STEVEN H. CLEMENT who, according to the Tax Assessment Rolls for 1884 owned 2,189 acres of land on the Calcasieu River near Kinder.

The 1870 Census for St. Landry Parish shows STEVEN H. CLEMENT in Ward 6, as a farmer, age 23 from Mississippi, with wife TELESMA/TELISMA, age 22, born Louisiana. The 1880 Calcasieu Parish census shows him as age 33, a merchant, living in Lake Charles. In his household are his wife TELISMA, age 32, and children SAMUEL (age 9), ERNEST (age 8), IRIS (age 6), ELISHA (age 4), and HENRY (age 2). The 1900 census for Calcasieu Parish shows STEVEN H. CLEMENT, born June 1847, age 52, rice farmer, married 15 years. In his household was his wife of 15 years, MARIAL (apparently his second wife), who was born July 1849 in Louisiana, and children ELISHA (born 1877) and BEULAH (born March 1887). The family was living on Broad Street in Lake Charles in 1900.

Source: Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Minutes; 1870, 1880 & 1900 censuses, tax assessment rolls; maps

### **MOSS & RIDDICK FERRY**

On 30 August 1878, the charter for the ferry owned by ABRAM HUGH MOSS and EDGAR LYON(S) RIDDICK located at Philips Bluff, was renewed by the Police Jury for two years. There is no mention of the original charter for this ferry, and may be the ferry operated by S. H. CLEMENT in 1884.

ABRAM HUGH MOSS, the only son of Dr. JAMES DILLARD and MARTHA HARMON MOSS, was born at Coulee Crouche in St. Landry Parish, Louisiana on 14 September 1843. He served the Confederacy in the War Between the States. He enlisted, probably at Opelousas, on 22 or 27 March 1862 as a Private in Siege Train Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Louisiana Heavy Artillery, and was sent to New Orleans. He arrived at Vicksburg on 5 May 1862, just in time for the battle and siege. By the end of June, he was ill and was nursed in a private home, then sent to the City Hospital and finally to the Soldiers' Hospital in Jackson. He eventually recovered and returned to duty on 15 February 1863. MOSS kept a diary and reported the shelling that Vicksburg took from the enemy. On 19 May 1863, he reported, "The battlefield is blue with Yankees dead and wounded." By 26 May he stated, "Provisions are almost as scarce as hen's teeth," and that it seemed to be the "Yankees' policy to starve us out." He also complained of

the mosquitoes. The undiagnosed illness MOSS had suffered, along with the malnutrition in the siege of Vicksburg, probably accounted for the poor health he suffered for the rest of his life. When Vicksburg fell, many men, including MOSS, began walking home, averaging about 20 miles a day. They went downriver to Natchez and Baton Rouge. MOSS went to the home of an aunt, and was provided with a horse to finish his journey. He arrived home on 22 January 1863. MOSS was on the Federal Roll of prisoners paroled at Washington, Louisiana, 16 June 1865.

On 29 December 1864, A. H. MOSS married ELIZA W. "WINNIE" HAYES at St. Landry Parish. The couple had one son, LELAND HUGH MOSS, who was born 12 May 1867; he married MARTHA "MATTIE" SUMMERS (born 1870; died 1950). WINNIE HAYES MOSS died in May 1867, probably as a result of childbirth. On 14 June 1868, ABRAM H. MOSS then married MARY LEANNA HENNINGTON CLEMENT, age 16. She was born 19 July 1851 at Crystal Springs, Mississippi and was the daughter of GARRISON SAMUEL and ELIZABETH MAHALA HENNINGTON CLEMENT. In 1869, the couple came to Lake Charles and opened a school, which was known as the Male and Female Academy, where they were the principals. A. H. MOSS was listed as a public school teacher in the 1870 Calcasieu Parish census.

In 1872, MOSS went to Galveston to investigate starting a drug business in Texas, but decided against it. He left his wife in charge of the family, his business affairs, and the school. In 1873, he was elected mayor of the town, and in 1874 and 1875, was elected alderman. There were only 502 people in the town at that time. In 1874, he began operating The Cheap Cash Store and a drug store. He was involved in a number of other local businesses, including the Moss & Riddick Co.; Bryan & Co.; a general merchandise and liquor store in partnership with [MIGUEL] JOSEPH ROSTEET; and the Platz-Moss Mill in Bagdad (Westlake). Over the years he bought and sold many properties around Moss Street. In 1876, MOSS and his brother-in-law, DUFF CLEMENT, went to New York and Philadelphia, where they visited the Centennial. Calcasieu Parish tax rolls for 1875 show the property of A. H. MOSS at Ryan and Pujo Streets, with a "cash value of capital investment, trade traffic and merchandise at \$1,000." Tax rolls of 1876 show that A. H. MOSS had a general store. In 1877, parish tax rolls show the firm of Riddick & Moss valued at \$1,000.

By 1878, A. H. and MARY MOSS were the parents of the following children: CLEMENT DILLARD (born 20 August 1869, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana); ORA LEANNA (born 24 March 1871, Lake Charles); IDA MAY (born 20 July 1872, Lake Charles; died 1 January 1902; married FRED F. ROGERS); HUBERT WATTS (born 30 October 1873, Lake Charles; died 4 August 1882); BERTHA EUGENIA (born 10 January 1876, Lake Charles; married Dr. T. H. WATKINS); and WALTER EUGENE (born 5 May 1878, Lake Charles; died 1 October 1879). Nevertheless, MOSS was determined to study medicine at Louisiana Medical College (later Tulane) in New Orleans. The course only lasted five months, and according to Tulane's records, Dr. MOSS graduated with honors and received both M.Ph and M.D. degrees in 1879. The MOSS family had five more children, who were: EMMA JOSEPHINE (born 12 March 1880, Lake Charles); FLOY AUGUSTA (born 26 July 1882); DELIA JOYCE (9 June 1884); ABRAM HUGH, Jr. (born 25 August 1886); and OLIN WINN (born 23 March 1892, San Antonio, Tex.).

Dr. MOSS suffered from poor health, and went to various places for his health. In 1894, he built a home on the southeast corner of Broad and Kirkman Streets, but the family did not enjoy the



home very long. On 24 October 1899, ELIZABETH MAHALA CLEMENT, MARY LEANNA's mother, who apparently had been living with them and probably helping raise the children, died. Then their child, IDA MAY MOSS ROGERS, died in January 1902. Only a year later, MARY LEANNA HENNINGTON CLEMENT MOSS died on 18 January 1903.

Dr. ABRAM H. MOSS practiced medicine in Lake Charles until his health failed in 1904. He went to California, where, in 1905, he married a third time, to MABEL TRUEBLOOD. She was born 13 March 1881, in Indiana and died 20 May 1907. MOSS had a posthumous son, MARION HUGH MOSS, who was born 23 May 1906 and died in 1914. Dr. ABRAM HUGH MOSS died in California on 19 October 1905. His body was returned to Lake Charles, where he is buried at Orange Grove Cemetery. A United Confederate veteran's stone marks his grave.

EDGAR LYON(S) RIDDICK was in partnership with A. H. MOSS, in operating the ferry and a general store. According to the *Mercantile Agency, U. S. Directory Containing Names of Merchants, Manufacturers & Traders Generally Found Throughout the U. S.*, in 1875, RIDDICK had a "cash value of capital, investment, trade traffic and merchandise worth \$5,000." His partner, A. H. MOSS, was valued at having \$1,000. In 1876, according to Calcasieu Parish tax records, E. L. RIDDICK had a general store, and in 1877, RIDDICK & MOSS were valued at \$1,000. The 1880 tax records show MOSS & RIDDICK valued at \$8,000. In 1881, tax records show L. RIDDICK had \$40 worth of horses or mares and \$50 worth of household goods. Mr. and Mrs. E. L. RIDDICK owned 1/3 acre of land in Lake Charles, valued at \$60. In 1882, the *Mercantile Agency Book* shows that MOSS & RIDDICK had a general store in Lake Charles. 1883 tax records show that Mr. and Mrs. E. L. RIDDICK had a lot on Division Street in Lake Charles, valued at \$60. RIDDICK also owned land in the Hollywood-Rose Park area of Sulphur, as shown by the U. S. Tract Book.

E. L. RIDDICK did not appear in the Calcasieu Parish enumeration until 1880, when the census shows him as LYONS RIDDICK, living in Ward 4, age 31, dry goods merchant, native of Virginia. His father was born in North Carolina and his mother was from Virginia. In his household were his wife, B. EMMA RIDDICK, age 23, and children L. EDGAR (age 3, born in Louisiana) and F. STELLA (age 2, born in Louisiana). Mrs. RIDDICK was born in Louisiana; her father was born in England and her mother was born in Prussia.

According to his obituary, EDGAR (LYONS) RIDDICK was born 22 March 1849-50 at Norfolk, Virginia. He lived for a while in Nacogdoches, Texas. About 1875, he married EMMA B. MUNNS. She was born in October 1857 and was the daughter of EDWARD T. MUNNS and EMMA B. RYAN, who apparently also came to Lake Charles. The succession of EDWARD T. MUNNS, Calcasieu Parish Succession #381, was filed on 25 July 1876. The RIDDICKs were members of the Broad Street Methodist Church, where E. L. RIDDICK was the Superintendent of the Sunday School. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge. EDGAR L. RIDDICK died on 18 March 1926 at the home of his daughter KATHLEEN RIDDICK NEWLIN on South Ryan Street. He was buried at Orange Grove Cemetery in Lake Charles.

Children of EDGAR LYON(S) and EMMA RIDDICK were: EDGAR L. (born January 1877; died 4 December 1918 in Lake Charles); F. STELLA (born September 1878, Louisiana; d. 29 March 1913); MARY E. (b. 1881, Louisiana; went to New Orleans); ANNIE E. or ANITA (born

April 1887, Louisiana; went to New York); KATHLEEN F. (born May 1892, Lake Charles; married MORRIS ALBERT NEWLIN); and LELIA E. (born May 1894; married W. O. CORNISH of Beaumont).

Sources: Various newspaper articles, including Lyons Obituary-*L C Weekly Press* (3/26/1926)

Calcasieu Parish tax rolls; Calcasieu Parish censuses-1880, 1900; Moss. *Our Moss Family*

*Mercantile Agency, U. S. Directory Containing Names of Merchants, Manufacturers & Traders Generally Found Throughout the U. S.* NY: R. G. Dunn & Co. (1876)

### **BULLER'S FERRY**

On 3 November 1885, the Police Jury received the petition of A. BURNETT, LOUIS DOUCETT and others asking for a public road leading from near DOUCETT's store, crossing the Calcasieu River at **Buller's Ferry**, thence on to the Whiskeychitto. The petition was referred to committees. This ferry was probably located about 5 miles northeast of Kinder.

Source: Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Minutes

### **HANDRECHY FERRY or BAYOU GUY FERRY**

On 15 December 1879, the Police Jury allowed a ferry charter to be granted to CHARLES HANDRECHY for a public ferry across the Calcasieu River, opposite Bayou Guy, near Moss Lake, for a period of three years, from 1 January 1880, provided that he keep a good ferry flat and other boats, and that the road, "for one-half mile on the west side and one-quarter mile on the east side of said river be kept at this own expense." He was allowed the following rates of ferriage for the first three months, after which time the Police Jury reserved the right to reduce said charges, if they deemed proper:

For a horse & rider - 50¢	Two-horse vehicle - \$1.25
One horse vehicle - \$1.00	Four-horse vehicle - \$1.50

On 15 February 1881, the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury revoked and annulled a charter that had been granted to CHARLES HANDRECHY for a ferry at his residence on the Calcasieu River, "said HANDRECHY having failed to comply with the provisions of said." They further resolved that THOMAS KAOUGH be granted a charter for a public ferry for the term of five years across the Calcasieu River, near his residence, and that he be allowed to charge the same rates of ferriage as those heretofore allowed to CHARLES HANDRECHY. Minutes of 26 April 1880 state that CHARLES HANDRECHY was granted ferry privileges "for one and a-half miles above and the same distance below the public ferry chartered by this body at its December Session of 1879 [see above], with all the ferry privileges granted to other public ferries." On 28 April 1880, the petition of CHARLES HANDRECHY asking for a "Public road from his ferry on the Calcasieu River to the Vincent Settlement" was "laid on the table." At the same meeting, "the petition of WILLIAM VINCENT and others in relation to the above named road, and also the petition asking that the Charter granted to CHARLES HANDRECHY for a Ferry on the Calcasieu River be abolished" was "laid on the table."

On 15 February 1881, the charter that had been granted to CHARLES HANDRECHY for a ferry at his residence on the Calcasieu River was "revoked and annulled on this date, said HANDRECHY having failed to comply with the provisions of said charter." At the same meeting, THOMAS KAOUGH was granted a "charter for a public ferry for the term of five years from this date, across the Calcasieu River, near his residence, and that he be allowed to

charge the same rates of ferriage as those heretofore allowed to CHARLES HANDRECHY." **Handrechy's Ferry** became **Kaough's Ferry**.

The 1880 census for Calcasieu Parish shows CHARLES HANDRECHY as a 45-year-old farmer, born in France. In the household are his wife ELIZABETH (age 46, born in New York) and three children---RAPHAEL (age 11), JOSEPHINE (age 10), and LOUIS (age 8) ---all born in Louisiana.

Sources: Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Minutes; 1880 Calcasieu Parish census

### **KAOUGH'S FERRY**

On 15 February 1881, the charter that had been granted to CHARLES HANDRECHY for a ferry at his residence on the Calcasieu River was "revoked and annulled on this date, said HANDRECHY having failed to comply with the provisions of said charter." At the same meeting, THOMAS KAOUGH was granted a "charter for a public ferry for the term of five years from this date, across the Calcasieu River, near his residence, and that he be allowed to charge the same rates of ferriage as those heretofore allowed to CHARLES HANDRECHY."

THOMAS KAOUGH was born in August 1857. One source gives his place of birth as Ireland; others say New York or Louisiana. He is listed in the 1880 Calcasieu Parish as a farmer, age 23, born in Louisiana. In his household were his sister LOUISA, (age 26) and brothers AUGUSTUS (age 18), JOHN (age 15), and ARCHY (age 12). In 1885, THOMAS KAOUGH's married OLIVIA CLARK. They had the following children: MARGARET (born July 1886); INEZ (born July 1888); WARREN (born March 1890) and THOMAS (born April 1894). OLIVIA CLARK KAOUGH died 18 August 1897. In December 1901, THOMAS KAOUGH was reported missing. Hunters found his remains in the marsh in Cameron Parish on 19 April 1901.

Sources: Family information; Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Minutes; 1880 Calcasieu Parish census; LC Daily Press

**CORRECTION ON CONE'S FERRY.** E. O. CONE/CONEY and LEO O. KOONE are not the same man (See *Kinfolks*, Vol. 30 #2.), although they lived in the same general area and their names were similar. The ferry operator was ELLE O. KONE (CONE, CONEY). His homestead was located between Moss Bluff and Gillis, La. He was born June 1832 in North Carolina and married FRANCES\_\_\_ in 1880. They had two children: ARTHUR KONE (married EMMA LeBLEU) and KATHLEEN (married ADOLPH "DUFE" LeBLEU). E. O. KONE died in August 1935, at age of 79, and is buried in "the Gillis Cemetery," according to his obituary, dated 2 August 1935. Mrs. KONE's obituary stated that she was buried in "Bryant Chapel graveyard, ten miles north of town." This may be the Birdnest Cemetery, where their daughter, KATHLEEN, is buried, but no headstone exists for either ELLE O. KONE or his wife, FRANCES, in that cemetery. The mix-up in names began when the obituary showed "E. O. KOONE" as a retired lumberman. LEO or LEE O. KOONE (KUNE) was the retired timberman and was a former Police Juror. He married AMELIA ANGIE WELSH and died in 1941.

Sources: Land records, obituaries

**COLLATERAL LINES** are those that connect with a common ancestor. Valuable genealogical data may be gleaned from research on distant cousins. Check family bibles, land records, naturalization papers, military records, census records etc. for information on collateral lines.

### EDGAR LYONS RIDDICK

[From the "Forty Years Ago" column in the *Lake Charles Weekly American Press & Friday's Daily American Press* (12 May 1922), contributed by SHIRLEY SMITH, Member #980.]

I came to Lake Charles in 1872. My first job here was as bookkeeper for Norris' Mill at Norris' Point, on the east side of the river, just on this side of where the S. P. trestle is now. In 1882, I was living on the corner of Division and Bilbo streets and remained there until in 1916, when we moved to our present home. PAT FITZGERALD was the town blacksmith at that time. He was an old Confederate soldier. It was said of him that he was one of the best soldiers in the southern army. He, however, did not retain the fighting spirit as a civilian, because he was a very peaceful man and a very good man.

JACOB RYAN lived on the lake front. He was noted for helping people out of their troubles. It was often said that JACOB RYAN went more people's bond than any other man in this section of the country. In those days there was not as much rascality and dishonesty as there is nowadays. A dishonest man or an unreliable individual was a scarce thing. Perhaps that was because there were fewer people. Whenever one showed up, it was so unusual that it remains an event in that epoch. One particular incident that stands out in my mind was that of an imposter who came through here about forty years ago. He posed as a deaf mute and secured money all over town, undoubtedly had secured a good portion from JACOB RYAN; regardless, it was JACOB who detected that he was a fraud. JACOB happened to be in the post office when the man came in and asked for mail. What followed, I'll let you guess. He wasn't very long leaving our peaceful and honest community.

This was a wonderful country for wild game. There were, as there are today, many species of migratory birds. One could get as good shooting in the territory between Ryan and Division Streets and where the Southern Pacific depot is as could be wished for. There were jack snipes in abundance, woodcocks and many others. Why, a fellow could go out as far, that is as near, as Hodges Street and begin hunting from there eastward. He could get all the prairie chickens he wanted. Before this country was drained, just beyond Louisiana Avenue was a series of lagoons, where wild ducks were in abundance. As for deer shooting, our favorite hunting grounds were across the lake, just back of the PERKINS Mill.

G. M. [GALVESTON MURDOC] GOSSETT was a wizard in the woods. One night he went on a deer hunt, just he and I. Of course, it had to be a dark night, because our method of getting them at night was to shine them with a lantern. We went to our favorite place and wandered around Hickory Creek. We shined our first deer and got him. We hung him by the heels on a tree so he could be exactly found on our return. We went on in another direction and killed another, hung him in a tree also. Again we went in another direction for about a mile or so further and bagged another deer. It was then about going-home-time, so we threw the last deer we killed across our horse and started back to find the second deer we had killed. G. M. led the way, and I want to tell you that we went through thickets that our horses could scarcely penetrate and went directly to the dead game. Starting again in another direction, we went straight to the first one. To me that was the most marvelous feat I had ever witnessed. All done without the help of compass. Mr. GOSSETT possessed wonderful woodcraft faculties.



From Sabine to the Mermentau, Lake Charles was the trading center. People came from all sections. Those living on the river above and below came in boats, either schooners or sciffs [sic-skiffs]. Those living on the prairies came in wagons and prairie schooners. In the early days conditions here were not unlike those that existed in other sections. There was more bartering done than there was actual buying and selling. In 1882, I was running a general merchandise store in partnership with A. H. MOSS, at the corner where GORDON's Drug Store now stands. There were two or three other stores of a general nature. Competition was more on a friendly nature than it is now, though many may think otherwise. A small trail on either side of the main road led to each store or place of business. In the spring time it was not very comfortable to walk on these early sidewalks early in the morning, especially when the dew was heavy. In fact, it was hard to discern where the path was.

It was in those days that the old pestle and mortar [sic-mortar] type of rice mill was developed. I remember seeing the first one ever used in this part of the country. It was a very crude affair, still by far, more effective than the old type of hand mortar [sic-mortar] and pestle. Those were wonderful days in Lake Charles. Those days make many wonder why the things that are, are not the things that were.

### **GALVESTON MURDOC GOSSETT, A CONFEDERATE VETERAN**

GALVESTON MURDOC GOSSETT was born 30 January 1837 in Crockett, Republic of Texas. He was the son of A. E. GOSSETT, an early settler in Crockett. On 17 September 1861, he enlisted as a private in Co. I, 4<sup>th</sup> Texas Mounted Volunteer Regiment (HARDEMAN's), under General SIBLEY, and was mustered in at San Antonio. He saw active duty in New Mexico. He was taken prisoner and sent to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, then to Chicago, Illinois. He was soon exchanged and went to Galveston, Texas, in 1863, where he fought in the Battle of Galveston. He was "honorably discharged by Surrender on the \_\_\_ day of May 1864, at which time he held the rank of Black Smith." GOSSETT was a member of Camp 62 of the U. C. V. and was awarded the Southern Cross of Honor. The Certificate was signed by H. M. GOSSETT, H. C. GILL, JOHN JOHNSON, H. C. CLEMENT and M. E. SHADDOCK, Adjutant for Camp #62.

The name of GOSSETT's first wife is not known, but on 24 December 1865, GOSSETT married, his second wife, JANE SMART of Anacoco, Louisiana. Their only known child was ANDREW S. About 1876, the GOSSETT family settled in the pine woods about 40 miles north of Lake Charles where they raised sheep and cattle and had a sawmill/lumber business. In 1890, G. M. GOSSETT was living in Ward 8, Calcasieu Parish, but in 1892, was living in Lake Charles. In 1895, he was superintendent of Roads and Bridges for Calcasieu Parish. JANE SMART GOSSETT died in April 1921. GALVESTON MURDOC GOSSETT died in Lake Charles on 11 November 1923 and is buried in Graceland-Orange Grove Cemetery.

Sources: Rosteet & Miguez. *The Civil War Veterans of Old Imperial Calcasieu Parish, La.* SWLGS (1994) Smith. *Certificates of Eligibility for Southern Crosses of Honor.* UDC

**THE OLDEST GRAVES** are to be found in the south part of a churchyard, as it was the custom to avoid the shadow of the church from falling across graves. It was thought that in the shadows lurked the Devil and, as every good man and woman knew, the Devil always rode in from the north. In Victorian times, the extreme north side of the churchyard was reserved for the suicides.

## FLAX AND IMMIGRATION

Flax is the oldest cultivated fiber plant, grown for thousands of years around the Mediterranean and Egypt. The fibers are used for making linen, and the seeds are pressed for oil. Wild flax was found from the Black Sea to the Canary Islands. From the 5000 B. C., the Mesopotamians, ancient Egyptians, and Swiss Lake Dwelling People of the Stone Age all cultivated flax. In Egypt, linen cloth was worn by all classes and was used to wrap mummies. The linen woven by the ancient Egyptians cannot be rivaled for strength and fineness of weave even today. They used the coarser, low-grade flax to make rope and string. Female slaves and serfs worked endlessly on large estates making linen for household use and large sheets of linen that served as a medium of exchange and a measure of wealth long before coinage was invented. Flax was also an important crop in Europe and in early America.

Through the centuries, flax spread throughout Europe. Although the growing process was essentially the same, the methods and tools used to cultivate and process flax varied with the variety that was grown. Flax is a thin plant that grows from one to three feet tall. Linen combined with other yarns can make a variety of fabrics from the finest and thinnest to sturdy, durable materials. For example, linen woven with wool made linsey woolsey, a common material in the American colonies. Old wills and inventories often list implements that were necessary to flax production and weaving, such as looms, spinning wheels, flax combs, flax wheels and flax hetchalls. They also list supplies of flax, flax yarn and flax seed.

Flax was a commercial crop in Europe and was brought to the New World by GEORGE YEARDLY [YARDLEY] when he returned to the colony of Jamestown in 1619. Although he was instructed by the Virginia Company to promote flax, the soil and climate of the area did not make flax-raising a commercial success. Early colonists grew only small patches of flax in their fields for home use.

Growing flax was a laborious process that depleted the soil and polluted the nearby water source that was necessary for the retting process. After seeds were sown in the spring, there was a constant war to prevent weeds from taking over the fields; weeding was usually done by women. When the bolls ripened and the plants matured about a hundred days after they were planted, they were carefully pulled up by the roots and put into bundles or sheeves, then dried. After the sheeves had dried, the seeds were removed with a flax comb or ripple. The chaff was winnowed from the seeds, which were then used for next year's crop or to make linseed oil or to feed animals. Then the plants were soaked in ponds in a process of retting (or rotting) to decompose the gummy substance that held the silky fibers. Sometimes the flax was laid on the ground for dew and rain to decompose the flax, called "dew retting." The smell from either process was terrible. When the gummy substance had dissolved, the ponds were opened and fresh water was allowed in, but the nasty water poured into the nearby stream and polluted it. Woe to the people who lived downstream and tried to use the stinky, brown, contaminated water!

The bundles of flax were removed from the pond and dried again in a process called "grassing." Sheeves were untied and laid on the grass to dry, then turned from side to side until they were moisture free. They were stacked to age for a few weeks. Then the flax was laid on a floor or bench and beaten with a wooden mallet, called a "beetle" or "breaker," until the hard outer flax straw, or hexe, was broken. The straw was removed in a process called "scrutching," which

sometimes became a social occasion like barn raising and corn husking. This hard, tedious work was also irritating to the lungs, as fluffy particles from the flax filled the air. The fibers were then counted by passing them through a "hatchel" or "hetchel," long sharp nails driven through a board that removed any remaining straw and untangled the flax fibers. Then the fibers could be spun into yarn or thread. The short pieces of fiber or "tow" were spun into yarn for coarse fabric. Longer fibers are spun into finer linen. After the thread was spun, it was stretched and boiled. Then the yarn or thread was woven into fabric on a loom.

Spinning wheels and looms were usually homemade by the man of the house and occupied a significant amount of space in a household. Some of the best spinning wheels were made of spruce wood. Spinning and weaving represented a great deal of work. It took a day to spin two double skeins of linen thread or to weave six yards of linen material. A hired girl received 50 cents and her "keep" for a week's worth of spinning and weaving. After the thread was spun, it went through a series of washings and bleachings. In Europe, spinners tended to be males, but in the American colonies spinning was a task for the distaff side. In fact, the word "spinster" refers to an unmarried woman. Weaving was also a male job. Young men were apprenticed to master weavers of wool, linen, silk, damask and other fabrics. However, American women wove the homespun materials for their families clothing. After the cloth was woven, it had to be shrunk before making it into clothing. Linen didn't dye well, so mostly it was bleached and spread to dry in the sunshine. Sometimes women would make dyes from boiling butternuts, berries or roots, but the results were always dull, earthen tones.

If your Irish ancestor emigrated from Ulster, the northern part of Ireland, in the 1700s, it is likely that linen industry or flaxseed importation played a part in his emigration. In the 1660s, the English Parliament passed Navigation Acts to protect English commerce from the Dutch, but these Acts placed limits on trade of the American colonies and hit still harder at Irish trade. Only food and indentured servants could be legally shipped to the English colonies from an Irish port, and all the products from the colonies, such as timber, sugar and tobacco, had to be landed in an English port before they could be sent to the merchant in Ireland who had ordered them. With few exceptions, goods from Ireland could not even be shipped to England, but only to domestic markets in Ireland. Irish woolen cloth, which competed directly with English wool, was a particular target, and many Irish cloth workers decided to emigrate. The heavy emigration from Ulster in the 18<sup>th</sup> century also had a positive impact at home. Belfast and other port cities declined temporarily, but recovered in the 1730s.

England had no intention of impoverishing Ireland, but was merely protecting interests at home. They began to encourage the Irish linen industry, since linen did not compete with English-made cloth and in 1690 removed the tax on Irish linens shipped to England. As a result, the English bought Irish linens, cheaper than Dutch or German items, and the Irish linen industry was stimulated. Linen-making was concentrated in the eastern counties of northern Ireland---Antrim, Down and Armaugh---although the government tried to establish flax-growing and linen-weaving in every county by importing flaxseed from the Baltic and giving it away to anyone who would agree to plant a minimum amount. In 1705, the British passed the Linen Act opening colonial markets to linens directly from Ireland. As a result of the lifting of restrictions on the direct export of linen to the colonies, Belfast became a major international port.

Commerce with America transformed the Ulster ports. There were many ships available which could accommodate large-scale emigration between Ireland and New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Charleston. People who were too poor to pay their passage indentured themselves as servants. By 1717-1718, the first wave of emigrants left Ulster. Even by the standards of the day, the ships were too small to carry passengers and adequate provisions, so many tragedies occurred. Some emigrants carried bundles of white and unbleached linen to sell in their new homes, as did captains and agents of the ship owners. They found a ready market in the colonies. Linen was usually shipped from English ports in English vessels.

By 1731, the British Parliament opened Irish ports to colonial produce, except for "enumerated articles," and two years later American flaxseed was allowed into Ireland. Flaxseed became a major export from Philadelphia and New York, and later from Baltimore. As early as 1736, newspapers refer to "flaxseed ships;" these usually sailed between November and February to arrive in time for spring planting. They also carried wheat, flour, barrel staves, pig iron and other products. In late summer or fall the same ships returned, mainly to New Castle, Delaware and Philadelphia with Ulster emigrants, Irish linens and other products. These cities were where merchants in the flaxseed trade concentrated. In the 1760s and early 1770s, some flaxseed ships carried passengers to Charleston. This trans-Atlantic trade transformed Londonderry and Belfast from provincial backwaters into important commercial centers. The pattern of this trade also directed the flow of emigrants. Although some of the best flaxseed was grown in southern New England and Long Island, it was all shipped through New York. Some passengers from Ulster landed in New York, but most boarded ships for New Castle and Philadelphia. Baltimore became another favored destination only in the late 1760s and 1770s.

Flax production began to decline with the invention of the cotton gin in 1793. Cotton had many advantages over linen and was cheaper to produce. In 1796, to encourage the flax industry, the Irish Linen Board compiled a list of about 60,000 persons who received awards for planting a specific amount of flax. Farmers who planted one acre of flax were awarded four spinning wheels, and those who planted five acres were given a loom. *The Flax Growers Bounty List* for 1796 is available on CD. Flax is still grown for making linen and for its oil-rich seed. Flaxseed oil or linseed oil is used widely in paints, varnishes, lacquers, and printing ink. Linseed oil is also used to make livestock feed and has been investigated as a possible source of health food because of its high amount of polyunsaturated fatty acids. It is still produced as a cash crop in Wisconsin and Minnesota, but the major flax producing countries are the Soviet Union, Poland, Belgium, Holland, France, and China. The flax flower is the national flower of Belarus.

All members of a family were involved in the tedious processes of growing, cleaning, spinning and weaving flax. Irish and American colonial legislation encouraged the growth of flax, so it is certain that some of your ancestors grew, spun or wove flax. It is also certain that many of them wore linen, a material that was so durable and highly prized that many old wills mention linen items that were passed down to another generation.

Sources: "Ulster Roots," *The Family Tree* (April/May 2004), Moultrie, Georgia.  
*Flax Production in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century*. <http://www.nps.gov/colo/Jthanout/FlaxProd.html>  
Hatcher. *Flax*. <http://www.ancestry.com/learn/library/article.aspx?article=10846>  
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Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flax>



## CHOLERA EPIDEMICS

Cholera is an ancient plague that can cause more deaths faster than any other disease. Cholera has caused untold millions of deaths and has played a large part in human suffering and misery throughout history. Since ancient times cholera epidemics have raged on the Asiatic continent, especially in India and China. However, it was only in 1817 that the disease spread along the caravan and shipping routes to become pandemic in Europe and the Americas. One of the earliest references to cholera is found in the Bible. It tells of a plague that struck and turned back the Assyrian armies who were invading Israel about 700 B.C. Although it is not certain that cholera was the cause of the Assyrian retreat from the Holy Land, most authorities deem the theory as plausible, since cholera kills thousands of people in only a few days.

Cholera is a disease spread by contaminated food or water, usually when large numbers of people are lodged in crowded conditions. The Yangtze River in China and the Ganges River in India have often been the sources of cholera epidemics. The rivers, which are used by millions of people for drinking, are also contaminated by a variety of other things, such as bathing, laundry and waste disposal. The Ganges, considered a sacred river, is even used for the disposal of corpses, and thus, is a primary source for disease; India even had a Cholera Goddess. Pilgrimages for the religious are particular times of danger from cholera, as crowds who flock to Mecca and other shrines live in primitive, overcrowded conditions. The plague thrives mainly in tropical areas, but is also known in temperate climates. The advent of cold weather usually brings an end to a cholera epidemic. To distinguish this disease from severe diarrhea or dysentery, which was prevalent throughout the world and was sometimes known as cholera morbus, true cholera was termed Asiatic cholera because of its origin.

When European explorers and sailors found their way to Asia, trade and diplomatic relations were established. With the new developments came new challenges; new languages had to be learned, new customs had to be understood, different cuisine had to be eaten... and new diseases were encountered. Among the deadliest of these diseases was cholera! Cholera struck indiscriminately, always starting with the poorest and lowest native classes, but working its way through all the ranks of society, including the European diplomats, soldiers, merchants and their families. It is known that a cholera epidemic struck Burma and Malaysia in 1770, but because transportation was limited and extremely slow, travelers either recovered or died before they went very far, so the disease did not become pandemic.

However, the epidemic of 1817 was much more severe and became the first cholera pandemic in history that reached countries outside Asia. Like many other epidemics, it began in India and spread throughout Ceylon (modern Sri Lanka), Burma and the East Indies. In Java alone it killed 100,000 people. By 1820, cholera had reached the Philippines and the Chinese ports, which were centers of western commerce. By boat, it was carried up the Yangtze and quickly spread throughout China. It was taken to Oman, when British soldiers from India were sent to quell a rebellion there. Other British soldiers brought the disease with them when they went into Persia and Basra (Iraq) where the Persians were fighting the Turks. The Persians defeated their enemies, but they, in turn, were defeated by the cholera epidemic. Persian traders then carried the deadly disease to ports along the Persian Gulf, where slave traders took it to East Africa. It spread to Russia, to the port cities of the Mediterranean, and on to coastal Egypt. Millions died,

but Great Britain was one of the few European countries unaffected by the epidemic. The severe winter of 1823-1824 was a blessing in disguise; it stopped the spread of the disease.

However, the British Isles were severely affected by the second pandemic of cholera, which occurred in 1826 and probably began again in India. In 1831, a third pandemic began, traveling along the Silk Road from China to northern Europe, taking a terrible toll on the Poles and Russians. It also killed about half the Moslem pilgrims, who were making their ritualistic journey to Mecca. From Arabia, cholera spread to Turkey and the North African coast, to the Balkans and Hungary, and then on to Sweden, Germany, France and Britain. Cholera arrived in America in 1831 with Irish immigrants. Although the ships were quarantined on Ile Grosse, an island about thirty miles from Quebec, quarantine measures proved unenforceable, and people carrying the disease escaped from the island and made their way to Quebec. The first case of cholera appeared at Quebec in 1832, and spread throughout the city and traveled to Montreal.

From Canada, cholera spread up the St. Lawrence River to New York State; the first known case of cholera in New York City was found in a poor Irish immigrant on 26 June 1832. From New York, the disease spread to Philadelphia, then from Maine to Wisconsin. Along with trade and immigrants, it traveled along the newly completed Erie Canal to create an epidemic in Chicago. From Chicago, it went down the Mississippi, bringing death to towns all along the river, especially to Cairo, Illinois, St. Louis, Missouri and Vicksburg, Mississippi. It traveled up the Ohio from Cairo to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania and Columbus, Ohio. The epidemic was finally stopped by the winter of 1832. However, the dread cholera reappeared in 1833 and 1834.

Cholera epidemics were particularly severe in the mid-1800s. The malnourished people who suffered in the potato famine in Europe in the 1840s and 1850s, especially in Ireland, fell victim to many diseases, including the dreaded and deadly cholera. From 1848 to 1850 the cities of New York, Baltimore and Quebec were especially hard hit, and the disease traveled through the Indian tribes on the plains and plateaus. Cholera devastated British and French troops during the Crimean War (1854-1856) after an epidemic had spread from India to the Mid-East and Europe. Great Britain was also hard hit by the epidemic of 1854, especially in the Soho section of London. Most people thought the deadly disease, which appeared suddenly and disappeared with cold weather, originated from "miasmas," mysterious fog-like substances that appeared in the air and were toxic. However, JOHN SNOW, who had published a paper during the epidemic of 1832 suggesting that the cause of cholera was contaminated water, noticed that most of the cases were found in the vicinity of a single pump handle on a public well. Seepage from old undrained cesspools under the houses were leaking into the well and contaminating the water supply. SNOW got permission to remove the handle, which put the well out of commission...and there were no new cases of cholera in the area.

Fortunately, no cholera epidemics broke out during the American Civil War, but in 1865 just after the war ended cholera raised its ugly head again in Europe. From Europe, it crossed the ocean and traveled to New York City. The epidemic lasted until 1869, killing thousands. At that time the population of the city was half-a-million people, but there was no system of waste disposal nor a clean water supply. Because of the epidemic, measures were taken to correct these deficiencies, and New York never suffered another cholera epidemic

When the Suez Canal opened in 1869, there was an opportunity for cholera to spread quicker by ships from Asia to ports on the Mediterranean. In 1883, a severe cholera epidemic struck the Egyptian cities of Alexandria and Cairo. The famed scientist, ROBERT KOCH, and his team were sent to study the disease. The epidemic in Egypt subsided, but the epidemic in India continued and the scientists were sent there. In 1884, KOCH announced that he had found the bacillus that had caused the disease, and that cholera was unique to humans, unlike other diseases, including bubonic plague, that could jump to another species. In 1892, after KOCH had identified the cause of cholera, an outbreak of the disease struck the city of Hamburg, Germany, the debarkation port for thousands of emigrants. Stringent health measures were taken; water was boiled, raw fruit was banned, public baths were closed and public gatherings were forbidden. Yet they allowed a ship filled with emigrants to sail...and some of the emigrants carried the deadly cholera bacillus. When passengers became ill, they were diagnosed with severe diarrhea, and when they died the cause of death was called diabetic coma.

Isolated cases of cholera have been found in different regions of the United States, even in modern times. Louisiana had several cases of cholera that were traced to oysters that had been harvested in waters contaminated by sewage. After flooding, water supplies are sometimes contaminated and water is required to be boiled or chemically treated before use. Modern scientific knowledge and proper sanitation help to control cholera epidemics worldwide.

Unfortunately, cholera is a disease that can be contracted more than once. No protective immunity develops, and, although vaccines for cholera have been developed, they are generally unsatisfactory. Cholera is largely caused by contaminated food and water, and is not generally passed from person-to-person. However, the cholera organism can be carried on dirty hands or soiled clothing, or by flies that touch contaminated items and light on food, plates, glasses or silverware. Replacement of fluids offers the best chance of survival for a patient, and ensuring clean, uncontaminated food and water supplies seem to be the best prevention. Although the ancient polluted Asian waterways were ideal breeding grounds for cholera, several contaminated wells and reservoirs in other parts of the world have contributed to large cholera outbreaks.

Many of our ancestors were victims of cholera. Some died; others were widowed or orphaned by the terrible disease. The outcome of wars, such as the Crimean War, was sometimes affected by cholera. Armies were weakened by the loss of thousands of soldiers; the soldiers, in turn, spread the disease to civilians in the area, and, in some cases, took it home with them. Emigrants from Europe often brought the disease on ships and to the New World that they hoped to settle. Immigrants on wagon trains and travelers on riverboats spread cholera throughout the country. Today ships and airplanes provide faster means of travel for people and deadly diseases, such as cholera, which can also travel faster from remote parts of the globe. Modern society must be constantly vigilant to insure that a cholera outbreak does not occur. The socio-economic effects and the problems of large-scale human loss involved in a major epidemic are almost unthinkable. Several sources, including "Plagues and Poxes," *History Magazine* (April/May 2005)

**GROSSE ILE**, the Canadian Quarantine Station near Quebec, Canada was the site of a cholera epidemic in 1847, when many Irish immigrants left their homeland in the potato famine. Because the U. S. had enacted regulations on immigrants coming from British ports, so most Irish went to Canada. Many Irish are buried in the cemetery there. *Kansas Kin*, Vol. XLIV (May 2006), Riley Co. Genealogical Society, Manhattan, KS

## ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM *THE AMERICAN* (9 December 1896)

Information Extracted by MICK HENDRIX, Member #1296

The front page of *The American* for 9 December 1896 contained advertisements and editorials to encourage immigrants to come to Louisiana. One editorial called southwest Louisiana "The Hunter's Paradise," and stated that on Thursday, 3 December, over 500 ducks were placed in the stores for sale "by our local nimrods, as the products of one day's hunt, besides what they kept for their own use and gave as presents to their friends." It was illegal to kill and sell ducks for shipment outside the parish, but there was no limit put on shooting all the game a hunter desired for his own use and for the use of others in the parish. The editorial further stated: "Besides the immense numbers of ducks, geese, brant, cranes and other waterfowl, we have plenty of deer and turkey and a few bears," and that "we have splendid fishing in our rivers, lakes and bayous at all seasons of the year." A second editorial described southwest Louisiana "as a place for homeseekers." It told that twenty-five miles east of Lake Charles, German Baptists had built a church at Roanoke, and that J. B. WATKINS had donated a piece of property worth \$600 for a church of the same denomination [Dunkers] in Lake Charles. The paper stated: "The advance guard of a Dunker colony has already arrived here and others are preparing to come."

Among the "immigrants" who arrived from the North were: Mr. and Mrs. SHIVELY, Mr. HEISER and Mrs. HESS of Cerro Gerdo, and Mr. STROM of Decatur, Illinois. Visitors to the city included: LOUIS E. BERNARD, Messrs. MORRIS and GASTON FRANCIS, LOUIS ANSELE of Lafayette; and A. J. MONTENOT of New Orleans. Mrs. J. H. MEYERS of Nashville, Tennessee visited with Mr. and Mrs. C. W. HOLE. Residents who were visiting elsewhere were: Rev. W. H. CLINE, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. NEAL, who visited Alexandria; C. MONGER, who returned from Fenton; and D. H. MOSS, who went to Forest Hill. Mrs. AL FRAZER returned from Monticello, Illinois, accompanied by Mrs. J. E. and IDA FRAZER.

The city had its share of crime and excitement. The assassination of the City Treasurer, SAM KIRKMAN, on Saturday night was big news. He was shot and killed by J. ROUTH WALKER on a vacant lot near the Lakeside Laundry. Mr. KIRKMAN, unarmed, was on his way to the laundry to get Mrs. HUSTON when he was shot as he passed near the house in which WALKER resided. Four shots were fired; one struck the body and one hit the neck. Mrs. HUSTON saw the shooting and recognized both parties by the flash of the pistol. WALKER was arrested by Mayor CROWLEY and was taken to the town of Crowley in Acadia Parish, where he was jailed. The funeral of Mr. KIRKMAN was held at the Broad Street M. E. Church South and was one of the largest funerals ever held in this city. JOHN B. NIX was recommended by the Governor to fill the unexpired term of L. B. KIRKWOOD as Parish Treasurer.

A fight broke out near the S. P. depot on Friday night between ALEXSON EARNEST and his wife, OLIVIA (both colored). OLIVIA struck her husband with her fist and killed him. The coroner's jury, after a careful examination of the facts and a post-mortem examination of the deceased, found the cause of death was heart failure. MUNSON EDWARDS was brought before the Mayor for disorderly conduct and was fined \$5.00 and costs. A tongue-in-cheek comment about the stock laws (or lack of them) read: "We are proud of Lake Charles' stock law. It is one which provides that the cows and horses may use the sidewalks and the ladies the

muddy streets. Even bicyclists are debarred from using the sidewalks, but the cows can have full sway and help themselves to everything handy. Suppose we reverse things for a while."

The town was constantly being improved. C. D. OTIS built a new addition to his house, while FRANK ROBERTS added a new coat of paint to his residence on Pujo Street. H. W. LANZ built a new barn. F. OLIVER was moved into a house near the S. P. depot and H. M. CHITWOOD moved into one of Mrs. WHITE's houses on Clarence Street. Mr. KINNEY moved into D. W. WHITE's house on Common Street. The street committee was authorized to tender \$300 to Mr. BERNARD for the continuance of Reid Street through his property.

A surprise party was given for Miss MAUDE M. REID, and Mrs. J. E. FRAZER entertained at her home. Miss NORA LOXLEY entertained the Young Ladies' Club at her home on Pujo Street. Judge D. B. GORHAM entertained some young people, including Misses EMMA and FLOY MOSS, MARGIE SPEARING, MOLLIE and DAISY KINDER, MABEL and PEARL DEES, MOLLIE HARROP, MAUDE REID, ADA STRIPP, RENA KEENER, ANNIE REID, LIZZIE GREEN, BESSIE HEMPHILL, NANNIE BRYAN and NERVA FAUCETT; Messrs. FRED GEORGE, ROBERT O'BRYAN, SELSER PICKETT, WESLEY WELSH, ALTON FOSTER, TED DEES, JAMES WILLIAMS, CHARLES MITCHELL, ERNEST BEL, ED TAYLOR, ARISTOE HUTCHINS, JOHN MARSHALL and JOHN WENTZ.

For the week ending December 8, 1896, marriage licenses were issued to:

- Dec. 2 – ANDREW LEITHEAD and LIZZIE M. BLAIR
- Dec. 3 – JOHN CRADER and MARTHA CRADEUR
- Dec. 5 – EDWARD J. CAHILL and HARRIET R. CARLISLE  
ALBERT WISE and MARY JACKSON
- Dec. 7 – DEMPSEY ANDREWS and DELLA SIMMONS  
CAMILE DUHON and CONSTANCE BELL
- Dec. 8 – FRANK GRAY and CAMILLIA LANDRY  
LIONEL GOUDEAU and HENRIETTA E. BARBE

The marriage of ANDREW LEITHEAD and Miss LIZZIE BLAIR was celebrated at the Baptist Church; Rev. T. G. ALFORD officiated. Mr. LEITHEAD was employed by POE's Shingle Mill. The couple will reside on Ryan Street. Newly-weds also included E. J. CAHILL and Miss HATTIE CARLISLE, who were married quietly at the home of the bride's parents Saturday night. Mrs. CAHILL has been the "hello girl" at the Bell Telephone Office, and Mr. CAHILL is a clerk at the K.C.W. & G. freight house. Mr. and Mrs. A. S. GOSSETT have returned from their wedding trip and will live with Mr. GOSSETT's parents on the South Side.

Business was thriving in the town. C. R. CLINE, of the law firm of CLINE & CLINE, received his commission as notary public. J. C. SUTTLE received a large consignment of goods for his harness shop. The switch engine of the K. C. Railroad returned to duty, with J. W. WALKER as engineer. G. MANEIRN, a newspaper man of Galveston, was "looking up the newspaper business among the Italian residents of Lake Charles." On 1 January 1897, Prof. J. R. HENDRICKS of Lawrence, Kansas, planned to open a first-class business college as a branch of the Kansas City Business College. An advertisement for candy from MILLIGAN-MARTIN Grocery Co., Ltd. gave the following prices for a pound of candy or nuts: gum drops, 5 cents;

caramels, 10 cents; mixed creams, 10 cents; chocolate creams, 25 cents; occidentals, 25 cents; taffy, 15 cents; best mixed nuts, 15 cents; and a box of French, mixed candies, 30 cents.

The Philharmonic Society of the Lake Charles College gave a program. Participants were: CLARENCE FISHER, ROY SHELDON, JENNIE CLARK, LIZZIE ROCK, FRANK GALAGHER, TONY WETHERILL, MARION BROWN, WALTER MEYER, LUCIEN KENNEDY, THEO FRANK, OGDEN WETHERILL, JAMES A. WILLIAMS, LAVONIA RIGMAIDEN, HELEN SALISBURY and the Misses HAMAND. Notice of a state teachers' convention to be held in Lake Charles was given by K. E. KEENY. The program included the following persons: Rev. R. P. HOWELL, Rev. SHELDON, Rev. C. L. JONES, Rev. C. H. HARRIS, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. McKEAN, JOHN LIGHTNER, Mrs. F. K. WHITE, GEORGE W. SLAWSON, MARTIN HEBERT, WILLIE HEBERT, Mrs. T. COX and A. M. MAYO.

Prof. M. E. SHADDOCK, who has been quite ill for several weeks, is recovering. Mrs. H. M. CHITWOOD was "seriously hurt while removing a looking-glass from the wall preparatory to moving." As she attempted to step down from a box with the glass, her foot slipped, and she fell across a chair. She was found by her husband in a semi-conscious state, and removed to Mrs. GRAHAM's. DAVID JOHN REID, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. REID of Lockport, died Tuesday at 5:05 P.M. Interment will be at the Catholic Cemetery in Lake Charles today.

Advertised letters may help to locate an ancestor and may indicate that the person did not have a permanent local address. The Ladies' List of letters advertised by J. P. GEARY, Postmaster, for the week ending Saturday, 5 December 1896 included: Miss ANNA ALLEN, Miss VIRGINIA BROWN, Miss ROSELLA BELLONY, Mrs. SOPHY BARBER, Miss ANNIE DAVIS, Miss ANN DAUR, Miss MARIE HESEN, Miss FLORENCE HERSON, Miss LIDDIE HENRY, Miss SUSIE HARMAN, Mrs. WINNIE JOSEPH, LIZZIE JARKS, Mrs. N. ROBERTS, Mrs. SALLIE REID, Mrs. A. SAKS, Miss FLORENCE VOORHEES, Mrs. PEGGIE WILLIAMS, Miss ANNIE WATTS and Miss C. WEST. The Gentlemen's List included: Capt. ANDREW ANDERSON, J. C. CABLE, A. C. FRANK, JOHN FAME, J. A. FARQUE, PETER GREENWALD, WILLIE GOODMAN, ORRIN HOLLIS, G. W. HERMAN, R. C. HARRIS, R. JONES, SAM KINSLEY, GEORGE LAMORE, LOUIS LANE, DALUISE LEONARD, GEORGE MORY, B. S. McGOVERN, ALBERT PERKINS, FRIEDANA PEMMQUERTEU, Rev. H. C. RAY, A. P. REED, W. R. SIMMONS, THOMAS SLERNER, Jr., J. J. SOULS, W.W. SPIKES, Dr. STANLEIGH, Mr. STEWART, ISAAC YOOKUM, J. C. ULEY, FRANK L. WALLACE, JACKSON WILKENS ON and JOHN WANZO.

#### **NEWS FROM ALL OVER THE PARISH FROM THE AMERICAN (9 December 1896)**

**MIERSBURG.** We are having very cold weather. LEVI A. MILLER of Dry Creek, Prof. B. L. DEAR of Sugartown, and CALVIN SHIRLEY and his brother, WARREN, visited JNO. F. MIERS. Mr. HICKMAN was here for his little boy JONAH, who is going to school and boarding at JNO. MIERS'. Visitors to the town also included Misses SALOME and NANCY ALSTON and their brother, MATTHEW. DAVID A. SHIRLEY and his brother, JOHN, and JEFF and DAN CAGLE were here. ANDREW GOSSETT will be married tomorrow.

(Signed) UNCLE FULLER



**CHINA.** Mr. GARDNER bought 40 sacks of seed rice in Mamou Prairie last week. EMERSON BOLES went to Lake Arthur and bought a load of fine, pure Honduras rice. Mr. ROBERTS sowed a big field of rice about a week ago. TOM and CHARLES BAKER have rented the land on the Riverside Canal, Acadia Parish, and will move their families there in time to sow rice next year. T. J. KELLOGG was making preparations for a strawberry festival next spring. WILL TUPPER's daughter was quite sick this week. Mrs. DELL SCOTT, while attending Mrs. MONROE ALCOCK's funeral at Fairview Cemetery, received a wetting that aggravated her lung trouble. Mr. GEORGE HINES of Raymond was given a surprise party for his fiftieth birthday; owing to the welcome extended by Mr. HINES and his family and a gentle northern breeze laden with frostiness and rainwater, many of the guests tarried until dawn. Mr. and Mrs. GEORGE ALCOCK went to Jennings on business. W. D. GREEN was using his own machine to run his sawmill now. CHARLES PARTRIDGE of Raymond was at BUCKLIN Bros., looking after oats. Mr. and Mrs. JONES have moved to Jennings, and, with the latter's sister, will run the Jennings House. Loads of lumber went to Church Point, where they were traded for cotton seed and corn.

(Signed) A PIGTAIL

**RAYMOND.** Rev. STANTON of Iowa Station was visiting here, staying with C. F. TAYLOR. Mrs. J. C. PARLEE of Jennings visited her father, L. W. FAIRCHILD, who was suffering from an inflamed eye. S. G. BABCOCK and sons were hauling rice to the Jennings Rice Mill. Mrs. S. A. RITTER represented the Raymond W.C.T.U. in the convention at Jennings. J. W. PITTRIDGE and sons rented rice land from PETER ECKLES.

(Signed) UNO

**BEAR.** Light snow fell here and the school children enjoyed snow-balling. Some of the young folks even carried snow to bed with them. Mr. and Mrs. JAMES SELLERS entertained Messrs. GILL, LYONS and MITCHELL when they were in this neighborhood hunting. Messrs. MACK and JIMMIE SELLERS were in Lake Charles and JOHN SELLERS called at L. JONES last week. C. F. JONES visited his friend, JOHN LYLES of Bundix. The children of AUSTIN COLEMAN were stopping with their aunt, since Mr. COLEMAN went to the railroad to work. FREEMAN JONES killed two large deer last week. Mr. SIMPSON, who was recovering from a serious illness, was in our neighborhood last week. WILLIE JONES of Westlake has been visiting his father, BOLIVAR JONES, for the past week.

(Signed) PUELLA

**LOCKPORT.** D. H. "Curly" LYONS resigned his position as salesman with LOCK, MOORE & Co. JOHN T. SPEARING of Alexandria, a brother of Rev. JOS. SPEARING of Lake Charles, accepted a position of salesman and T. J. LYNCH of Georgia accepted the position of mail driver with Lock, Moore & Co. W. A. ALEXANDER resigned his post as planer with LOCK, MOORE & Co. to accept a similar one with Ryan, Richard Co. in Lake Charles. Pine Knot Camp, No. 15, W. O. W. at Lockport reported having six candidates who wanted to become Woodmen. The right-of-way for the new road from Lockport to Weincke Ferry was nearing completion. CLAVILLE ELLENDER had a sick child, and FRED LOCK had a very sick baby, on the point of death. Rev. CLAUDE JONES of Lake Charles preached Sunday. Mrs. JAMES TROUSDALE, G. W. LAW, G. T. LOCK and A. G. WACHISON visited in Lake Charles. W. D. CHENEY and BOB COLLINS went to Sulphur Mines last week with a view of getting work, but were unsuccessful. Miss DORA DETENHOFF of Bayou Dinde visited friends in Lockport. F. D. LOCK went to Big Lake on business and Mrs. F. D. LOCK visited in Westlake. Messrs. GALE FAHRENBACH and CHARLES STEINUS of Westlake visited west

Calcasieu and called in Oakland on their way home. Miss AMANDA JESSEN of Lake Charles and Mrs. J. C. MYLAND of Westlake visited at FRED REID's. (Signed) SAW LOG

**PRIEN LAKE.** Sweet potatoes were about all dug. Rice marshes were partially filled with water after a whole season's dryness, thus giving the frogs some water to croak in and affording much delight to the ducks and geese. WALTER BURLESON and JOHN MARYMAN cruised the pass on a sporting expedition and reported that game was abundant. JAMES LASHIE spent Sunday at his old home. WILLIAM MILLER temporarily moved his family to town for the coming winter. Miss LORENA KEATON closed a successful five months school term. Rev. CARROLL preached on Sunday, and a Sunday School will be organized at the Burleson School House. WILLIAM BRIGGS was seen in the neighborhood collecting produce for the coming exhibition. A ball was held Saturday night at NARCESS AUGUER's. (Signed) AGRICOLA

**OBERLIN.** DARBONNE Bros. were making arrangements to erect a corn mill, and J. A. DARBONNE will erect a commodious warehouse. A blaze originated in the roof of the Ledoux-Fontenot saloons building last Wednesday, but was extinguished after doing but little damage. Turkeys and chickens are coming in by the wagon-load; good prices are paid by the local dealers who are shipping to Lake Charles, Alexandria and New Orleans. Tramps are abundant, and there is no demand for them. Railroad Agent VAN ZANDT has moved into the house formerly occupied by J. W. RHORER. Mrs. LUCIA CHANDLER, aged 19 years, died on Dec. 5, at the residence of her father, DON D. F. LEFLEUR, in Prairie Soileau. Mrs. CHANDLER was the bride of C. C. CHANDLER, and since then she has lived on the Calcasieu River. Mrs. RACHEL COLE, wife of JAMES COLE, died, at her residence in Prairie Soileau, Dec. 6, 1896. Mrs. COLE was 42 years of age, and was born and raised in the same neighborhood in which she died. She early joined the Baptist Church of which she has always been a consistent member. She leaves an aged husband, eight children and large numbers of relatives and friends to mourn her loss. [Editor's Note: RACHEL COLE was the second wife of JAMES COLE. See *KINFOLKS*, Vol. 31 #2 under Cole Ferry.] (Signed) XIOUS

**FENTON.** The rice mill ran night and day. CHARLEY DAUTEL from Meadow Prairie hauled rice to Hawkeye Rice Mill. S. J. and FRANK FENTON drove to Lake Charles with two teams to haul some feed; owing to the bad weather, they came home empty. SID LANGLEY drove about 50 head of cattle to Lake Charles last week. Mrs. AL FRAZER, her mother and sister returned home from a visit to the North, and AL FRAZER returned from the Iowa Junction office of the K.C. W. & G. AL MILLS and wife spent Sunday with S. W. DAY. W. W. DAY of Lake Charles spent a few days at home. CHARLEY FENTON, who works for the Lake Charles Implement Co. at Beaumont, Texas, was home one day last week. The JOHN CARVER family and the JACK MILLS family spent Sunday with Mr. BRYAN of Fairview. C. H. DUNHAM of China visited here. (Signed) PICK UP

**WELSH.** The new postmaster was PAUL SLOANE, and GEORGE BLACKFORD was retained as clerk. L. E. ROBINSON and wife and Mrs. F. L. LEWIS returned from visits to the North. J. BARKER and sister from the North will raise rice southeast of town. EDWIN C. WALKER, wife and sister arrived about a week ago and are keeping house in "Rose Cottage." PERRY DRURY and wife have moved into their Welsh home. Several members of the SMITH family, living south of town, have returned to the North. (Signed) SEGURA

**OAKDALE.** Twenty people were enrolled in the high school. They have begun to float timber down the Calcasieu. Cotton was sold to S. READ and W. S. PERKINS. PERKINS has shipped 100 bales of cotton to W. HILL of Alexandria. S. READ and R. F. McGOWAN shipped quite a lot to New Orleans, and J. READ shipped ten bales last week. W. MASON and Miss J. MARTIN were married on Thanksgiving Day. A. BURGER and Miss LETTA GOLDMAN were married last Thursday. Mr. DAVES came home to see his children, and left for Lake Charles, accompanied by his little son, ALBERT. L. MONTGOMERY also left for Lake Charles. D. D. NORRIS visited his mother and reported the birth of a fine boy, just three days previously. A. JOHNSON came down from Alexandria to see his father, LEON JOHNSON on Caney Creek. Miss EMMA NASH came to visit her sister. Mr. T. BELLARD went to Glenmora. E. STROTHER and wife of Canton visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. THOMPSON. Rev. JOE WILLIAMS will move to Beaver Creek to farm this year. Dr. CANON moved to the J. L. MONTGOMERY property. (Signed) PINE KNOT

**VINTON.** ALADIN VINCENT shipped a car-load of cattle to New Orleans. Dr. HUBBEL filled the Congregational pulpit Sunday. Prof. J. C. BROWN and Miss NANNIE PRINDER attended a teachers' conference at Edgerly. We have no physician here. (Signed) TWILIGHT

**PINE HILL.** The Steamer *Edna* made a trip up the Sabine after the dry spell; the captain engaged ten cords of wood to be delivered at Nix Ferry. W. F. SMITHERS was going to stay at Shoat Creek. AMBROSE COLEMAN built near Carter Creek. EUGENE CAIN and sister and a gentleman named HARPER with his sister came here from Sabine County, Texas, looking for homes here. Mrs. MARY MIMS has decided not to go to Texas. HENRY DRAKE is expected to help W. F. SMITHART make his sugar cane. (Signed) TIMEMAKER

**GRAND LAKE.** W. C. BROWN moved into F. C. JOHNSON's home again. Miss STELLA BROWN went to Kinder to stay with her sister. T. C. STANLEY was comfortably domiciled in Mrs. KUHN's house. Miss AMELIA HEBERT, Messrs. ISAAC DEROUEN, ISSAC ANDRUS, DALLAS HAYS, DUPREE HEBERT and WALTER HAYS, all of Lacassine, attended services here Sunday. Rev. HOWELL filled his usual place. (Signed) SCRIBE

**EDGERLY.** The following teachers were present at the conference: J. BROWN, Misses NANNIE PRINDER, ALICE VAN BROOK, and DORA HEWETT, A. J. JONES, C. M. HUGHES, E. J. FAIRCHILD and JOE HAMPTON. Prof. JOHN McNEESE led the discussion.

**GLENMORA GLEANINGS.** Our depot agent, J. L. GRANGER, equipped his office with a typewriter and a graphophone. Messrs. PHILLIPS & ERWIN shipped nearly a thousand bales of cotton. JOHN W. BRITT & Co. have completed an addition to their warehouse and received a carload of grain. JOHN GILL, of ROBERTS & GILL, has his hands full; ALBERT BEMOUNT was a regular hustler, while JOHN W. MAY was doing a conservative trade. MASON P. ERWIN will build a dwelling house on his townsite. SIMON DURIO was cleaning the ground south of the depot to erect a residence. Dr. JAMES E. PHILLIPS and Rev. SAMUEL MALLET just completed the painting of their dwellings. Mr. and Mrs. THOMAS J. GILL returned home after a visit in St. Landry and Avoyelles Parishes. Mrs. HOWELL GILL of Evergreen and ONESIME VIDRINE visited here. Prof. K. A. PARROTT and Miss ETTIE V. ELDRED of Oak Glen attended the teachers' meeting in Alexandria. Prof. SILAS PANINGER, is in charge of the school at Spring Creek campground here. (Signed) CREOLE PELICAN

## **CITY DIRECTORIES**

These surveys give a record of every business place and house in a town. They give the name of the owners of the business and the street address for the business. For residences, names of the inhabitants and the address for the house are given, along with the occupation of the male head-of-household, and sometimes for all the working people in the household. You can see how long a family lived in a particular house and how long they stayed in the town. If you do not find the male in the city directory for the next period of time, but find his family there, you may assume that he died. This gives you a time period to check for obituaries, cemetery records, etc. If you do not find the family listed in the next city directory, you may assume they moved on. By checking these city directories and finding the part of town in which a family lived, you will find clues to their economic lifestyle.

### **CITY DIRECTORY LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA 1911-1912**

#### **OFFICIAL DIRECTORY – MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION**

##### **Government**

U. S. Senators

MURPHY J. FOSTER, JNO. R. THORNTON

##### **State – Executive**

Governor

JARED Y. SANDERS, Baton Rouge

Lieut. Gov.

PAUL LAMBREMONT, Baton Rouge

Attorney General

WALTER GUION, New Orleans

Secy. Of State

JOHN MICHEL, Baton Rouge

Auditor

PAUL CAPDEVIELLE, Baton Rouge

Treasurer

O. B. STEELE, Baton Rouge

Registrar Land Office

FRED J. GRACE, Baton Rouge

Supt. Education

JAMES B. ASWELL, Baton Rouge

Adjutant General

D. T. STAFFORD, Alexandria

Railroad Commissioners

SHELBY N. TAYLOR, C. L. DeFEUNTES, (Chr.),  
J. J. MEREDITH, HY JASTREMSKI, (sec.)

##### **Judiciary**

Chief Justice

JAS. A. BREAU, Iberia

Associate Justice

FRANK A. MONROE, Orleans

Associate Justice

OLIVIER A. PROVOSTY, Point Coupee

Associate Justice

ALFRED D. LAND, Caddo

Associate Justice

W. B. SOMERVILLE, Orleans

##### **U. S. Congressmen**

First District

ALBERT ESTOPINAL

Second District

H. GARLAND DUPREE

Third District  
Fourth District  
Fifth District  
Sixth District  
Seventh District

ROBT. F. BROUSSARD  
J. T. WATKINS  
JOS. E. RANDELL  
ROBT. C. WICKLIFFE  
A. P. PUJO

#### **District and Parish Officers**

District Judge  
District Attorney  
Clerk of Court  
Sheriff and Tax Collector  
Coroner  
Assessor  
Treasurer  
Surveyor  
Supt. Education  
Parish Health Officer

WINSTON OVERTON, Lake Charles  
JOSEPH MOORE, Lake Charles  
J. W. GARDINER, Lake Charles  
D. J. REID, Lake Charles  
W. L. FISHER, M.D., Lake Charles  
C. M. RICHARD, Lake Charles  
C. C. GAUTHIER, Lake Charles  
E. L. GORHAM, Lake Charles  
JOHN McNEESE, Lake Charles  
D. C. ILES, M.D., Vinton

#### **Police Jury**

President  
Clerk  
Members Third Ward

Dr. S. M. LYONS  
U. A. BELL  
ADOLPH MEYER, D. C. POWELL

#### **City Officials**

Mayor  
Clerk  
Tax Collector  
City Attorney  
City Treasurer  
City Engineer  
City Physician  
Street Commissioner  
Sanitary Inspector  
Chief of Police

C. B. RICHARD  
S. O. SHATTUCK  
S. P. WETHERILL  
EDWIN F. GAYLE  
ANDREW CALDWELL  
T. H. MANDELL  
Dr. E. J. LYONS  
H. C. EAST  
Dr. GEO. KREEGER  
A. J. REID

#### **City Court**

Judge  
Judge Pro Tem  
Court Officer

W. H. HASKELL  
J. H. ROSTEET  
D. S. A. HARMON

#### **City Fire Department**

Chief  
Central Station, No. 1  
Cor. Kirby and Bilbo  
Fire Company, No. 2  
Rock and Railroad Ave.

R. J. GUNN  
H. W. OGDEN, G. L. BURLESON, F. S. STEWART,  
ALFRED BREASHEAR  
F. BAUMGARTNER, FRANK SHATTUCK

### **City Board of Health**

President  
Secretary

Dr. A. J. PERKINS  
Dr. C. L. RICHARDSON

### **City School Board**

President  
Secretary

J. A. WILLIAMS  
A. A. WENTZ  
FRANK HASKELL, R. L. COLEMAN, H. K. RAMSEY,  
THOS. F. PORTER, Jr.

### **Banks**

#### **Calcasieu National Bank, Cor. Ryan and Pujo Streets**

H. C. DREW, president, J. A. BEL, vice-president; FRANK ROBERTS, vice-president;  
S. ARTHUR KNAPP, cashier; H. H. ROCK, assistant cashier; Other Directors, D. R. SWIFT,  
J. G. POWELL, M. J. MULLER, S. T. WOODRING, H. G. CHALKEY. Capital and surplus,  
\$250,000. Deposits, \$1,779,198.70.

#### **Calcasieu Trust and Savings Bank, Cor. Ryan and Pujo Streets, also Jennings, Welsh, Lake Arthur, Kinder and Vinton, La.**

Lake Charles officers – H. C. DREW, chairman of board; FRANK ROBERTS, president; D. R. SWIFT, vice-president; W. G. MOELING, vice-president; L. E. ROBINSON, vice-president; D. HEBERT, vice-president; E. N. HAZARD, cashier; H. W. LANZ, trust officer. Capital and surplus \$250,000. Deposits, \$1,755,807.70.

#### **First National Bank, Cor. Ryan and Division Streets. Established 1889.**

GEO. LOCK, president; L. KAUFMAN, vice-president; HENRY B. KANE, second vice-president, N. E. NORTH, cashier; O. L. LeBLANC, assistant cashier; J. N. WETHERILL, assistant cashier. Other Directors, J. N. PRATER, Dr. D. S. PERKINS, A. P. PUJO. Capital and surplus \$150,000. Deposits \$875,000.

#### **Lake Charles National Bank, Cor. Ryan and Broad Streets. Established 1902.**

H. C. GILL, president; W. P. WEBER, vice-president; WM. A. GUILLEMET, cashier; F. H. JUNKINS, assistant cashier; O. W. McNEESE, assistant cashier. Other Directors, C. D. MOSS, R. KRAUSE, E. D. MILLER, Dr. T. H. WATKINS, A. HOLLINS, D. C. POWELL. Capital and surplus \$150,000. Deposits \$600,000.

### **Building and Loan Associations**

#### **Calcasieu Building and Loan Association, Von Phul & Gordon building.**

W. E. PATTERSON, president; HENRY B. KANE, vice-president; J. P. BARREMORE, secretary.

### **Commercial Organizations**

**Lake Charles Commercial Club, A. G. WACHSEN, president; GUY BEATTY, secretary.**

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**Do not value the things you have in your life, but value who you have in your life.**



## LeBLEU CEMETERY

Location: I-10 east to Chloe/Cameron exit, go north, back over the interstate. Cross Contraband Bayou, then left on LeBleu Cemetery Road. Cemetery is at end of road. Land for LeBleu Cemetery was donated by ALEXISE JANISE on 1 Oct. 1860.

Cemetery was read on 25 March 1997 by MARGARET MOORE, Member #1066,  
and JAN CRAVEN, Member #1018

In some cases the headstone was no longer there or not readable. In those cases the information was taken from a previous reading in 1971 by the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society, Inc., with their permission. In addition, recent burials, whose headstone had not been put up yet, the obituary from the *Lake Charles American Press*, our local newspaper, was used, with their permission. The *Lake Charles American Press* publishes the obituaries with the information given to them by the indicated funeral home and is no way responsible for misgiven information. There were 30 adult and 5 children graves that were unmarked.

Continued from Vol. 30 No. 2

HILLS, WILLIAM P., b. 11 Dec. 1928, d. no date  
HOFFPAUIR, SADIE, b. 19 Oct. 1906, d. 5 May 1988  
HOFFPAUIR, CADY. Next to LAWRENCE CADY.  
HOPKINS, MARION JO, b. 1 July 1902, d. 2 Mar. 1993; m. \_\_\_\_\_ ALFORD. Also found under ALFORD.  
HOSIE, TONI JO DUCAT, b. 14 Nov. 1970, d. 27 Jan. 1994. Born DUCAT.  
HOWARD, IRMA L. LeBLUE, b. 24 Aug. 1928, d. 26 Aug. 1988. Also found under LeBLUE.  
Next to J. P. HOWARD.  
HOWARD, J. P., b. 22 Jan. 1926, d. 13 Apr. 1982; Pvt. US Army WWII. Next to IRMA L. HOWARD.  
JANESE, ADELINE L., b. 1870, d. 1945  
JANESE, ALINE LEGER, b. 3 July 1920, d. 22 Dec. 1968. Same slab with JOHN A. JANESE Sr.  
JANESE, DON L., b. 1856, d. 1945  
JANESE, EDITH, b. 27 Aug. 1929, d. 24 Jan. 1972. Married to CORMIER. See EDITH JANESE CORMIER.  
JANESE, JOHN A., Sr., b. 11 Aug. 1910, d. 15 June 1964. Same slab with ALINE LEGER JANESE.  
JANISE, ALTON P., b. 7 Jan. 1928, d. 17 Dec. 1991  
JANISE, EMOYAR, b. 30 Dec. 1883, d. 21 Mar. 1971. Wife of \_\_\_\_\_ CORBELLO. Also see EMOYAR JANISE CORBELLO.  
JANISE, LUCILLE M. ROBINSON, b. 10 Oct. 1932, d. 7 Aug. 1996. Born ROBINSON.  
Record also under ROBINSON.  
JANISE, OLEVIA J., b. 12 Mar. 1903, d. 10 Oct. 1987. Married to \_\_\_\_\_ POSTMANN. Also see POSTMANN.  
JANISE, PALMIER D., b. 31 Aug. 1904, d. 20 Nov. 1988  
JANISE, PETE, b. 22 Oct. 1893, d. 30 Dec. 1982  
JEMISE, APMOUS, no dates. Headstone not found in 1997 reading.

JOHNSON, DANIEL JOSEPH, b. & d. 10 July 1987, stillborn  
 JOHNSON, JOSEPH W., b. 12 Mar. 1934, d. 13 Mar. 1995. "J. R."  
 JOHNSON, SABEL L., b. 26 Dec. 1907, d. 21 Oct. 1984. Same slab with WILSON JOHNSON.  
 JOHNSON, VIRGIE MAE, b. 27 May 1926, d. 19 Apr. 1992. Married to \_\_\_\_ LeBLEU. Also recorded under LeBLEU.  
 JOHNSON, WILFORD, b. 14 Sep. 1924, d. 31 Mar. 1989. Pvt. US Army WWII  
 JOHNSON, WILSON, b. 13 Feb. 1901, d. 22 Jan. 1987. Same slab with SABEL L. JOHNSON.

KERSHAW, BOB, b. 1905, d. 1975. Next to and the same headstone with FRONNIE KERSHAW.  
 KERSHAW, FRONNIE, b. 1904, d. 1982. Next to and on the same headstone with BOB KERSHAW.  
 KERSHAW, ROBERT GUY, Jr., b. 29 Jan. 1925, d. 29 June 1986. Cpl. US Marine Corps – WWII – Korea

LaFLEUR, DORA BULLER, b. 2 Mar. 1917, d. 2 Aug. 1990. Born BULLER.  
 LaFLEUR, J. NEAL, b. 23 July 1962, d. 11 Apr. 1985  
 LaFLEUR, SIDNEY PERCY, b. 1 Jan. 1918, d. 6 Apr. 1992  
 LaFLEUR, VICTOR, b. 12 Nov. 1884, d. 9 July 1986  
 LANGLEY, WAYNE, b. 26 Jan. 1968, d. 11 Aug. 1995  
 LaVERGNE, ODELIA O., b. 22 Apr. 1918, d. 26 Aug. 1995  
 LeBLEU, ?????, b. 8 Oct. 1875, d. 11 Aug. 1950  
 LeBLEU, Infant, b. & d. 12 Jan. 1958. Stillborn daughter of CLIFF & VIRGIE LeBLEU.  
 LeBLEU, ADA S., b. 9 Sep. 1822, d. 7 July 1975  
 LeBLEU, AGNES A., b. 8 Feb. 1924, d. 31 Oct. 1987  
 LeBLEU, ALBERT, b. 30 Dec. 1927, d. 19 Mar. 1989  
 LeBLEU, ALLEN J., b. 18 Nov. 1896, d. 27 Mar. 1897. Son of ROGERS & ESTEL LeBLEU.  
 LeBLEU, ARSENE, b. 5 May 1878, d. 16 Apr. 1972  
 LeBLEU, ARTEMIO D., b. 7 Oct. 1871, d. 16 Feb. 1936  
 LeBLEU, ARTHEMISE HEBERT, b. 1 Jan. 1852, d. 26 May 1927  
 LeBLEU, ARTHUR 'Art', b. 9 June 1959, d. 14 Oct. 1986  
 LeBLEU, ASA J., b. 22 Oct. 1888, d. 26 Feb. 1963  
 LeBLEU, B. A., b. 7 Nov. 1892, d. 7 Aug. 1916. Headstone not found in 1997 reading.  
 LeBLEU, CATHERINE L., b. 7 Oct. 1896, d. 24 Feb. 1968. Next to ARSENE LeBLEU.  
 LeBLEU, CLARA, b. 8 Jan. 1884, d. 8 Feb. 1956. Age 72  
 LeBLEU, CLARA M., b. 23 Oct. 1898, d. 3 May 1936  
 LeBLEU, CLEM, b. 11 Oct. 1904, d. 15 Aug. 1980  
 LeBLEU, COLUMBUS, b. 10 Aug. 1894, d. 3 Feb. 1939  
 LeBLEU, D. E., no dates. Headstone not found in 1997 reading.  
 LeBLEU, DARLENE, b. no date, d. 1901. Headstone not found in 1997 reading.  
 LeBLEU, DELELIA, b. 2 May 1855, d. 2 Feb 1936  
 LeBLEU, DESIRE, b. 19 Mar. 1853, d. 24 Aug. 1928. Husband of OLENA BREAUX.  
 LeBLEU, ELLEN, b. 31 Dec. 1896, d. 17 Jan. 1972. Wife of MART DUGAS. See ELLEN LeBLEU DUGAS.  
 LeBLEU, EMMA, b. 22 Nov. 1900, d. 2 Nov. 1965

LeBLEU, ERVIN V., b. 16 Nov. 1914, d. no date. Same slab with VERNON LESTER  
LeBLEU and ORENA LeBLEU.

LeBLEU, ESTELLE, b. 21 May 1870, d. 26 Sep. 1930. Wife of ROGERS LeBLEU.

LeBLEU, ESTHER BROXSON, b. 27 Sep. 1921, d. 18 Feb. 1997. Born BROXSON. Next to  
ORETHA P. LeBLEU. Also see BROXSON.

LeBLEU, EVA H., b. 14 Oct. 1885, d. 30 May 1963. Next to ASA J. LeBLEU – their  
headstones match.

LeBLEU, EVA L., b. 5 July 1897, d. 24 June 1973

LeBLEU, FARNESSE, b. 20 Apr. 1889, d. 7 Dec. 1923. Son of DESIRE & OLENA LeBLEU.

LeBLEU, FRANCES, b. 28 May 1925, d. 7 July 1990. Married to \_\_DOWNS. See FRANCES  
LeBLEU DOWNS.

LeBLEU, FRANK, b. 4 Mar. 1892, d. 10 Sep. 1985

LeBLEU, FRANKIE, b. 7 Sep. 1897, d. 18 Oct. 1984. Grave is in a vault and on the same slab  
with JOSEPH C. LeBLEU.

LeBLEU, FRAYMOND, b. 32 Dec. 1891, d. 3 Apr. 1908. Son of DESIRE & OLENA  
LeBLEU. Tombstone does say the 32<sup>nd</sup> of Dec.!!

LeBLEU, GENE M., b. 21 July 1950, d. 22 July 1950. Son of Mr. & Mrs. N. A. LeBLEU.

LeBLEU, GEORGIA, b. 5 May 1903, d. 27 Dec. 1984

LeBLEU, GOLDMAN, b. 29 Jan. 1890, d. 9 Oct. 1908. Headstone not found in 1997 reading.

LeBLEU, GRACE, b. 29 Jan. 1890, d. 9 Oct. 1908. Tombstone unreadable in 1997. Information  
here is from previous readings.

LeBLEU, HELEN, b. 30 Sep. 1982, d. no dates. Daughter of MIKE & MOLLY LeBLEU.

LeBLEU, HELEN T., b. 28 Dec. 1898, d. 25 Dec. 1973

LeBLEU, Infant, b. & d. 25 Feb. 1939. Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. MEARL LeBLEU.

LeBLEU, JAMES, b. 13 Nov. 1876, d. 26 Sep. 1942

LeBLEU, JEANETTE LOIS, b. 15 Apr. 1928, d. 27 Oct. 1935

LeBLEU, JELES ??, b. 6 Mar. 1846, d. 5 Dec. 1924. Tombstone not found in 1997.

LeBLEU, JENNIFER LYNN, b. 25 Aug. 1964, d. 26 Aug. 1964. Infant daughter of JACOB &  
JUANITA LeBLEU.

LeBLEU, JOE VALVERDA , b. 21 Nov. 1896, d. 12 Nov. 1958

LeBLEU, JOHN D., b. 4 Oct. 1904, d. 16 July 1980

LeBLEU, JOHN MEARL, b. 14 Jan. 1914, d. 22 Apr. 1982

LeBLEU, JOHN P., b. 25 July 1874, d. 25 July 1899

LeBLEU, JOHN S., b. 21 Sep. 1891, d. 3 Dec. 1971

LeBLEU, JOSEPH C., b. 22 July 1892, d. 3 Oct. 1977. This grave is in a vault and on the same  
slab with FRANKIE LeBLEU.

LeBLEU, JOSEPH CLIFTON, b. 30 Dec. 1927, d. no date. Husband of VIRGIE MAE  
LeBLEU. Children are MARY THERESA, LORI, DIANNA & BARBARA.

LeBLEU, JOSEPH H., b. 2 Mar. 1918, d. 25 July 1935

LeBLEU, JOSEPH L., b. 18 Mar. 1896, d. 18 Apr. 1967. La. Pvt. Co. I – 43 Inf. – WWI. On  
the same slab with PRUDENCE LeBLEU.

LeBLEU, JUANITA, b. 17 M\_\_ 1930, d. 3 Dec. 1930

LeBLEU, JULES, b. 6 Mar. 1846, d. 5 Dec. 1924

(continued next issue)

**DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU SEE IN PRINT. CONFIRM!!!**

## 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 & Historical Library, 411 Pujo St., Lake Charles. The following information has been gleaned from some of these periodicals

**OUR ANCESTORS & NAMES TO IDENTIFY THEM** deals with development of surnames. It is believed that they originated in Italy among the Venetian patricians about the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> centuries, and spread into Europe with the returning Crusaders. The article gives information and anecdotes about names. One story tells: "In New Orleans, in 1955, police picked up a man who gave his name as DAVY CROCKETT. Becoming suspicious, they checked and found his real name to be DANIEL BOONE."

*Le Baton Rouge*, Vol. 25 #4 (Fall 2005), Baton Rouge, LA Gen. & Hist. Soc.

**ANOTHER LOOK AT ACADIA.** There are many wrong ideas associated with Acadia after the expulsion in 1755. Although the majority of the buildings were destroyed, in 1760 there were still about 100 buildings, houses, and barns still standing in the townships of Falmouth, Newport and Grand Pre'. The same was true for many other villages. Evicted families left most of their household furnishings when they were deported, but about 50 houses stood ready for their next occupants, English colonists. Some of these houses stood until the 1940s. Vestiges of Acadian buildings, such as recycled timbers, still exist in the Minas Basin. Acadians who remained became prisoners or tenants of the English and helped with the farms and dyke repair. The dykes had been built as early as 1700 to keep out the sea, but were badly damaged in the Hurricane of 3-4 November 1759. The storm also delayed the departure of transport ships that were taking 152 Acadians from Pubnico into exile. This was the last deportation until 1762. The vast majority of present-day Acadian-Americans in New England are descendants of these former prisoners and tenants, who emigrated from New Brunswick to the U. S. between 1870 and 1920.

*American-Canadian Genealogist*, Issue #107, Vol.32 #1 (2006) Manchester, VT

**CHEROKEE AND CHOCTAW INDIAN PORTRAITS** in *The Indian Gallery of Henry Inman* were recently exhibited at Atlanta's High Museum of Art. INMAN, a New York artist (1801-1846), was commissioned to copy these portraits from originals painted about 1820-1832 by CHARLES BIRD KING. The copies were used as the basis for lithographs in a three-volume work, *The Indian Tribes of North America*, published between 1837 and 1844 by the first Superintendent of Indian Affairs. KING's pictures were burned in the 1865 fire at the Smithsonian, but INMAN's survived. Among the Indian leaders shown are the Creek warrior, SELOCTA, who served as Gen. ANDREW JACKSON's translator in the First Creek War of 1813-1814; the Yuchi/Creek/Scottish TIMPOCHEE BARNARD, who fought on the side of the Americans; the Cherokee father and son, Major RIDGE and JOHN RIDGE, who were assassinated for signing a treaty with the Americans that led to the tribe's "Trail of Tears;" MENAWA, or "Crazy Horse Hunter," one of the few Creek Red Sticks who survived JACKSON's victory on the Tallapoosa River; and the Creek orator, YOHOLLO-MICCO, known as Chief Eufala. If you have Cherokee or Creek ancestors whose portrait might be included, inquire at [highmuseum@woodruffcenter.org](mailto:highmuseum@woodruffcenter.org). A website for Cherokee genealogy is:

<http://Cherokee-nc.com> NC Cherokee genealogy

*Genealogical Tips*, Vol. XXXIV #1. Tip-O-Texas Genealogical Society, Harlingen, TX

### **“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 the respondent for copies and postage. Please make all queries, clear, concise, and easily understood. Give **full name** of the person; the **exact date**, if known, or an **approximate time period** (ca); and a **location**. State **exactly** what information you are seeking.

#### **OGEA, FONTENOT, GUIDRY, LeBLEU**

Are ABRAM OGEA and HEBRAND OGEA the same person? The parents are JACK OGEA and STELLA FONTENOT. Are PAUL “HYPOLITE” OGEA (s/o JOHN OGEA & ODELIA GUIDRY) and his wife ANDREA OGEA (d/o THEOGENE OGEA and ASPASIE LeBLEU) related by blood?

JANIS BORMANN, 2165 Lynnswood Dr., Sulphur, LA 70663 or E-mail lee-auger@mail.com

#### **SEILER**

Correction. The surname SEILER was inadvertently spelled SELLER in a query in Vol. 30 #1 of *Kinfolks*. Please send information on SEILER family from Germany or Indiana (1800-1900). FRANCES BUCHANAN, P. O. Box 5243, Lake Charles, LA or cookielady@Cox-internet.com

#### **GUILLORY, BERTRAND, McDANIEL, FORET**

Need birth, marriage, death dates and places for the children of EMILE DALICOURT GUILLORY (b. 22 Jan. 1880, Eunice; La.; s/o EMILE GUILLORY & SELINA BERTRAND) who m. 23 Oct. 1900, Washington, La., MARIE ELIZABETH McDANIEL (b. 23 Dec. 1881, Evangeline Par., La; d. ca 1962, Lake Charles; d/o DAVID LEE GUILLORY & EMELIA FORET). Children were: MARY THELMA (b. 1901, Eunice); PAUL THADDEUS (b. 1903, Eunice); HOMER (b. ca 1906); EVA OLLA (b. 1909, Eunice); LORRAINE EDITY (b. ca 1911); EMILE DALCOURT, JR. “PETE” (b. ca 1913); MERISSE (b. 1915); (ALBERT (b. 1917); REGILE (b. ca 1918); EZOLA (b. ca 1920); and LOUIS EUGENE (b. ca 1922). The last seven children were probably born in Lake Charles.

MALEN McDANIEL STELLY, 605 North 7<sup>th</sup> St., Silsbee, TX 77656

### **CALCASIEU PARISH POLICE JURY MINUTES**

#### **BILLS TO PAY FOR FERRY KEEPERS FROM BOOK #7 (Jan. 1898-June 1902)**

1 January 1901--B. F. HENRY - \$25.00; THOMAS WEINCKE - \$8.33;  
HENRY LANDRY - \$10.00  
5 February 1901--B. F. HENRY, Ferry Keeper - \$25.00; THOMAS WEINCKE, Bridge - \$25.00  
5 March 1901--FREMONT LeBLEU, Ferry Keeping - \$10.00  
2 April 1901--Z. LeBLEU, Ferry Keeper - \$7.50  
4 June 1901-- ZEPHERIN LeBLEU, Bridge Keeper - \$7.50; THOMAS WEINCKE - \$8.33;  
J. PACK, Bridge Keeper; HENRY LANDRY, AUG. SWANSON,  
ANTEAL BENOIT, FREMONT LeBLEU - \$10.00 each  
4 June 1901--B. F. HENRY, Ferry Keeper - \$25.00  
1 Dec. 1903--A. J. CONEY, Ferry - \$25; A. E. GOOS - \$25; JAMES JOHNSON, Ferry  
Keeper - \$30; AMOS MOORE - \$16.67  
5 Jan. 1904--JAMES JOHNSON, ferry keeper - \$30; AMOS MOORE - \$25;  
A. E. GOOS - \$25

# Ancestor Chart

Name of Compiler FARQUE, Jeanne L. Person No. 1 on this chart is the same  
Address 2236 Tuna Ln. person as No. \_\_\_\_\_ on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
City, State Lake Charles, La. 70605  
Date Updated 8-06

Chart No. \_\_\_\_\_

b. Date of Birth  
p.b. Place of Birth  
m. Date of Marriage  
d. Date of Death  
p.d. Place of Death

## 4 LeBLANC, Lessin

(Father of No. 2)

b. 19 Dec. 1895  
p.b. Mermenteau, La.  
m. 24 July 1914  
d. 17 Mar. 1966  
p.d. Lake Charles, La.  
bur. Prien Cem.

## 2 LeBLANC, Floyd Joseph Sr.

(Father of No. 1)

b. 17 Sep. 1924  
p.b. Mermenteau, La.  
m. 29 Nov. 1944 - Kansas  
d. 8 Nov. 1975  
p.d. Lake Charles, La.

## 5 BENOIT, Marellia

(Mother of No. 2)

b. 14 Oct. 1899  
p.b. Lake Arthur, La.  
d. 12 Feb. 1983  
p.d. Lake Charles, La.  
bur. Prien Mem. Cem.

## 1 LeBLANC, Jeanne Marie

b.  
p.b.  
m.  
d.  
p.d.

## 6 HUNTER, William Robert

(Father of No. 3)

b. 27 Mar. 1905  
p.b. Filev. Mo.  
m. 10 Oct. 1923 - Mo.  
d. 3 Mar. 1989  
p.d. Great Bend, Kansas

## 3 HUNTER, Mary Dortha

(Mother of No. 1)

b. 15 Nov. 1925  
p.b. Nevada, Mo.  
d. 2 Feb. 1999  
p.d. Lake Charles, La.  
bur. Prien Mem. Cem.

## 7 YOUNG, Dortha May

(Mother of No. 3)

b. 8 Mar. 1908  
p.b. Belton, Mo.  
d. 11 Jan. 1987  
p.d. Great Bend, Kansas

## FARQUE, Billy Ray

(Spouse of No. 1)

b. d.  
n.b. p.d.

## 8 LeBLANC, Adam

(Father of No. 4)

b. 4 Mar. 1872  
p.b. St. Landry Par., La.  
m. 20 Apr. 1892  
d. 5 Jan. 1932  
p.d. Morse, La. - Istre Cem.

## 9 ISTRE, Onesia

(Mother of No. 4)

b. 18 Feb. 1877  
p.b.  
d. 18 Mar. 1949  
p.d. Morse, La. - Istre Cem.

## 10 BENOIT, Simeon

(Father of No. 5)

b. 21 June 1876  
p.b. Abbeville, La.  
m. 21 Feb. 1898  
d. 1 Mar. 1954  
p.d. Hayes, La.

## 11 DYSON, Azalie

(Mother of No. 5)

b. -- Sep. 1881  
p.b. Cameron, La.  
d. 4 Mar. 1937  
p.d. Hayes, La.

## 12 HUNTER, Charles Robert

(Father of No. 6)

b. 2 Apr. 1881  
p.b. Rigsley, Mo.  
m. 16 June 1904 - Mo.  
d. 19 Feb. 1960  
p.d. Lamar, Mo.

## 13 PITTMAN, Dora Ann

(Mother of No. 6)

b. 15 Mar. 1884  
p.b. Filey, Mo.  
d. 31 Mar. 1947  
p.d. Sheldon, Mo.  
bur. Dunnegan Grove

## 14 YOUNG, Robert Pine

(Father of No. 7)

b. 1 Dec. 1864  
p.b. Mooresville, In.  
m. 18 Feb. 1894  
d. 1 Sep. 1916  
p.d. Jericho Sps., Mo.

## 15 WILLIAMS, Margaret Eliz.

(Mother of No. 7)

b. 11 Feb. 1870  
p.b. Kentucky  
d. 15 Dec. 1939  
p.d. Steelville, Mo.

## 16 LeBLANC, Lezin

b. 9 Nov. 1849 (Father of No. 8,  
Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)  
m. 17 Aug. 1868 - La.

d. 22 Apr. 1873

## 17 RICHARD, Marie Olivia

b. 18 Apr. 1848 (Mother of No. 8,  
Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)

d. 22 Sep. 1918

## 18 ISTRE, Camile

b. 20 Mar. 1851 (Father of No. 9,  
Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)

m. 14 Dec. 1871

d. ca 1890

## 19 LeJEUNE, Azalie

b. 1 July 1853 (Mother of No. 9,  
Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)

d. 2 Aug. 1943

## 20 BENOIT, Jean Theart dit BUCK

b. Mar. 1849 (Father of No. 10,  
Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)

m. 21 Feb. 1898

d. 20 June 1926

## 21 BENOIT, Therzille

b. Oct. 1850 (Mother of No. 10,  
Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)

d. 16 Nov. 1931

## 22 DYSON, William

b. Apr. 1837 (Father of No. 11,  
Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)

m. 8 Feb. 1866

d. 1 Apr. 1906

## 23 BENOIT, Amelia

b. 13 Dec. 1849 (Mother of No. 11,  
Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)

d. 25 July 1925

## 24 HUNTER, Charles Tarquillis

b. 3 June 1827 (Father of No. 12,  
Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)

m. 2 Dec. 1875 - Mo.

d. 22 Jan. 1902 - Mo.

## 25 KEEN, Susan Ellen

b. 19 Aug. 1855 (Mother of No. 12,  
Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)

d. 28 Mar. 1938 - Kansas

## 26 PITTMAN, William Harvey

b. 17 Nov. 1858 (Father of No. 13,  
Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)

m. 25 Dec. 1878

d. 31 May 1951 - Mo.

## 27 HAMBY, Felecia

b. 9 Sep. 1861 (Mother of No. 13,  
Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)

d. 14 Aug. 1937 - Mo.

## 28 YOUNG, Alan (of Carolinas)

b. 12 May 1823 (Father of No. 14,  
Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)

m. 27 Jan. 1850 - In.

d. 29 July 1907 - Mo.

## 29 JONES, Elizabeth (Rugby, En)

b. 24 Feb. 1834 (Mother of No. 14,  
Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)

d. 10 Feb. 1913 - Kansas

## 30 WILLIAMS, James Madison

b. 31 Mar. 1840 (Father of No. 15,  
Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)

m. 28 Dec. 1864 - Ky.

d. 29 Mar. 1897 - Mo.

## 31 STRATTON, Mary Francis

b. 3 May 1830 (Mother of No. 15,  
Cont. on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_)

d. ca 1902 - Mo.



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### THE MOST COMMON MISTAKES IN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH ARE...

- Not using family group sheets and pedigree charts.
- Not contacting living relatives for assistance.
- Assuming that "nobody else" is working on my line.
- Not using maps of the area at the time your ancestors were living there.
- Not knowing the history of the area in which you are conducting research.
- Not using common sense when reading family histories. If a source for information is not listed, be cautious about accepting it. Much of the information may be hearsay.
- Gathering information on everyone with "that" surname, unless it is an uncommon name.
- Not using primary sources - original land, probate, church, county records - but relying on printed histories.
- Not making a master copy of your information so you may leave the master copy at home when you travel and take the duplicate with you.
- Not organizing your records.
- Giving up.
- Not paying attention to any clues your ancestors may have left.

*The Family Tree*, Aug./Sept. 2002

### "DON'TS" FOR GENEALOGISTS

Don't use scotch tape or sticky notes on anything you wish to preserve; don't use rubber bands or paper clips which might rust; don't use ball point or felt tip pens; don't use heat seal lamination on valuable papers; don't presume - read carefully; don't fail to safeguard your valuable research; don't store old and valuable documents and pictures in cellars, garages, or attics; don't forget to record or note your letters and research - memory fades; don't forget to share your research; and don't expect free service - copying and postage are expensive

Don't fail to send a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) with each request.

### DON'T GIVE UP!!



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# KINFOLKS

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY, INC.

ISSN 0742-7654

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Volume 30 No. 4 - December 2006



The EDGAR MILLER home at 1018 Pujo Street is a wooden bungalow built by I. C. CARTER on land homesteaded by VICTOR TOUCHY in 1866. Leaded glass was used in every window of the one-and-a-half story structure. The second owners were the TEAL family. The house is full of antique furniture, because Mr. TEAL specified in his will that the furniture must remain in the home. Mr. and Mrs. BILL MONK now own the home.

The southern colonial style home of WILLIAM and OPAL HUGHES GRAY stands a 902 South Division Street. It was built in 1923 by W. J. QUICK. The fireplace sports valuable tiles made by artisans at Sophie Newcomb College in New Orleans. A playhouse for the couple's only daughter, MATHILDA (named for her aunt) was one of the features of the large brick home.

The red brick Greek Revival mansion of MATHILDA GRAY, the sister of WILLIAM GRAY, is located at 1923 Shell Beach Drive on forty acres of lake-front property. It was built in 1923 by DUDLEY J. QUICK. It contains twelve fireplaces, a black-and-white marble floor in the foyer, and superior walnut paneling in the dining room and upstairs coffee room. Ms. GRAY bought all the walnut trees that were cut down at Walnut Grove, the local picnic spot, when the Port of Lake Charles was built at that location. She had the walnut trees made into the fine paneling that graces the mansion.

In 1925, the red brick plantation-style mansion at 1303 Shell Beach Drive was built by TITUS MILLER for RUDOLPH KRAUSE, Sr., a local lumber baron. A plaque on one of the trees in the yard near an old stake states that the pirate, JEAN LAFITTE, who visited Lake Charles often tied his boat to this stake when he came to Lake Charles. The home was later bought by WILLIAM T. BURTON, and remained in the hands of his descendants for several generations. It is currently owned by WILLIAM DORE.

A unique horseshoe-shaped house was built on the Calcasieu River at Moss Bluff in 1935. by oil man, MORDELLO VINCENT. It was begun as a camp, on a site that in 1880 was used to roll logs to the river to bring them to Lake Charles. The house, constructed completely of cypress, is one of the first houses in the area to be built on a concrete slab; most of the local homes were raised on brick pillars. Each room of the house opens onto the porch in the middle of the horseshoe. The architect for the 5,000-square foot house was LEWIS DUNN. Dr. and Mrs. DAVID BUTROSS are the present owners.

**DID YOU KNOW** that shaking hands began with the ancient Egyptians about 4,700 years ago? When two men met, they extended both hands, palms up, to verify that neither party was concealing weapons behind his back. Later the practice was changed to the ritual of clasping right hands; about nine out of ten people are right handed, so if a man had a weapon, it would be in his right hand. Through the centuries, the old tradition became a handshake, and a verbal deal made with a handshake was as binding as a written contract. Handshakes are a part of our modern world. They are deemed so important that special consultants are employed by large business firms to teach their employees the correct way to shake hands. Although it was long considered unladylike for women to shake hands, today, even women shake hands! This is a remarkable evolution for a custom that started out as self-protection against concealed weapons!

**IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 2007 DUES!**





# KINFOLKS

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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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**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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**SOCIETY NEWS**  
**SWLGS Web Site – <http://www.rootsweb.com/~laslgs/swlgs.htm>**

**NOVEMBER MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society, Inc. will be held on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006, at 10:00 A.M. in the Carnegie Meeting Room of Southwest Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Library, 411 Pujo St., Lake Charles. Coffee and fellowship begin at 9:30 A.M. Guests are always welcome.

The program will be "World War II in the Gulf of Mexico" presented by C. J. Christ of Houma, La.

**REMEMBER!** Bring canned goods/monetary contribution for the Oak Park Pantry Thanksgiving Basket. In September, Oak Park Pantry served 100 families.

\*\*\*\*\*

**NEW MEMBERS**

1486. SUE KEEL BROOKS, Rt. 2 Box 58-B, Newton, TX 75966

1487. TINA DIAZ, 1105 Farrington Dr., Marrero, LA 70072

1488. FOREST DUHON, 104 Beth Dr., Lafayette, LA 70507-4600

Membership To Date: 391

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**NEW WEB SITES**

Illinois State Archives      [www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases.html)

Oral History Template/Grandparents      [www.ourgrandchild.com/familystory.index.htm](http://www.ourgrandchild.com/familystory.index.htm)

World Connect      [www.worldconnect.rootsweb.com](http://www.worldconnect.rootsweb.com)

One World Tree      [www.ancestry.com/trees/](http://www.ancestry.com/trees/)

Migrations      [www.migrations.org](http://www.migrations.org)

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**NEW ADDITIONS TO THE SW LA GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL LIBRARY**

*Calcasieu Parish Conveyance Records, Book 51: March 1903 – May 1903*

*Bodin – Les Families Baudin/Bodin*

*Hooper – Old Man Hooper – His Three Wives and Thirteen Children*

*Johnson – Johnson Cousins*

*LeBleu – Descendants of Arsene LeBleu, Jr. and Mary Neal*

*Singleton – Descendants of Jeremiah Singleton of Eastern Tennessee*

*King's Daughters and Founding Mothers: The Filles du Roi, 1663-1673 – Volumes 1 and 2*

*Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography, Volumes I - V*

*Virginia Historical Index*

*Italians to America – Passengers Arriving at New York, Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5*



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

**2006**

**NOVEMBER 18 – SATURDAY – SWLGS REGULAR MEETING – 10:00 A.M.**  
**CARNEGIE MEETING ROOM, 414 PUJO ST., LAKE CHARLES, LA**  
**SPEAKER: C. J. CHRIST of Houma, La.**  
**PROGRAM: “World War II in the Gulf of Mexico”**

**2007**

**JANUARY 20 - SATURDAY – SWLGS REGULAR MEETING – 10:00 A.M.**  
**CARNEGIE MEETING ROOM, 414 PUJO ST., LAKE CHARLES, LA**  
**PROGRAM: “SHOW & TELL”**  
**SPEAKER: SWLGS MEMBERS**

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**EDITORIAL POLICY.** Names in *KINFOLKS* appear as they were found in the original document. No attempt has been made to correct spellings unless otherwise noted. These names may differ from their current spellings.

**PLEASE ADVISE US OF A CHANGE OF ADDRESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.** *Kinfolks* is mailed in bulk in March, May, September and December. The post office will not forward your copy if you have moved and charges 75 cents for an address correction. Remailing *Kinfolks* costs the price of a second copy, plus \$1.75. Therefore, it is necessary that you advise us of a change of address as soon as possible to help save unnecessary costs. If you missed an issue, it will be mailed with the next bulk mailing of *Kinfolks*. **NEW MEMBERS** will receive all issues distributed for the year in which they join the Society.

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### **2006 SWLGS MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY** **OUR MEMBERSHIP OF 391 IS FOUND IN THE FOLLOWING STATES**

ALABAMA	1	MARYLAND	4	TENNESSEE	1
ARIZONA	3	MASSACHUSETTS	1	TEXAS	62
CALIFORNIA	6	MISSISSIPPI	5	UTAH	1
COLORADO	2	MISSOURI	2	VIRGINIA	2
FLORIDA	6	NEW MEXICO	2	WASHINGTON	2
GEORGIA	1	NORTH CAROLINA	1	WASHINGTON DC	1
INDIANA	1	OKLAHOMA	1	WISCONSIN	2
LOUISIANA	282	PENNSYLVANIA	2		

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**“The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree:  
the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.” – Burton Hillis**

## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

A. C. BOURDIER, a long-time resident of the Lake Charles area, presented the September program. Mr. BOURDIER spoke about some historic Lake Charles homes and buildings, illustrating his talk with slides and photographs. Since there were many sawmills in the area, most of the houses were made of wood, and fine workmanship abounded, due to the number of skilled craftsmen who worked here. He said that sometimes the windows in a house did not match, because a catalog of windows, doors and columns was submitted to the builder. Each house was built to order. He reminded us of our historical treasures in the Charpentier District of the town, which contains the largest concentration of Victorian homes in the State. Mr. BOURDIER stated that usually there were only two reasons for a perfectly preserved historic house--- (1) that one family lived in the home and kept it in good repair, or (2) the family that lived in it was too poor to make changes. Owners of the old homes in the historical district must have their plans for restoration and remodeling approved by the Preservation Society in order to keep the area historically correct. Mr. BOURDIER presented information on the following homes.

The FLANDERS home at 605 East Mill was built in 1900. Originally painted brown and tan, the old house was a blend of several styles...Dutch, Gothic, Victorian, etc. It was built on three-quarters of an acre of land that was owned by D. J. REID in 1860. The BEL Brothers, owners of a sawmill and lumber company, built the clapboard cypress home for FLANDERS and his bride, KATHERINE GOOS. It boasted a wide circular porch with double columns topped with Ionic capitals. The stair banisters were shaped like crosses, and the home had servants' quarters at the rear. [For additional information on FLANDERS, see *Kinfolks*, Vol. 29 #2, p. 85.] The old FLANDERS home is currently owned by JIM and CAROL HENRY.

The home of ABRAHAM J. CHRISTMAN at 919 Pujo was built in 1908 by I. C. CARTER, who also built the I. C. CARTER warehouse at the corner of Broad Street and Enterprise Boulevard. In those days, Pujo Street was an unpaved country lane at the edge of town. The original survey mark of the lot includes a wagon axle. The house was raised six feet above ground. It had a roof made of cypress shakes, a cistern (as all homes did in those days), and a barn where the horses were kept. The buggy was stored under the house. In the 1918 hurricane, which struck southwest Louisiana with a hard blow, the family evacuated to the LEOPOLD KAUFMAN house across the street at 912 Pujo. The CHRISTMAN house was blown off its foundations. The buggy wheels were forced through the dining room floor and knocked over the china cabinet and broke all the furniture in the room.

The Lake Charles City Hall on Ryan Street in downtown Lake Charles is another historic building. In 1910, a fire razed downtown Lake Charles and burned sixty-nine homes, the Court House, the City Hall and the Immaculate Conception Church. In 1911, a unique Italianate City Hall was erected on a raised terrace of land by a firm of New Orleans architects. It had three bays, a terra-cotta roof, and a four-story clock tower with a clock face on each side. The clock was hand-wound, so someone had to climb the ladder to the third and fourth stories daily. Later the clock was motorized and now it is computerized. Extensive restoration to the City Hall was begun in 1998 and completed in 2001. The same firm of architects also rebuilt the Immaculate Conception Church and the Court House.

The EDGAR MILLER home at 1018 Pujo Street is a wooden bungalow built by I. C. CARTER on land homesteaded by VICTOR TOUCHY in 1866. Leaded glass was used in every window of the one-and-a-half story structure. The second owners were the TEAL family. The house is full of antique furniture, because Mr. TEAL specified in his will that the furniture must remain in the home. Mr. and Mrs. BILL MONK now own the home.

The southern colonial style home of WILLIAM and OPAL HUGHES GRAY stands a 902 South Division Street. It was built in 1923 by W. J. QUICK. The fireplace sports valuable tiles made by artisans at Sophie Newcomb College in New Orleans. A playhouse for the couple's only daughter, MATHILDA (named for her aunt) was one of the features of the large brick home.

The red brick Greek Revival mansion of MATHILDA GRAY, the sister of WILLIAM GRAY, is located at 1923 Shell Beach Drive on forty acres of lake-front property. It was built in 1923 by DUDLEY J. QUICK. It contains twelve fireplaces, a black-and-white marble floor in the foyer, and superior walnut paneling in the dining room and upstairs coffee room. Ms. GRAY bought all the walnut trees that were cut down at Walnut Grove, the local picnic spot, when the Port of Lake Charles was built at that location. She had the walnut trees made into the fine paneling that graces the mansion.

In 1925, the red brick plantation-style mansion at 1303 Shell Beach Drive was built by TITUS MILLER for RUDOLPH KRAUSE, Sr., a local lumber baron. A plaque on one of the trees in the yard near an old stake states that the pirate, JEAN LAFITTE, who visited Lake Charles often tied his boat to this stake when he came to Lake Charles. The home was later bought by WILLIAM T. BURTON, and remained in the hands of his descendants for several generations. It is currently owned by WILLIAM DORE.

A unique horseshoe-shaped house was built on the Calcasieu River at Moss Bluff in 1935. by oil man, MORDELLO VINCENT. It was begun as a camp, on a site that in 1880 was used to roll logs to the river to bring them to Lake Charles. The house, constructed completely of cypress, is one of the first houses in the area to be built on a concrete slab; most of the local homes were raised on brick pillars. Each room of the house opens onto the porch in the middle of the horseshoe. The architect for the 5,000-square foot house was LEWIS DUNN. Dr. and Mrs. DAVID BUTROSS are the present owners.

**DID YOU KNOW** that shaking hands began with the ancient Egyptians about 4,700 years ago? When two men met, they extended both hands, palms up, to verify that neither party was concealing weapons behind his back. Later the practice was changed to the ritual of clasping right hands; about nine out of ten people are righted handed, so if a man had a weapon, it would be in his right hand. Through the centuries, the old tradition became a handshake, and a verbal deal made with a handshake was as binding as a written contract. Handshakes are a part of our modern world. They are deemed so important that special consultants are employed by large business firms to teach their employees the correct way to shake hands. Although it was long considered unladylike for women to shake hands, today, even women shake hands! This is a remarkable evolution for a custom that started out as self-protection against concealed weapons!

**IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 2007 DUES!**

## THE GRAY FAMILY OF LAKE CHARLES

Information on families can be found in a number of sources, including obituaries, local history and abstracts of title to property. The following information on the GRAY family, a family that was prominent in Lake Charles, is an example of information gleaned from various sources. Information on the GRAY family was contributed by EMMA TEER WEEKS, Member #677.

### GENEALOGICAL GLEANINGS FROM THE ABSTRACT OF PROPERTY

229 Beverly Place, Sulphur, LA,

**Minor Heirs-WILLIAM K., MABEL, MATHILDA, JOHN G., Jr., HENRY, & ROBERT GRAY**

**Inventory-made July 12, 1892** Whole interest in E ½ of SE ¼ of Section 31, Township 9 South, Range 9 West, containing 80 acres appraised at \$60,000 (and other lands)

**Administrator & Natural Tutor-JOHN G. GRAY** Oath-July 14, 1892

**Undertutor-FRANK E. HASKELL** Oath-Feb. 11, 1892

### OBITUARY OF MARY F. KIRKMAN GRAY

*Lake Charles Weekly American Press, Dec. 1891*

#### DIED

**GRAY**---In this city on Saturday December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1891 at 11:30 o'clock a.m. Mrs. MARY F. GRAY (born KIRKMAN), wife of JOHN G. GRAY, aged 36 years, 3 months and 3 days.

### LAST WILL & TESTAMENT OF MARY F. GRAY, Wife of J. G. GRAY

Dated: Oct. 29, 1891 Filed: Jan. 15, 1892 (119) Recorded Conv. Book "Y," p. 135

I, MARY F. GRAY, wife of J. G. GRAY, being sound in mind, but feel that life is uncertain, want to leave this written will Statement as to show how I want what is mine disposed of. First, half of all I inherited or will inherit from my Father and Mother's estates I give to my husband, J. G. GRAY; the other half, I leave in his hands for my children without his giving security in bond to hold for them until they are of age. All money that comes from out of the sale of my interest in the swamp I hold with GEORGE RYAN or BEN KIRKMAN after my funeral expenses are as paid, and RUEBEN, our little baby, dug up from the Corporation grave yard and a suitable lot purchased in the new grave yard and tomb put up, the remainder to be put at interest for my children after being equally divided so that as each one reaches the age of fifteen they are to have principal and interest and to send them to college or convent; the little brown cow that goes by the name of Jersey, I give to Mrs. GALAUGHER; "Humpback" to WILLIE; her eldest heifer to HENRY; her next one to JOHN; the Nix cow or her calves and little red heifer to MATHILDA or the new baby if it lives; the amethyst [sic amethyst] ring which (?) gave me is for WILLIE; the one Mr. GED gave me is for MATHILDA; Red seal ring for Mr. GED; the large gold one for HENRY; the one Ma gave me is for JOHN; my wedding ring with the diamond earring for the little baby if it lives; my breast pin for MATHILDA; my badge of the Mexican War for WILLIE, when he is old enough to take care of it. I want Mr. GED to keep house and get married again to some nice girl or widow and not go anyone's bond or security.

(Signed) MARY F. GRAY, born KIRKMAN

"Ne Varietur, Jan. 15, 1892

(Signed) S. D. READ, Judge

### SUCCESSION OF MARY F. GRAY

#### DECREE

TO JOHN G. GRAY

Dated: July 15, 1892 Filed: In Succession

Family meeting in interest of minors homologated and approved and made judgment of Court



and that the property held between them and their father JOHN G. GRAY be and the same is hereby adjudicated in the said JOHN G. GRAY at price of estimation thereof.

**JOHN G. GRAY**

**SPECIAL MORTGAGE: Notarial Act**

TO

Dated: Mar. 17, 1902

**HIS MINOR CHILDREN** issue of his

Consideration: \$2,370.21½

marriage with his deceased wife

Passed before THADDEUS MAYO, NP

MARY F. KIRKMAN, represented by Hon. E. D. MILLER, Judge 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial

District Court, Calcasieu Parish, La.

Filed March 18, 1902 (464)

.....  
**J. G. GRAY**

**SPECIAL MORTGAGE: Notarial Act**

TO

Dated: July 16, 1892

Consideration: \$2,370.21

**HIS CHILDREN**

Passed before C. D. WELSH, Clerk

G. A. FORET, Judge

Recorded Mortgage Book "Q," p. 81

.....  
**JOHN G. GRAY** of Lake Charles

**QUIT-CLAIM DEED, Private Act**

Calcasieu Parish, State of Louisiana

Dated: October 21, 1904 Consideration: \$1.00 cash

TO

Filed: May 17, 1911 (9643)

**ESTATE OF CHARLES MILLER**

Recorded: Conv. Book 122, p. 432

Quit Claim names LUCY YELLOTT.

Witnesses, CARL S. RARICK and D. A. LEVEQUE.

P/V of Tax Sale, dated Nov. 20, 1893; filed Dec. 7, 1893, by DAVID J. REID, Sheriff.  
.....

### **OBITUARY OF JOHN GEDDINGS GRAY PIONEER RANCHMAN AND LAND OWNER PASSES AWAY**

**Noted citizen died at age of 72 years**

JOHN GEDDINGS GRAY, ranchman and oil land owner of Vinton, died Sunday morning [23 January 1921] at his home. The Ged oil fields were listed on his extensive stock and farming lands. JOHN GEDDINGS GRAY was born in Winston County, Mississippi on 3 February 1849, a son of Dr. RUEBEN F. and FRANCES (CHILES) GRAY, both natives of South Carolina. Prior to the Civil War the family was prominent in Mississippi. Hon. HENRY GRAY, an uncle of JOHN GEDDINGS GRAY, served in the Mississippi State Senate, and after his removal in 1850 to Bienville Parish, Louisiana, was elected to the senate of this state. He also achieved distinction as a brigadier general in the Army of the Confederate States.

Dr. RUEBEN GRAY was born in Abbeville District, South Carolina, August 12, 1811. He received a thorough collegiate course at the University of Maryland; after graduation there, studied medicine under Dr. ELI GEDDINGS, then entered medical college at Baltimore where he received his M. D. Dr. GRAY and Miss CHILES were married in South Carolina in 1838, and he practiced in that state and Mississippi until 1851, when he removed with his family to Bienville Parish. In February 1869, the family removed to Lake Charles.

JOHN G. GRAY acquired the greater part of his education in the oil field schools, supplemented by a term at Soule's Business College in New Orleans. While engaged in the work of surveying, his attentions were directed to the possibilities of Louisiana in an agricultural way, and he invested in lands in Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes, where he accumulated 39,000 acres or more. In his home ranch, a few miles west of Vinton, there are 10,000 acres. This place, known as "Gray's Ranch," is devoted largely to rice culture and stock raising. Oil discovered on this

land in 1913 developed into one of the best coastal oil fields, adding greatly to his wealth and interests. The GRAY family has resided on this estate since 1895.

On June 7, 1880, in Lake Charles, Mr. GRAY and Miss MARY F. KIRKMAN were united in marriage. The union was blessed with five children, four of whom are living. Mrs. GRAY died in 1891. Mr. GRAY is survived by one daughter, MATHILDA GEDDINGS, and three sons, WILLIAM KIRKMAN, HENRY, and JOHN GEDDINGS [GRAY].

\*\*\*\*\*

### **DR. RUEBEN FLANAGAN GRAY**

RUEBEN FLANAGAN GRAY was born in 1811 in Abbeville County, South Carolina. He graduated from the University of Maryland and studied medicine under Dr. GEDDINGS [ELI] in Baltimore. In 1857, he came to Louisiana, going first to Bienville Parish. While there, he enlisted in the Confederate Army, his three sons [RUEBEN, HENRY and JOHN G. GRAY] enlisting also. He visited British and Spanish Honduras with the idea of selecting a home site there. A cholera scourge broke out, and he gave his services there until the epidemic subsided.

In 1867, he went to St. Landry Parish and two years later, in 1869, came to Calcasieu Parish. As thousands of others, Dr. GRAY lost everything in the Civil War, and when the family came to Lake Charles, they brought all their possessions in a covered wagon. His granddaughter, MATHILDA GRAY, said that her father, J. G. GRAY, often described that episode in his life when they first reached Lake Charles in the late 60's. They reached the outskirts of the village in late afternoon and because of his poor clothes...he had a large patch on the seat of his pants...waited until dark before he came into the Court Square to inquire of the townspeople as to the best place to stop for the night. The distressed family met with such hospitality the decision was made to remain in the village, although the original plan had been to go to Texas. The lad in shabby clothes died years later owning one of the richest oil fields in America.

After camping a while, a home was built on the northeast corner on what is now Broad and Bilbo Streets, where in 1889, LEOPOLD KAUFMAN built a fine home for his son, E. R. KAUFMAN, to be born in. The GRAY home was moved across the street. The accounts of Dr. GRAY's kindness to the sick and unfortunate are innumerable. He never sent a bill.

During a raging winter storm, when sleet, wind and rain lashed the vast prairie, Dr. GRAY had an urgent call from Lacassine Prairie. He could find no one to accompany him into the winter night. When he reached the JOE LeBLEU home, six miles out, he stopped and called for help...his feet were frozen in the stirrups. He had to be lifted from the saddle and taken into the house to be thawed out. After a steaming cup of coffee and warmed by the big fireplace, he continued on his journey across the wind-swept prairie and saved a man's life.

When the Southern Pacific Railroad was being built in the '70s, workmen were attacked by an epidemic of dysentery. [Cholera?] Many died of the mysterious infection; their names are on headstones in the Old Corporation Cemetery on Moss Street. Dr. GRAY spared himself no rest, taking many of the stricken men into his own home to nurse them back to health.

On August 2, 1872, the town was quarantined [for yellow fever] against New Orleans and Morgan City. No one was permitted to enter the town unless an interval of ten days had elapsed since leaving the infested towns. If one entered sooner than this, he was fined \$50.00 and expelled from town. And if anyone harbored such a person, he, also, was fined \$50.00, and in default of payment was to be incarcerated in the calaboose for 48 hours. Equal punishment was meted out to those who knew of the infraction of the town ruling. The Town Constable was to keep a strict watch to see these orders were obeyed. Dr. RUEBEN GRAY was appointed quarantine officer. Again in August 1878, the town was quarantined against yellow fever in New Orleans. A Board of Health was appointed to see that proper "sanitary precautions be taken." The Board was composed of Dr. R. F. GRAY, Dr. J. E. HILLIARD, Dr. J. G. MUNDAY, A. H. MOSS and J. W. BRYAN.

Again in August 1879, the town was quarantined against infected districts where yellow fever existed. Not even mail was permitted to come into the town unless it was first fumigated. The postmaster threatened to sue the town for holding up mail, but the city authorities ruled that in health matters, the board was paramount. A group of mill owners (Lake Charles in this period was a thriving mill town) protested loudly against the rigid quarantine. It was affecting their contact with Galveston, Texas, the principal market and base of supplies for the mills. But the Town Council had courage and upheld the Board of Health. (The above accounts were copied from the old minute book at the City Hall and were referred to as "the Old Shotgun Quarantines.")

Dr. RUEBEN F. GRAY practiced medicine until a few years before his death in 1881. Gray Street in Lake Charles is named in his honor.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Annals of Newberry* (SC) by Chapman states that the daughter of Dr. RUEBEN FLANAGAN of Newberry married HENRY GRAY, whose father was Major FREDERICK GRAY. This Major GRAY married Dr. ELI GEDDING's mother and raised and educated her son, ELI, who is believed to have been the first graduate from the Medical College in Charlestown, SC.]

Source-Maude Reid Scrapbooks: *Early Lake Charles Doctors, 1850-1912*

#### GRAY ANCESTOR CHART

1. FREDERICK GRAY (Major) m. \_\_\_\_\_ GEDDINGS
2. HENRY GRAY m. \_\_\_\_\_ FLANAGAN, d/o Dr. RUEBEN FLANAGAN  
Children: RUEBEN FLANAGAN, HENRY & JOHN
3. RUEBEN FLANAGAN GRAY- b. 12 Aug. 1811, SC; d. 26 Dec. 1906, Lake Charles; m. 1838, SC, FRANCES C. CHILES  
Children:
  - (1) FRANCES CAROLINE GRAY, d. Jan. 1877; m. WILLIAM FREDERICK GRAY
  - (2) MARY J. GRAY, b. 7 Feb. 1854; d. 25 Jan. 1919
  - (3) FULKEN HURST GRAY, b. 1 March 1857; d. 29 Dec. 1925; m. MARY E. LYNCH (1895; GA); and EVELYN BREWER
  - (4) MOLLIE GRAY, d. Feb. 1919
  - (5) HENRI MONTGOMERY GRAY, b. 2 Feb. 1867; d. 6 Jan. 1930, Longview, WA
  - (6) RUEBEN FRANKLIN GRAY, d. 26 Dec. 1906, New Orleans
  - (7) JOHN GEDDINGS GRAY, b. 2 Feb. 1849, Winston Co., MS; d. 23 Jan. 1921; m. 7 June 1880, MARY F. KIRKMAN

Children:

- (1) MATHILDA GEDDINGS GRAY, b. ca 1889; d. 8 Jan. 1971, Lake Charles
  - (2) WILLIAM KIRKMAN GRAY, b. 12 July 1881; d. 27 Nov. 1951; m. 22 April 1922, OPAL HUGHES
  - (3) HENRY GRAY, d. 18 Oct. 1933, New Orleans
  - (4) JOHN GEDDINGS GRAY, Jr., d. 28 Feb. 1925 (age 36)
  - (5) ROBERT GRAY, b. 1892; d. 2 March 1892 (age 2 mos.) {EDITOR'S NOTE: It was from the birth for this child that MARY F. GRAY died.
- .....

**OBITUARY OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM FREDERICK GRAY**

*Lake Charles Weekly American Press (12/14/1906)*

Captain WILLIAM FREDERICK GRAY died at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. FRED E. MacLEOD of Westlake, at 7:30 Tuesday night after a lingering illness brought on by a general breaking down of his vital powers due to extreme age. He was 75 years of age. The funeral occurred at the Westlake cemetery, Rev. L. N. COLE of the Westlake Baptist Church officiating.

Captain GRAY was born in what was then Abbeville District in the state of South Carolina in 1821, moving while yet a child with his parents to Alabama. In the late 1840s, WASHINGTON GRAY, Captain GRAY's father, and the parents of J. G. GRAY moved with their families to Bienville Parish, La., and the families have resided in this state ever since. In 1843, Captain GRAY was married to Miss EMMA TRAMMELL of Selma, Alabama. Six children were born to them, three of whom are now living. His first wife died in 1870, and in 1872, he married his second cousin Miss FRANCES CHILES GRAY, a sister of Messrs. J. G., F. H., H. N., R. F., and Miss MOLLIE GRAY. Three children were the result of this union, all of whom, together with their mother, are now dead.

Captain GRAY and his cousins moved to Calcasieu Parish in 1865, and for three years resided in Lake Charles, Captain GRAY conducting a general merchandise business where the VON PHUL & GORDON block now stands. In 1872, he moved to Westlake and purchased a 14-acre tract of land on the Calcasieu River just above where the Kansas City Southern bridge spans that stream, and has resided continually on this place ever since. He had interests with J. G. GRAY in the timber and mercantile business in Westlake, and afterwards, up to 1888, managed the mercantile department for W. B. NORRIS, who during those years had a large mill and commissary at Westlake. After severing his connections with NORRIS, he was for a time shore manager for a steamboat firm, and after that did an extensive truck farm business.

Captain GRAY was one of the first men to enlist in the Confederate Army when the call to arms came, organizing a company and going through the Virginia campaign with it. Later he was an officer in the famous 28<sup>th</sup> [La. Infantry], and during the closing years of the war, participated in all the trials and hard-fought battles of the Louisiana campaign, being on the firing line in the battles of Mansfield, Pleasant Hill and several other fights and skirmishes in this state. Captain GRAY leaves three children: Mrs. FRED E. MacLEOD of Westlake, R. L. GRAY of DeRidder, and WALTER GRAY of Tacoma, Washington. His nearest other living relatives are six cousins, Messrs. J. G., F. H., and H. M. GRAY, Miss MOLLIE GRAY and Mrs. F. H. HASKELL of this city, and RUEBEN F. GRAY of New Orleans.

Source: Maude Reid Scrapbooks

### 1941: A YEAR THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

*"Yesterday, December 7---a date that will live in infamy---the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by the naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. The United States was at peace with that nation, and at the solicitation of that nation, was still in conversations with its government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific."*

*Franklin Delano Roosevelt*

Sixty-five years ago, a sneak attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941, propelled the United States into World War II. American authorities had known a war with Japan was inevitable, but did not realize it was imminent. Against all international rules, Japan and Germany had built great armies and navies. As early as 1921, plans were made for defending the Philippines against Japanese attack, and in 1924, the Naturalization Laws of the U. S. were changed to forbid any Japanese immigrants. In 1929, Polish cryptologists had secretly acquired one of the German Enigma code machines, and by 1932, they had begun to decode military messages. However, by 1938, the Germans had developed a more sophisticated machine, and the Poles could no longer read the encrypted messages. The Poles shared the Enigma information with the British and French, helping them to eventually break the German military code.

Japan and Russia joined the Axis Pact. HITLER had already annexed Austria and other territories, and demanded part of Czechoslovakia. At the Munich Conference, the land was given to him, but HITLER could not be appeased. In 1939, the Germans invaded Poland without a declaration of war, and, as a result, Britain and France had declared war on Germany. Their efforts against the German blitzkrieg were almost futile. Poland fell, and Germany and Russia divided it between them. Russia also took over Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, and Finland, as the world was celebrating the 1939 World's Fair in Paris. At the Fair, manufacturers exhibited a new synthetic fabric that would impact the war and the world...nylon. Nylon parachutes would take paratroopers beyond enemy lines and on the home front nylon stockings would replace expensive silk hosiery. More than 750,000 pairs of nylons were sold on the first day they were available in 1940.

Much of the world was embroiled in war and the rest was holding its breath and waiting. In 1940, the Axis Powers signed a pact that divided the globe into three spheres of interest. Italy would drive Britain out of North Africa and the Middle East. Germany would "annex" more of Europe, and Japan would swallow up most of southeastern Asia and the islands of the Pacific. On 21 January 1940, the Japanese minister warned the U. S. not to meddle in Asian affairs, and former President HERBERT HOOVER urged isolation to keep the country out of the European war. In April 1940, HITLER quickly overran Denmark, Norway, Belgium and Holland, and then turned to France. British and French troops made their way to the sea... to Dunkerque, in hopes of being rescued; instead they were trapped and escape seemed impossible. Then British ships and a flotilla of privately owned and operated British boats...trawlers, tugs, yachts and other small boats never designed for heavy seas...crossed the English Channel in a desperate attempt to rescue the men trapped on the beaches. Although the Germans bombed and strafed the beaches and boats, the soldiers were evacuated and taken home. The Miracle at Dunkerque brought about 338,000 men to England.

In March, German planes began bombing Britain night and day, while courageous, but outnumbered, RAF pilots fought for air control over the English Channel in the Battle of Britain. Terror truly rained from the skies as the Germans used explosive bombs, incendiary bombs, rockets, and parachute bombs (basically land mines on parachutes) to pound British cities. The bombs killed thousands of people and destroyed many buildings. Buildings collapsed and streets were blocked, hindering rescue and fire-fighting efforts. London was in ruins. When France fell in June, England stood alone as a bastion of freedom in Europe.

The handwriting was on the wall! The U. S. began preparing for war, but not quickly enough. Cryptologists had secretly broken the Japanese diplomatic code called "MAGIC," and thought they had ample time to make military preparations, figuring that the Japanese would probably attack in the fall of 1942, or even later. On 27 January 1941, the Peruvian ambassador in Tokyo warned JOSEPH GREW, the American ambassador, that the Japanese planned to destroy the American fleet. GREW contacted Washington, and, although officials begin to plan wartime strategy, American military experts underestimated the Japanese. They thought that the "little yellow men" were incapable of planning and carrying out long-range invasion schemes and of flying complex airplanes. Experts decided that the attack would be on one of the islands closer to Japan, perhaps Midway or Guam, or even the Philippines. No one was prepared for the sneak attack on the Hawaiian Islands on a peaceful Sunday morning with all the Pacific Fleet safely in the harbor.

In 1941, the British "Desert Army" was fighting the Germans and Italians in North Africa. British and Australian forces seized the strategic port of Tobruk from the Italians. British and Native troops fought the Italians in Ethiopia and Somaliland. ERWIN ROMMEL was appointed to head Germany's Afrika Korps to stop the British in North Africa. Spain signed a secret pact with Germany to resist any attack by the Allies, while Turkey refused to become one of the Axis powers. Germany mined the waters in the Suez Canal to break the British supply line between Greece and North Africa. Across the world, the Japanese were grabbing British and French possessions, rich in rubber, oil and other valuable products. They began the conquest of Burma, where the Burma Road was a strategic link from China to British-held India. They pushed British, Australian and Indian troops south along the Malayan Peninsula to the fortress-city of Singapore. And, all the while, the Japanese were making inroads into mainland China, massacring and destroying everything in their path.

By March 1941, Congress passed a Lend-Lease Act allowing Britain to borrow war supplies, with a promise of later payment. The U. S. also seized Axis ships in American ports, and war loomed ever closer. In May, a German submarine torpedoed and sank the U. S. freighter *Robert Morris*, and a state of national emergency was declared. Axis credits were frozen and Axis consulates were closed. On 30 June, HITLER threatened to blow up all American ships headed for Britain.

April brought bad news for Britain. As ROMMEL pushed the British from key positions in North Africa, British Malta was bombed and the first V-1 jet rockets were launched against England. Egypt's King FAROUK sent a message to HITLER that the Egyptians would soon be free from the "British yoke." The British abandoned Greece and Yugoslavia surrendered. Germany and Italy promised military aid to Iraq. On 4 April, German submarines sank a 22-ship

American convoy, destroying thousands of tons of shipping. HITLER assured Japan of its support in fighting the U. S.

By May, Crete was lost. On 24 May, Britain received the catastrophic news that the HMS *Hood*, the world's largest battle cruiser, had been sunk by the German battleship, *Bismarck*, just off the coast of Greenland. The *Hood* sank within four minutes, taking with her all but three men of her crew of 1,416. A relentless hunt for the *Bismarck* began, and, just three days after she had sunk the *Hood*, the Royal Navy sank the *Bismarck* in the North Atlantic.

In June 1941, Turkey, Albania, Finland and Hungary joined Germany against her former ally, Russia, who had by then allied herself with England. HITLER began Operation Barbarosa, designed to destroy Russia and Bolshevism. The Russians were unprepared by the swiftness and the viciousness of the German assault. Like the Slavs, Russians were considered subhuman by the Germans. By the end of June, as German Panzer tanks sped into Russia, the Free French and the British fought the Vichy French and the Germans on horseback in Syria. Atrocities began in Russia; cities were razed, and thousands of civilians were killed ruthlessly. However, June 1941 brought some positive results to the Allies. British forces quelled an insurrection by pro-Nazi Iraqis, who had killed hundreds of Jews and looted their shops. The RAF began a series of air raids on Germany's industrial cities. On 30 June in London, a meeting was held on the feasibility of a bomb based on nuclear fission...a decision that would forever change the world.

The clouds of war grew darker. The Selective Service Act of 1 July required all men in the U. S. over the age of 21 to register for the draft. U. S. Navy planes began patrolling the waters of the North Atlantic, looking for German U-boats. In China, CHIANG KAI-SHEK recalled his ambassadors from Rome and Berlin, cutting all Chinese ties with the Axis powers. Germany occupied Latvia, while Lithuanians, acting on German orders, rounded up and killed thousands of Jews. Several days later, all Jews in the Baltic States were required to wear yellow badges for identification. In July, the Nazis developed the "First Solution," designed to rid Europe of its Jews. Camps were built at Auschwitz, Mindanek, Buchenwald, and other locations to "relocate" Jews from all countries under German influence. The Nazis approved a plan to gas the Jews, and by the end of October, it was reported to Berlin that there were no Jews left in Estonia.

In July 1941, U. S. troops arrived in Iceland to help the British and Canadians defend the island, and the U. S. established an air base in Newfoundland. In Russia, Kiev surrendered to the Germans and fierce fighting began at Leningrad. Vichy France gave Japan control of its colonies in Indonesia, while Japan formally apologized to the U. S. for bombing a gunboat in an air raid on Chungking, China. In Europe, a "V for Victory" campaign was launched. The "V-sound," made from the Morse code...three dots and a dash...was also the rhythm of the opening bars of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, which was used as a call sign by the BBC in its broadcasts to occupied countries. Lisbon, Portugal, became a haven for refugees hoping to catch a plane or ship to Australia or the Americas, but the city also became a center of intrigue. Children became the children of war. They saw terrible sights, lost loved ones, were hurt or maimed, faced starvation, freezing, and death camps. Children in the bomb-target cities of Britain were sent into the country, or to Canada or the U. S. until the war ended. Physiological effects of the war and forced migration were devastating.



By August 1941, the U. S. had cut off its supply of oil and aviation fuel to all countries except those in the western hemisphere and the British Empire, and had made a formal commitment to send aid to the Soviet Union. RAF planes bombed Cologne, Germany, while British and Russian forces invaded Iran. Japan complained that U. S. ships bringing supplies to Vladivostok, Russia were violating Japanese waters. In September, the RAF bombed Cologne, Hamburg, and Berlin. The siege of Leningrad began; HITLER ordered the city to be wiped from the face of the earth and its population exterminated. Through decoded messages from Enigma coding machine, Britain gave the Russians advance warning of the German plans to attack Moscow, giving the Russians time to build 5,000 miles of defense trenches around the city. A German U-boat sank a U. S. cargo ship, but still, most Americans advocated an isolationist policy. CHARLIE CHAPLIN, a British subject, was accused of making pro-war propaganda in the movie, "The Little Corporal," a spoof of HITLER. The first "Liberty Ship" was built, and ROOSEVELT ordered all Axis shipping in U. S. home waters to be sunk. German U-boats became active in the Atlantic and entered the Straits of Gibraltar to prey on ships in the Mediterranean. They torpedoed the American freighter *Montana*, sank the destroyer *US Kearney* off the coast of Greenland, and sank the American merchant ship, *Lehigh*, off the west coast of Africa... and we were not even at war. The winter of 1941 was bitterly cold, and coal and food were in short supply all over Europe. Even the early winter was so cold that German soldiers in France were ordered to send their blankets to soldiers on the eastern front.

British and German troops clashed in Libya. On 1 November 1941, the American ambassador to Tokyo, JOSEPH GREW, sent a second telegram to ROOSEVELT, warning him that the Japanese were planning an attack. On 5 November, the Imperial Japanese Navy was alerted to prepare for a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor! A Canadian force was sent to Hong Kong to help the British, while CHURCHILL warned that it would be "a hazardous adventure for Japan to plunge into a war with the U. S. and the British Empire." ROOSEVELT rejected the Japanese demand that the U. S. lift the oil embargo to Japan; without imported oil, Japan would have only enough oil to last for 18 to 24 months. The exiled Dutch government agreed to let U. S. troops occupy Dutch Guiana to guard the bauxite mines. On 26 November, the Japanese fleet sailed, bound for the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. On 30 November, based on movements of Japanese troops, ROOSEVELT warned his top advisors of the dangers of a surprise Japanese attack and talked about maneuvering them into "firing the first shot"...and the specter of war crept ever closer.

By 1 December 1941, about 11,000 had died from starvation during the siege of Leningrad in November and Russia had begun a counter-offensive in Moscow. British-held Malta had its 1,000<sup>th</sup> air raid. On 2 December, TOJO publicly rejected U. S. peace proposals, while secretly ordering the Pearl Harbor Task Force to go into action. He also assured the U. S. that the buildup of Japanese troops in Indochina was strictly a defensive strategy. On 6 December, Britain declared war on HITLER's allies, Finland, Hungary and Romania. As ROOSEVELT asked Emperor HIROHIITO to prevent the war, Japanese ambassadors in Washington, D. C. were destroying their codebooks, and Japanese forces had left for their attack on the Philippines.

Warnings had been sent to alert all Pacific bases for a possible attack, but in a tragic comedy of errors, the message to Pearl Harbor was delayed until it was too late. On early Sunday morning of the 7<sup>th</sup> of December, Japanese bombers came out of the rising sun and bombed the American

fleet at Pearl Harbor, as well as numerous other airfields on the Hawaiian Islands. Americans were shocked and horrified! Few Americans will ever forget what they were doing that fateful day. The damage to the fleet was unprecedented, leaving it offensively incapable. Almost 4,000 people were killed or wounded. About half of the casualties were aboard the *USS Arizona*, which was blown apart at her mooring. Eighteen ships were either sunk or heavily damaged; 198 airplanes were destroyed, and another 174 were badly damaged. Although the sneak bombing of Pearl Harbor dealt the United States a mighty blow, it propelled the country into a war that brought total defeat for the Japanese.

As one group of carrier-based Japanese planes attacked Hawaii, another group were simultaneously attacking the U. S. islands of Guam, Wake and Midway. The battle for the Philippines began as Japanese planes from Formosa bombed American airfields at Luzon in the Philippines, while Japanese soldiers landed on the islands to the north. Because of the time changes in the International Date Line, these events are dated December 8. Thailand surrendered to the Japanese on this date. On 9 December, the Chinese National Government declared war on Germany, Japan and Italy. By 10 December, Guam fell to the Japanese and fierce fighting was taking place in the Philippines, Wake Island, Midway and other Pacific Islands. Japanese forces landed in Sumatra and Borneo.

Contrary to popular opinion, we did **not** declare war on Germany after its Japanese allies bombed Pearl Harbor. On December 11, 1941, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States, after which the U. S. declared war on them. Despite opposition from his advisors, ROOSEVELT agreed to sign the "Germany first" policy, which gave fighting in Europe precedence over battles in the Pacific. On 23 December, Manila was declared an open city; the Japanese moved in and began their atrocities. American, British, Australians and Filipino troops still fought on at Bataan and Corregidor. On Christmas Day 1941, British Hong Kong surrendered. The outlook was bleak and uncertain for the Allies. Japanese aggression now threatened the United States, not only on its island possessions, but also on the American mainland, from the Aleutian Islands to the Panama Canal. Spies and Fifth Columnists were reported, roaming the country, plotting death and destruction. However, in the New Year, Americans would unite to direct the industrial might and manpower of the country toward winning the war. Although the attack on Pearl Harbor was disastrous, in time it proved to be even more devastating for the Japanese. America would fight some hard battles and would have to learn some hard lessons in the years to come, but would emerge stronger and more powerful than ever.

Several sources, including: *World War II: Day-by-Day*. London, NY: Penguin Co. (1998)  
Chitwood, et al.. *The United States From Colony to World Power*. Toronto, NY: D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc. (1954)  
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**DO YOU REMEMBER** comic strips such as Alley Oop, Gasoline Alley, the Toonerville Trolley, Betty Boop, Moon Mullins, Popeye the Sailor Man, L'il Abner, and Little Orphan Annie? Do you recall the pseudo-scientific adventures of Flash Gordon and Buck Rogers in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, when space travel and laser guns seemed to be a figment of the writer's imagination? Now, those innovations and many more are a part of our everyday lives.

## **AMERICAN WARS AND THE RECORDS THEY GENERATED FROM THE WAR OF 1812 TO THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES**

As the U. S. developed and matured, there was much unrest within the country and on its borders. A military road built from Nashville, Tennessee to Madison, Louisiana made travel safer and easier than the old Natchez Trace, while steamboats improved river travel. In 1819, the first severe depression hit the U. S. as a post-war result of less demand and falling prices. Farmers in western Pennsylvania and in some southern areas, had plenty of crops and livestock, but could not sell them for a profit. They tried to get the legislature to make livestock legal tender, but did not succeed. Problems with slavery and the Indians continued to create problems. Along the northern and western frontiers, settlers encroaching on Indian lands roused the wrath of the Indians. On the southern frontier, the Creeks and other tribes had been pushed westward by white settlers in their quest for land, and the tribes retaliated. Rampages on the southern frontier led to the downfall of the Seminoles, Cherokees, Creeks, Chickasaws and their allies. By 1819, the Cherokees had ceded about 90% of their ancestral land, but settlers wanted even more and demanded that the government remove the Cherokees. In February 1825, by the Treaty of Indian Springs, the Creeks agreed to cede the rest of their land in return for land west of the Mississippi. In the early 1830s, when most of the Chickasaws and other southern tribes in Alabama and Georgia were removed to the Indian Territory (Oklahoma), the "Trail of Tears" was created. In 1842, the Choctaws, who were allies of the U. S., were also moved to the Indian Territory.

Tension was growing between slave owners and abolitionists. To keep the balance of power in Congress, the Missouri Compromise allowed Maine to enter the Union as a free state, while Missouri was entered without any restrictions on slavery; but this was only a stop-gap measure. Many Americans sympathized with, and sent aid to the Anglo-American settlers in Texas who fought Mexico for their freedom in 1835 and 1836. New Orleans became a hotbed of schemes and plots to help the Texans, and "Remember the Alamo" became the rallying cry. Troubles on the Canadian border brought the Aroostook War, which almost caused a third war with Great Britain. War with Mexico in 1846 established the southern border of the country and served as a training ground for future military leaders in the War Between the States.

Many of our ancestors lived during these times. Some of them may have taken part or otherwise been affected by the following wars in which the U. S. was involved in the period after the War of 1812 until the War Between the States.

**FIRST SEMINOLE WAR, 1817-1818.** Lawless bands of smugglers, pirates, escaped slaves, and Indians raided settlements in southern Georgia, then fled back into Spanish Florida. The worst of these massacres were perpetrated by the Seminoles, a roving band of Creek Indians. **ANDREW JACKSON**, ordered to put down the Indian troubles, also seized the Spanish posts at St. Marks and Pensacola, Florida, and ordered the execution of two British agents who had incited the Indians. Although **JACKSON** won the acclaim of the South and West for controlling the Indians, he embarrassed the government by invading the neutral territory of Spain and by executing two British subjects. In the end, Spain ceded Florida to the U. S. for \$5 million, and **JACKSON** became the first governor of the territory. Men born from 1767 to 1800 may have been veterans of this Indian War.

**ARICKAREE (ARIKARA) INDIAN WAR, 1823.** By the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, hostile Sioux Indians and smallpox epidemics had so diminished the tribes of the Arikarees that white settlers could easily move into their lands...but the Arikarees in the Dakotas resisted white settlement. Men who took part in these troubles with the Indians were probably born from 1775 to 1805.

**FEVER RIVER INDIAN UPRISING, 1827.** This Indian uprising was a clash with white settlers in Illinois. Men who took part in this disturbance were born between 1777 and 1810.

**WINNEBAGO INDIAN WARS, 1827.** An Indian uprising was fought against settlers in Wisconsin. Those who took part in this war were born between about 1777 and 1810.

**BLACK HAWK WAR, 1831-1832.** This Indian War was fought in Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin when the Sauk (Sac) and Fox tribes resisted the American government's plan to remove them from their homes. Indian resistance was led by BLACK HAWK, a pupil of TECUMSEH, who, like the great chief, was a British ally in the War of 1812. Chief BLACK HAWK was ultimately defeated and taken captive. He was then taken to meet the president and to see the large cities in the East, and he vowed to keep the peace. After BLACKHAWK's capture, the U. S. installed a cooperative Sauk chief, KEOKUK, who sold the tribe's land in Iowa. The Indians were moved to a reservation. ABRAHAM LINCOLN was one of the volunteers in this war. Veterans of the Blackhawk War were men born from about 1782 to 1815.

**TEXAS WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE, 1835-1836.** Although the American government remained neutral when Texas declared her independence from Mexico in March 1836, thousands of volunteers from Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana crossed the Sabine River to aid the Texas colonists. New Orleans was full of plots and schemes to aid the Texans, and was the center for volunteers to congregate. Men who fought SANTA ANNA's Army and died at the Alamo included such personalities as DAVY CROCKETT, JIM BOWIE, and WILLIAM TRAVIS, who became national heroes, and "Remember the Alamo" became the motto for independence. The Battle of San Jacinto avenged the Alamo, and, as a result of this battle, Texas gained her independence. SAM HOUSTON, who had served under ANDREW JACKSON, was the commander of the Army of Texas. ISAAC RYAN, a citizen of southwest Louisiana, died at the Alamo. Most men who fought for Texas independence were born between 1785 and 1818.

**CREEK WARS 1836-1847.** These wars with the Creeks took place in Georgia, Alabama and Florida. Men who fought in these Indian uprisings were probably born from about 1785 to 1825.

**SECOND SEMINOLE WAR, 1836-1842.** The Seminoles in Florida resisted being moved to lands assigned to them west of the Mississippi, so American troops were sent to hurry their departure. Under Chief OSCEOLA, the Seminoles rebelled and massacred about 100 troops, extending their hostilities into Georgia and Alabama by attacking mail carriers, stagecoaches, and even towns. Thousands of white settlers fled for their lives. General JESSUP, commander in Florida, tried to make a treaty with OSCEOLA, but the chief continued hostilities. American troops died in the Florida swamps from fever and snakebites. Eventually OSCEOLA surrendered and was confined in Fort Moultrie, where he died of fever, but the war went on about seven years more. It cost the U. S. hundreds of men and about \$30,000,000 to subdue the Seminoles. Men who fought in the war were born from about 1785 to 1824.

**PATRIOT WAR, 1837-1838.** This short war was fought in the Michigan area and the southern Ontario peninsula between the U. S. and Canada on one side, and the "Patriots," men of Irish descent from both sides of the border fighting on the other side of the conflict. The "Patriots" were finally defeated. Men who fought in this insurrection were born between 1785 and 1820.

**CHEROKEE REMOVAL, 1838.** According to the terms of a treaty made in 1802, Georgia would receive the lands of the Cherokee as soon as they could be peaceably removed from their ancestral lands. The Cherokee were a unique and prosperous people who lived in peace with white settlers. They had sawmills, weaving machines, schools, public roads, and sturdy homes. Some of them were prosperous farmers who owned slaves. They had a written constitution and published a weekly newspaper in Cherokee and in English. When greedy land speculators convinced Congress to nullify tribal land titles in Georgia, in 1832, the Cherokees took their case to the Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of the Cherokees. However, three years later, a Georgia treaty forced 500 Cherokees to sell their land and leave within two years. About 16,000 Cherokees protested, but President ANDREW JACKSON, who hated Indians, ignored the Supreme Court's decision. A removal deadline was set for 23 May 1838. About 2,000 Cherokees were removed, but 15,000 refused to leave. Like the Chickasaws, Choctaws, Creeks and Seminoles, the Indians were sent to Indian Territory (Oklahoma). Misery and death accompanied them on the 1,200 mile trek, known as "The Trail of Tears." The Indians were supposed to function as independent nations within the Indian Territory, but corruption and politics, as well as their allegiance to the Confederate cause, gave the federal government an excuse for claiming much of their land. This removal affected white men and Indians from North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia. It affected everyone from babies to the elderly, those born between 1750 and 1838.

The capital of the Cherokee Nation is Tahlequah, Oklahoma, where a family research center and museum are also located. For additional information, contact the Cherokee Heritage Center, 315 Willis Road, Tahlequah, OK 74465. Also see [www.doi.gov/ancestry.html](http://www.doi.gov/ancestry.html) for Indian census information. For information on the Dawes Rolls, the first census of the Five Civilized Tribes, which includes the Cherokees, see [www.archives.gov/genealogy/tutorial/dawes/](http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/tutorial/dawes/)

**AROOSTOOK WAR, 1839.** This relatively bloodless war occurred because the Treaty that ended the Revolutionary War failed to establish definite boundaries between the U. S. and Canada. The U. S. claimed part of New Brunswick, while Britain claimed part of Maine. After Maine became a state, it granted settlers land in the Aroostook Valley of northern Maine, but Britain needed an overland route between Halifax and Quebec and began building a railroad in the Aroostook Valley. Both sides began logging operations in the disputed territory, and armed men from Maine were sent to end the encroachment of the Canadian loggers in the Aroostook Valley. Finally, in 1842, Maine was given the bulk of the timberland and a large amount of land on the south side of the Aroostook River, on which about 2,000 Acadians lived, while New Brunswick was given a lesser amount of land. A third war between the U. S. and Great Britain was barely averted. Men who took part in this disturbance were born between 1785 and 1818.

**DORR REBELLION, 1841.** This rebellion was fought in Rhode Island in an attempt to gain a new constitution in which suffrage was not so limited. National aid was called in to restore order. DORR, a young lawyer who had instigated the movement, was tried for treason. Men who fought in this Rhode Island insurrection were born between 1790 and 1824.

**MEXICAN WAR 1846-1848.** Mexico, resentful of the help the U. S. had given Texas in its fight for independence, repeatedly charged the U. S. with breaches of neutrality and refused to recognize Texas as an independent entity. California had also declared its independence from Mexico, and the U. S. was anxious to secure this territory, as well as New Mexico. The U. S. claimed the Rio Grande was the Texas-Mexican border, but Mexico said it was the Nueces River. After a large contingent of Mexicans attacked a small American force under Gen. ZACHARY TAYLOR on the Rio Grande, President POLK declared that Mexico had invaded U. S. territory and called for war. Congress concurred, and TAYLOR marched to Monterey and occupied northern Mexico. Col. STEPHEN KEARNEY occupied New Mexico and California. Gen. WINFIELD SCOTT took Vera Cruz and Mexico City. The war with Mexico gave the U.S. land from sea to sea, and provided young men experience to become officers in the future War Between the States. Only 70,000 men participated in the Mexican War; of these about 13,000 (1/6) lost their lives. The last veteran of this war was OWEN JAMES EDGAR, who died in 1929 at the age of 98. Men in the Army, Navy and Marines were veterans of the Mexican War. They were born between 1796 and 1828.

**CAYUSE INDIAN WAR, 1846-1848.** This war with the Cayuse Indians took place around the Walla Walla River in Oregon. Presbyterian missionaries were held responsible for wagon trains bringing more white settlers into the area and for the epidemic of measles that arrived with one of the wagon trains and killed about half of the Indians. In November 1847, the Cayuse raided the mission, killed over a dozen people, and took about fifty people captive. The Provisional Government sent a force to subdue the Indians. The white captives were ransomed and released, but the Americans made no differentiation between guilty and innocent Indians of the tribe, and a blood bath ensued. Oregon declared all Cayuse lands forfeit, confirming the Indians belief that the white men would take their lands. The Oregon Donation Land Law opened up all land to homesteaders, regardless of Indian titles. This war coincided with the Mexican War. Men born between 1796-1828 who went West could be veterans of this war.

**TEXAS AND NEW MEXICAN INDIAN WARS, 1849-1855.** For centuries, the Great Comanche War Trail had cut across Texas and gone deep into Mexico. It was used by the Indians as they ravaged settlements in Texas, New Mexico and Mexico. When the U. S. acquired new territories by the Mexican War and gold was discovered in California, wagon trains of prospectors, adventurers and settlers left for the West. They had to cross the lands of many Indian tribes, some of whom were hostile. Cattle and horses were stolen, cabins and wagons were burned, women and children were kidnapped and men were killed trying to defend their homes or wagons. To protect these people, the government sent Colonel STEPHEN KEARNEY to subdue the Indians and to guard the Oregon and Santa Fe Trails. A chain of forts was built to defend the trails and settlements, but the Indians again objected. At Fort Laramie in September 1851, a council of 10,000 tribesmen of the Assinaboins, Arapahos, Arikarees, Cheyenne, Crows, Shoshones, and Sioux met to sign a peace treaty. However, the signatory tribesmen did not have tribal permission for the action, and the tribes rebelled. The U. S. lacked the military force to keep the 200,000 roaming Indians under control, so it was decided to put them in reservations. However, the Indians did not go peacefully and war resulted. Texas and New Mexico formed groups of volunteers. One of the most famous of these was the Texas Rangers, but despite all efforts, Texas and Mexico still were the subjects of Indian raids and depredations until the 1880s. Men born between 1800 and 1860 could have taken part in these troubles with the Indians.

**ROGUE RIVER INDIAN WARS, 1851, 1853 & 1856.** In the autumn of 1855, the Indian troubles that had been occurring on the Rogue River country in southern Oregon erupted into a war of extermination. The Army was occupied with the Yakima Indians east of the Cascade Mountains and could not enforce the Oregon troops and volunteers. The Battle of Big Mountain was nearly an Indian victory, but at the last minute reinforcements arrived to save the day. The Indians surrendered and were put on a reservation, and white settlers took over the land. Men born 1800-1836 could have taken part in this Indian War in Oregon.

**YAKIMA WARS, 1855-1859.** This war with the Yakima Indians took place in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, about the time of the Rogue River Indian Wars. The cause of the war was, as usual, white encroachment on Indian lands. Two forts were built to subdue the Indians, but the war ended inconclusively, and the Indians continued to cause trouble. Men born 1805-1835 who were in the Army or were in the Northwest may have taken part in these Indian Wars.

Other Indian wars included the **CALIFORNIA INDIAN WARS (1851-1855)**, **SEMINOLE WAR (1852-1858)**, **NAVAJO WARS (1855-1858)**, and the **UTAH WAR (1857-1858)**.

Several sources, including Utley & Washburn. *The History of the Indian Wars* (1977)

**SEMINOLE** is derived from the Latin word "cyma," which, in turn, is derived from the old Greek word that meant "Mountain fastness or place to which escaped slaves went." "Cymarrons" were people who lived in the "cyma." Through time, the word made its way into the Spanish language, and the word for escaped slaves became "cimarrons." This was changed to "marron" by the French, and by 1606, the word "symerron" was part of the English language, and by the end of the century had become "maroon." Villages of blacks and Indians, usually on the border between white and Indian territories, were called "maroon settlements." In 1663, freed slaves who came into Spanish territory were given sanctuary, with the provision that they would fight for Spain against the British. In the Yamasee War (See *Kinfolks*, Vol. 30 #1), the Cherokee Indians and 400 freed blacks helped the Spanish defeat the British and keep them in the Carolinas. Many of the freed slaves were Muslims. Among them were the Mandangoes, the famous cavalymen of the upper Niger region of Africa.

Kennedy. *Mr. Jefferson's Lost Cause*

## **LOUISIANA'S ROLE IN THE WAR FOR TEXAS INDEPENDENCE**

In war, all suffer defeat, even the victors. Swedish Proverb

Mexico gained independence from Spain, and by 1830, Texas wanted her independence from Mexico. Although Texas was known as the "depoblado," or unpopulated land, this was far from true. There were Mexicans and about 20,000 Anglo-Americans in Texas, but there were also tribes of Cherokees, Kiowas, Commanchees, Choctaws, Kickapoos, Caddoes, and even Shawnees and Delawares who sought refuge among the Spanish. The tribes were constantly threatening to rise up against the American settlers. In June 1835, when colonists and Mexicans clashed at Anahuac, a move for Texas independence was put into motion, supported by many U. S. citizens. Newspapers urged participation in the fight... and later for annexation.

In 1835, New Orleans was a cultural center with opera houses and theaters, and many stone-paved streets and some sidewalks. The city had a population of 75,000 residents and about 40,000 transients, many of whom were immigrants on their way to Texas. The city was a major



exporter of cotton, used to feed the mills of England---not the North. Sugar was another leading export, but the city imported just about everything else...shoes, dry goods, equipment, furniture, and all kinds of luxuries. Banking was a big, complicated business in the city, and many kinds of money changed hands there. Each state, city, bank, and some companies issued their own currency, and English pounds, Mexican pesos, French francs and various other types of currency were exchanged. Hard cash was scarce and businessmen dealt primarily in promissory notes, which represented money. The city was also the headquarters for exiles and revolutionaries of all kinds, among whom were several hundred Spanish-Mexicans who plotted against Mexico. It became the center of various schemes and plans to help the Texans and also served as a base for financing and equipping the revolutionaries. The city was a center for social and fraternal militia groups in the South. These all-white organizations sported colorful uniforms and were required to quell riots and put down any slave uprisings.

Despite a Mexican law that forbade the sale of land to "foreigners," speculators advertised Texas lands for sale in Nacogdoches and New Orleans newspapers. Many southern families, tired of struggling to make a living from worn-out land, sold their land and moved to Texas where land was available and cheap. Many of them left the initials "G.T.T." on their doors or painted them on their wagons to let folks know they had "Gone To Texas." But when they crossed the Sabine, they crossed into a foreign country, where Spanish laws governed behavior and where a variety of hostile Indians constantly threatened the peace. One of the speculators for Texas land was WILLIAM FAIRFAX GRAY, who left his home in October 1835 to "seek out choice lands for his clients." He made notes and descriptions of his travels in his diary, "From Virginia to Texas." (See *Kinfolks*, Vol. 29 #1.)

In October 1835, *The Red River Herald* of Natchitoches published SAM HOUSTON's request for volunteers to come to Texas with "a rifle and a hundred rounds of ammunition" to help the Texans, promising a reward of "liberal grants of land." It was argued that Texas was actually a part of the Louisiana Purchase, based on French outposts established by St. DENIS in the 1700s. Still, the U. S decided not to interfere in what might be considered an internal problem and remained neutral, but investors and volunteers were at liberty to assist the Texans---and they did.

Two companies of the city's militia, about 120 men of the New Orleans "Greys," left to fight in the War for Texas Independence. One group was led by Captain ROBERT MORRIS, and the second by Captain THOMAS H. BREECE. They were called the "Greys" because they "ransacked the tailor's shops for grey clothing," the color best suited to the prairie to which they were going. The merchants of New Orleans provided arms, ammunition and equipment, while "express wagons" traveled all over the city collecting arms from citizens. Old veterans of the Battle of New Orleans reluctantly gave up their guns, swords, sabers, and assorted knives to help the Texans. Even after the "Greys" left, a steady stream of men volunteered to fight for Texas in return for land, but most of the bounty land was still in dispute because the borders had not yet clearly been defined, and the United States and Mexico claimed some of the same land.

On the Louisiana side of the Sabine River, Fort Jessup had been built near the present town of Many to deter attacks from the Spanish and from hostile Indians who crossed the river from Texas. Nearby Natchitoches was an important port-of-entry for cargo and immigrants passing to and from Texas, and the town became a rallying point for volunteers to go into Texas.

BREECE'S company of "Greys" went overland and arrived in Natchitoches on 20 October 1835, just ten days after they left New Orleans. They had to avoid the federal army post at Fort Jessup, where the soldiers might prevent them traveling on to Texas. They crossed the Sabine by ferry and headed on to Nacogdoches where they got horses and became a mounted unit.

Meanwhile, MORRIS' company of "Greys" traveled by sea from New Orleans to the Brazos River, and landed on the Gulf Coast on 25 October 1835. They marched to Victoria and arrived at San Antonio de Bexar on 21 November with three cannon and a large supply of arms and ammunition. BREECE's men were just a few days behind them. The Presidio (or fort) of San Antonio de Bexar was the last Mexican stronghold in Texas. Directly across the Rio Grande from it was the dilapidated, deserted Spanish mission of San Antonio de Valero, better known as "The Alamo." The Mexicans and Texans clashed. The Mexicans were forced to retreat across the river to San Antonio de Bexar, while the Texans moved into the Alamo and fortified it. The "Greys" were disappointed at the indecision and lack of discipline that plagued the Texas Army, as well as by the fact that many of the men were in desperate need of clothing and did not even have firearms. Several of the "Greys" were hurt or killed in the battle, and many of the original volunteers went home to take care of their families. Other men, thinking that the Mexican retreat was a final victory and that the war was over, left the army. But a company of Mobile "Greys," Tennessee riflemen, and an artillery company came to take their places.

BREECE returned to New Orleans to recruit more men, but there was trouble on another front, and volunteers were not as forthcoming. By mid-January, news reached the city that troops under Major FRANCIS DADE had been massacred in Florida by Seminoles. In response, General EDMUND PENDLETON GAINES, commander of the Western Military District, left for Florida with his 300 regular troops, reinforced by 700 Louisiana militiamen. The settlers in East Texas were also being threatened by the Indians. There were even rumors that Creek Indians planned to cross into Texas and ally themselves with the Mexicans. GAINES was then ordered to take his troops to the western boundaries of Texas to maintain order, but the orders arrived at New Orleans too late. GAINES was on his way to Florida and refused to return. Instead, with SMITH's Louisiana Volunteers, he marched to Tampa.

On 1 March 1836, at the Texas Constitutional Convention held at Washington-on-the-Brazos, the delegates declared Texas to be an independent and sovereign nation. But the fighting was far from over. General ANTONIO LOPEZ de SANTA ANNA was marshalling his forces to quell the Texas Rebellion and would show no mercy. Many of the Mexicans in Texas joined SANTA ANNA's Army. The provisional government of Texas issued letters of marque to privateers to intercept shipping heading to Mexican ports, and established the Texas Navy which consisted of four armed schooners...the *Brutus*, *Independence*, *Invincible* and *Liberty*. Ironically, insurance companies in New Orleans insured Mexican ships and cargoes, so many Creole businessmen protested the arming of ships and sending aid to Texas.

In late February of 1836, SANTA ANNA's army surprised the Texas garrison at the Alamo. The desperate defenders needed help and reinforcements. Supplies and ammunition were running low. They sent an urgent request to Goliad (Fort Defiance), which was under the command of JAMES FANNIN. He had only 300 men, including two battalions of the Lafayette Guards (composed of some New Orleans "Greys"), a Georgia Battalion, little food, and a broken down

wagon against SANTA ANNA's thousands. Although HOUSTON ordered him to go, FANNIN thought that the operation would put his men in needless jeopardy, and decided to defend Goliad and not to relieve the Alamo. Many thought rivalry between HOUSTON and FANNIN was the real reason for his decision...and the fate of the men at the Alamo was sealed.

Besides the New Orleans "Greys" and the Lafayette Guards, Louisiana sent other men to help the Texans. Among them was ISAAC RYAN, a rifleman in Captain ROBERT WHITE'S infantry company, the Bexar Guards. RYAN was known to have taken part in the siege and battle of San Antonio de Bexar in December 1835, and then remained as a member of the Bexar Guards, part of the regular garrison. According to the RYAN family history, ISAAC RYAN was the son of Lake Charles' pioneer settlers, JACOB RYAN and MARIE HARGROVE. He was born 1 March 1805 at Perry's Bridge (in present-day Vermilion Parish). In 1817, young ISAAC moved to Calcasieu Parish with his family. He went to the Austin Colony in 1834, and is said to have made the journey to Texas on one of his father's schooners that was taking lumber to Galveston. ISAAC RYAN lost his life at the Alamo. A diary entry made on 28 March 1836 by his brother-in-law, THOMAS RIGMAIDEN, stated: "Heard of the total defeat of the American troops in the Fort at San Antonia [sic] by SANTA ANNA. Stopped all night at Mr. RYAN's." On a bronze plaque just inside the Alamo, ISAAC RYAN's name appears with the others who lost their lives defending the fort. His name also can be found on a memorial brick at Veterans' Memorial Park on the lakefront in Lake Charles, not far from the site of old Cantonment Atkinson. For his service at the Alamo, in 1850, ISAAC RYAN's heirs received (1) a warrant for 1920 acres in Palo Pinto City, Patented to the heirs in 1851 (Pat. 37, Abst. 742, GLO File 642) and (2) Donation certificate 232 for 640 acres, also in Palo Pinto City, claimed by heirs in 1851 (Pat. 373, Vol. 1, Abst. 387, GLO File, Military Donations 653).

The besieged defenders of the Alamo held out for thirteen long days, but on 6 March 1836, SANTA ANNA's troops overcame the outnumbered defenders. About 200 men were killed in the Alamo and their bodies burned. Among them were about 25 of BREECE's Louisiana "Greys," nearly half of the original company. The only flag known to have flown over the Alamo, the flag of the New Orleans "Greys," is still in existence. After the battle, SANTA ANNA sent this flag to Mexico City to prove that the Texans were receiving aid from the United States. The guidon on the flag, which is housed in a museum in Mexico City, was inscribed "First Co. of Texas Volunteers from New Orleans." The brave defenders of the Alamo did their duty well. SANTA ANNA lost about 500-600 men, about one-third of his force in the battle. The battle at the Alamo bought time for the Texans to gather their forces and is remembered in song and legend.

After the Alamo, SANTA ANNA turned his attention to Goliad (Fort Defiance). Outnumbered and surrounded by the Mexican army and their Indian sharpshooters, the small Texas force was persuaded to surrender. Among the men at Goliad were some "Louisiana Greys" and the "Alabama Red Rovers." The prisoners were marched off and then were shot; the Mexicans spared no prisoners. Most of the New Orleans "Greys" were killed either at the Alamo or at Goliad. The slaughters at the Alamo and Goliad enraged the Texans and increased the sympathy of the United States, but the sacrifices had bought precious time. On 20 April 1836, near the San Jacinto River the Texans and Mexicans clashed once more. This time the Texans won the battle

and took SANTA ANNA prisoner, while capturing or killing most all of his force. Several New Orleans "Greys" took part in this battle.

Many wanted to execute the Mexican general, but HOUSTON knew he was more valuable alive, and sent him to President JACKSON to acknowledge Texas independence. JACKSON was reluctant to recognize Texas independence since it might complicate relations with Mexico. SANTA ANNA traveled to New Orleans by way of the Opelousas Road, and then went on to Natchez. In November 1836, on their way to Washington, D.C., three Texans guarding SANTA ANNA and his aide, JUAN N. ALMONTE, rode into southwest Louisiana and spent the night at Cantonment Atkinson, a small fort located on the banks of Lake Charles. This fort later became the home of THOMAS BILBO.

About the time the battle of San Jacinto was taking place, GAINES returned from Florida and left immediately for Natchitoches. Reports of Indian incursions continued to pour in, and there were even more reports of Indians harassing several hundred Texas women and children from the Nacogdoches area who were fleeing to safety across the Sabine into Louisiana during the "Runaway Scrape." (See *Kinfolks*, Vol. 29 #1.) The Mexicans were inciting the Caddoes of eastern Texas, and requests were made for help to the governors of Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Alabama. Over 1,000 Sauk (Sac) and Fox warriors had gathered, and the Texans feared a spring attack, for like all cavalry units, the Indians would postpone their attacks until the "prairie grasses would be sufficient to sustain the horses." There were reports that "Caddoes, Shawnees, Delawares, Kickapoos, Cherokees and Creeks and other renegade Indians from the United States" were gathering at the Trinity River in Texas. When the Mexicans were defeated at San Jacinto, the tribes went back to their old ways and were no longer a threat to the Texans.

For the next ten years, Texas presented problems. Although she applied for statehood, her request was denied. Some opposed the admission because they feared a war with Mexico if Texas became a state; some believed that the President and Congress had no constitutional right to annex a foreign state by treaty. The abolitionists and free-soil advocates were opposed to the admission of another slave state. Opposition was so strong that WILLIAM LLOYD proposed that the northern states secede if Texas were admitted to the Union.

The War for Texas Independence played an important part in the history of our country by opening the way for westward expansion. The rich cotton and grain lands and grazing lands beckoned to immigrants. The possibilities were endless...fur trade, mining, cattle raising, farming. But along with expansion came other problems; hostile Indians had to be conquered and another war with Mexico had to be won. It was an exciting time, full of possibilities for the daring or adventurous. Many of us had ancestors who contributed money, arms or sympathy to the cause of Texas Independence; some of our ancestors took part in the "Runaway Scrape" or fought off Mexicans or Indians. They all helped to make and change our history.

Sources: *American Press*, Lake Charles (3/24/1993; 4/27/2004)

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Texas Land Records

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**Unless you try to do something beyond what you have mastered,**

**You will never grow.**

**—Ralph Waldo Emerson**

## CANTONMENT ATKINSON

The site of the old Cantonment Atkinson on the northeastern shore of Lake Charles was once the location of an ancient Attakapas Indian village. Archaeological evidence has been found that Indians were living along Lake Charles as early as the time when Jesus lived. The first recorded evidence of European contact with the Lake Charles Attakapas Indians was in 1802, when a French expedition reported that the Attakapas in the village numbered about 180 people and were led by a former Jesuit priest. Other reports stated that the Indians lived in about 40 huts at the site. Excavations at the site began in 1974 and produced the remains of an early 18<sup>th</sup> century French gunlock and a flint-patch, as was used in flintlock guns. The remains of a 100-yard long trench were also found, along with Attakapas pottery shards, metal buttons from the soldiers and spikes and nails. Minor trade items were found, indicating that the Indians had traded and had other contacts with Europeans much earlier than the time when the first white settlers came to the area in the early 1800s. Although smallpox reportedly decimated the Attakapas after white settlers moved into the area, as late as 1909, several families of Attakapas were living along the shores of nearby Prien Lake.

In November 1829, Colonel JAMES B. MANY was sent to the shores of Lake Charles to establish a military cantonment or outpost on the northeast side of the lake where the Old Spanish Trail crossed the Calcasieu River. Known as "Camp Lake Charles" or the "Post at Calcasieu," it was manned by about 53 men of Company E of the 7<sup>th</sup> U. S. Infantry, a part of the force that was assigned to Fort Jessup. The primary task of the military force stationed there was to keep the Spanish out of this region of "No Man's Land," to suppress the activities of the many smugglers and pirates using the area waterways, to survey the area, and to stop illegal trade with Mexico. The fort, consisting of three structures, was named in honor of General HENRY ATKINSON, who commanded the western department at the time. A surveyor, JOHN DINSMORE, who was stationed at the post, produced a map of Lake Charles in 1830 that showed the exact location of the cantonment.

The fort, was rendered obsolete by the Treaty of 1819 that established borders between Spanish Texas and American territory, but the border was still subject to territorial disputes and smuggling to and from Mexico. The cantonment was abandoned about 1832 and its soldiers returned to Fort Jessup. The property was purchased by THOMAS BILBO and became the home of the BILBO family. It is said that the Mexican General, SANTA ANNA, was imprisoned for a short time in the old cantonment on his way to see President ANDREW JACKSON.

The BILBO property was bought by J. A. BEL. In a letter dated 23 January 1927, from Mrs. A. M. MAYO to Mrs. A. F. DAVIES, it was stated that the back part of the old BILBO house was made of logs. She wrote, "The old log house was there in 1865 when I came here, but was added to soon after. It was all torn away when J. A. BEL Lumber Co. purchased the old home place of Mrs. ELMIRA BILBO." A granite marker noting the cantonment's place in local history was created by the Daughters of the American Revolution. The site is registered by the Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission as the "Bel Site" and includes the ancient Attakapas villages, Cantonment Atkinson, the Bilbo residence and cemetery, and the Bel Lumber Company. Today much of the historic site is buried under the paving of an unused parking lot.

Several sources, including: *American Press* (7/2/2006)



## **MYTHS AND HISTORY**

**All our ancient history is no more than accepted fiction. Voltaire**

Myths, legends and folklore often have their basis in actual events that occurred in pre-historic times. Some of these events have been turned into legends, embroidered with gods and heroes, and are largely allegorical; some are cautionary tales, meant to warn of the dangers of greed and warfare or of the vulnerability of civilization. Still others are the results of ancient folk memories of dramatic or cataclysmic happenings handed down through generations, usually exaggerated and embellished, but with a grain of truth at their core. The events described in myths and legends have influenced the lives of many of our ancestors---phenomena that may have precipitated wars, caused mass migrations, or ended civilizations. Of all the many myths and legends, perhaps the greatest of all is the story of Atlantis, the fabled and mysterious land that disappeared into the sea and brought an end to a rich and highly developed civilization. However, now scientists are finding that PLATO's Atlantis, like HOMER's Troy, were actually real places that had such a tragic finale that they impacted the ancient world.

For over 3,000 years the disappearance of Atlantis has mystified and tantalized imaginations. Many theories have been advanced as to the location of the lost island. All have plausible reasons for locating Atlantis in various places---in the North Sea off Norway, off the coast of Spain, in the Atlantic, in the Bahamas, in South America, in the Indian Ocean. However, the most probable explanation of all is that Atlantis was actually Thera, an island in the Aegean Sea south of mainland Greece, between Crete and Turkey. Thera was the western outpost of the highly developed Minoan civilization whose headquarters was Crete. The island was originally known as Kalliste, meaning "the most beautiful;" but in time its name was changed to Thera, which meant "fear." An island that literally blew apart and caused great catastrophe hundreds of miles away was truly a reason for fear. In 1939, the foremost Greek archaeologist, Dr. SPYRIDON MARTINATOS, stated that in "all the many earthquakes known to us, there has never been such a widespread destruction" as that of the eruption of Thera, which was the greatest natural disaster known in historic times. The island is now known as Santorini.

The account of Atlantis was written by the Greek philosopher PLATO about 350 B. C. His ancestor, SOLON, had been told the tale of Atlantis by Egyptian priests who said the account of the catastrophe was written in their ancient sacred records. The story was then passed on, and perhaps exaggerated, from one generation to another. PLATO described the lost Atlantis as a large land mass, which some people interpreted as a continent, but his description of the land and its demise fits perfectly with the volcanic eruption on Thera in the Bronze Age. Furthermore, the Mediterranean, which comprised all the known world in PLATO's time, was not large enough to hold a continent, and oceanographic data and other scientific studies in the Atlantic Ocean show no signs of an advanced civilization on a huge sunken land mass. PLATO mentions three great floods that accompanied the destruction of Atlantis, and tidal waves were known to have struck Thera, Crete and other areas. This fits with information known about volcanic eruptions blowing up an island; three great seismic waves were also known to have resulted from the volcanic eruption of the island Krakatoa (between Java and Sumatra) in 1883. The energy released at Krakatoa was estimated to be 430 times of that which was released by the Hydrogen Bomb, but the energy released by the volcanic eruption of Thera was four and a-half or five times as strong as that of Krakatoa! A cataclysmic disaster like the eruption of Thera would have left its imprint

in folklore and legend, and, indeed, accounts of a great flood are included in Greek and Babylonian myths, as well as in the Biblical story of the Great Flood told in *Exodus*. Some authorities believe that this Great Flood was a result of the eruption of the volcano at Thera.

To herald the volcanic blast at Thera, subterranean thunder had rumbled for months, alerting the superstitious Bronze Age people that some sort of catastrophe was approaching. Spectacular lightning bursts lit up the sky, and fire seemed to run along the ground. Great firebombs erupted from the crater of the volcano. The wrath of the gods was upon them! Did they heed the warning and flee from the island, or did they stay, praying for deliverance? If they fled to Crete, southern Turkey or other islands in the south Aegean Sea, they probably did not escape their fate.

Then a black death-cloud of super-heated, ash-laden air filled with sulphurous gases rained down from the skies, destroying everything in its path, turning day into darkest night. Dead birds fell from the starless skies. No one could see; no one could breathe; no one could survive the heat. Ash, rocks, and mud buried the towns and the island of Thera. Ashes and pumice quickly fell over the Aegean Islands, the Near East, and as far away as Nile delta in Egypt and the Sudan. Clouds of ashes and dirt blew over Syria and Iran, then spread to Asia. The eruption at Mt. St. Helens in 1980 proved that volcanic dust could travel faster over the earth and through the sky than a tidal wave could travel over water. There was no escape for those in Harm's Way.

Finally, in a night and a day the volcano at Thera collapsed into itself, creating an immense crater that filled rapidly with seawater. It also created a vast explosion, the loudest noise mankind had ever heard, shattering eardrums far, far away. The collapse of the volcano caused tremendous tidal waves that spread over 400 miles in every direction, flooding the coasts of Africa, the Levant and mainland Greece, where they spread as far inland as thirty miles. It took only minutes for the waves to reach northern Crete and Greece, where they destroyed most of the powerful Minoan navy, swept away villages and cities, and caused untold deaths. It is estimated that the tidal waves were as high as 200 feet in parts of Crete. Ash was found on Cypress 90 feet above sea level. Waterborne pumice was found on a nearby island at an elevation of 750 feet.

The ashy eruption from the volcano lasted for about thirty years and accumulated until Thera was buried in a layer of ash, seven to ten feet thick; in some areas it was as thick as thirty feet. The eruption of Thera was fifteen times as strong as that of Mt. Tambora in the Indian Ocean in 1815, which caused the "Year Without A summer" in 1816. (See *Kinfolks*, Vol. 21 #4.) Dust, ash, and mud laden with sulphur spread across the world, falling like acid rain, and killed crops, plants and trees. In turn, animals, deprived of food, sickened and died, and people, malnourished and sick from the affects of breathing pumice and silicone-laden air, also sickened and died. The destruction of Thera must have devastated many other civilizations around the world.

Shortly after the Thera catastrophe, the Minoan civilization, an advanced society of seafaring people, came to an abrupt end. Whether this was the result of earthquakes, an invasion, or the prolonged effects from the air pollution and other disasters caused by Thera is not yet known; the Minoans on Crete could not have been invaded had their navy not been destroyed or if their civilization had not been weakened by malnutrition or plague. It is an historical fact that soon after the Minoans disappeared, the Myceneans from mainland Greece migrated to Crete to begin their own civilization. Elsewhere, other changes were taking place. The Hittite Empire in Syria

(known as Kir in ancient times), perhaps weakened from the consequences of the Thera eruption, fell to invaders. The Philistines left Crete (called Caphtor in the Old Testament) and went into the Promised Land of Canaan. There they encountered and fought with some of the Hebrew tribes who had fled from Egypt. Could the modern troubles that exist between Palestine and Israel have their roots in ancient Thera?

Archaeology, volcanology, paleontology, oceanography, geology, Greek myths, classical literature, ancient history, and Biblical passages all help piece together the story of Thera's eruption and its profound affect on Bronze Age civilization. Scientists agree that the Exodus did really happen, and there were at least six influxes of Hebrews from Egypt. Some Biblical scholars and scientific experts believe that the plagues that visited Egypt took place about the time of Thera's eruption, and were the result of that cataclysmic event.

For example, when the Nile turned red, it may have been a consequence of the deposits of airborne or waterborne rose-colored pumice from Thera combined with gasses in the water. Hail, thunder and darkness also accompanied the volcanic eruption and were mentioned as Egypt's plagues. Mud containing phosphorescent particles rained down, causing weird lights to appear along the ground. Fish were killed by the polluted waters, but frogs could escape the water and came out in great numbers after pumice polluted the frogs' habitats. The destruction of crops from pumice and ash, as already described, led to the sickness and death of animals and humans. Some authorities believe that the destruction of the Pharaoh's army, which was chasing Moses and the Israelites, was caused by a tsunami resulting from the clashing of the European and African tectonic plates, which were a factor in the Thera eruption. Moses and his people crossed on patches of dry land when the waters of the Reed Sea (not the Red Sea, as had been misinterpreted) had receded before the tsunami, but the Egyptians were trapped when the wall of water rushed inland. The Reed Sea was a marshy lake-like area which died as a result of the Suez Canal having been built. One riddle of the most mysterious plague has recently been solved---the death of the oldest male in each Egyptian household. Recent excavations have proven that the oldest sons, the heirs of the household, slept in privileged spots---on low Egyptian beds---while the rest of the family slept where they could---on rooftops, on sleeping ledges, etc. When a cloud of volcanic gases spread its way across the land, only those who were sleeping in the lowest spots were killed. The Hebrews, who were celebrating the first Passover, were not asleep. The cloud, similar to that which killed sleeping people in the Cameroon in Africa after a volcanic eruption, dissipated as fast as it had come. People in the area affected by the Cameroon volcano were also afflicted with strange sores and blisters, just as the Bible described them.

Unknown to them, the people of Thera lived in the most dangerous place on earth at that time. Farmers worked the rich volcanic soil. Fishermen took riches from the sea; artisans, merchants and traders lived in the cities in three or four-storied apartment buildings, private homes and palaces. Each home had a bathroom with showers and a flushing toilet, an innovation that would not make its appearance again until the 1800s. Ceramic pipes brought hot and cold running water and took sewage out. The walls of their temples and houses were decorated with painted frescoes, which showed their hairstyles, clothing and lifestyles. The Therans wore gold jewelry, embroidered kilts, and rare perfumes, and carried fine bronze spears. They wrote in a style and language that has not yet been deciphered, but is known as Linear A. They had fine pottery,

decorated with labyrinths and bulls, symbols of the fabled Minoan Minotaur, a half-man, half-bull that lived in the heart of a labyrinth on Crete. Life on Thera matches PLATO's story, which tells of a lost land of sea people who drank from golden cups and worshipped a sacred bull. Archaeologists have found golden cups and evidence of the sacrifice of sacred bulls on the altars.

In 1862, when the Suez Canal was being built, pumice from Thera was being used to make strong underwater cement. Much to their surprise, pumice miners found evidence of a city buried beneath the old volcanic ash. A few excavations at Thera were made in the early 1900s, but archaeology did not begin seriously until the 1960s, after World War II and the Greek Civil War ended. Many artifacts and ruins have been found in the buried village of Akrotiri, but to date only one human skeleton has been located. It is estimated that it will take about 300 years to completely excavate the ruins at Thera. PLATO told of elephants on Atlantis, and paleontologists have recently discovered that pygmy elephants, no larger than a horse, had indeed lived on Thera until the early Minoans hunted them to extinction. What other mysteries might we discover or solve?

It is not known if most of the people fled from Thera before the island erupted, if they were swept out to sea, or if their bodies were literally vaporized by the intense heat from the collapsed volcano. The people of Thera and the Aegean made their living from the sea, fishing and trading, so they had plenty of ships. The Minoan navy was the greatest the ancient world had ever seen, with large triremes and spacious merchant vessels powered by sail and oars. Some of these seafarers undoubtedly fled to safer ground. Their descendants are said to be some Egyptian noblemen; the Atlantes, a tribe who made the Atlas mountains in North Africa their new home and later became the Moslem invaders of Spain; and the Phoenicians, who soon dominated the Mediterranean Sea and who established new colonies. But none matched the grandeur of their ancestors, the Minoans.

Although the legend of Atlantis is linked with the island of Thera, there are other islands that sank beneath the sea. Sudden natural disasters, such as tsunamis, earthquakes, landslides, floods, and volcanic eruptions, have destroyed many cities. They have taken a vast toll on human lives throughout time and have changed history. Slower natural forces, such as climate changes, the advance or retreat of glaciers, and changes in sea level or the direction of prevailing winds, have made certain lands either uninhabitable or highly desirable. Such natural events have caused large-scale migrations of animals and people, once again changing history.

There are many examples to illustrate disaster-connected migrations. About 2000 B. C., the sands of the Sahara Desert in North Africa began to encroach on the verdant fertile lands in present-day Libya and Tunisia, causing the people to move to the coastal regions or westward into Egypt. In 1775, a series of earthquakes and tidal surges struck Lisbon, Portugal and radiated throughout the Mediterranean. The blast was felt as far away as England. About 60,000 people lost their lives, and, looking for a scapegoat on which to blame the catastrophe, the people of Portugal chose the Jews. The result was a mass migration of Sephardic Jews into the American colonies, especially to Rhode Island, just before the Revolutionary War. The eruption of Mt. Tambora in 1815 that caused "The Year Without a Summer" also caused mass migration throughout northern New England, as well as in France, Germany and other parts of Europe.

Each catastrophic event caused thousands of lives to be lost and millions of other lives to be changed forever.

When the volcanic eruption of Thera occurred, it had a profound impact on the Bronze Age world and destroyed or influenced many of our ancient ancestors. It caused them to migrate to new lands, to learn new trades and skills, and to assimilate with other cultures. Like they usually do, people came back to rebuild on the ruins of the lost civilization, but the swallows, who were depicted in wall frescoes and had made the island their home, never returned to Thera, although they inhabit other nearby islands. The rich volcanic soil, the sea-green and turquoise waters of the harbor, the mild climate, and the ruins from a lost civilization make the island picturesque and attract tourists, but the volcano, which still erupts, looms over it all. An eruption as recent as 1956 caused a tsunami in the Aegean, and an earthquake in 1958 destroyed about half of the tourist village of Fira on the island. And a new volcano continues to grow.

We can never trace our roots to ancient Thera; we know not a single name. However, the explosion of that volcanic island greatly impacted many of our ancient ancestors and changed their lives. The search for Atlantis continues, and is remembered in imagination, literature, and in the name of the space shuttle Atlantis. If Thera had not erupted, much of our history would be different. At the Athens Museum is an ancient invention that might have changed the world had it not been lost. In a shipwreck that happened over 2,000 years ago, underwater archaeologists have discovered a strange gear-driven device known as the Antikythera. It was a Bronze Age, gear-driven analog computer, believed to have originated between the islands of Crete and Rhodes---about where Thera is located. This early computer may have completely changed the world's history. Who knows what other lost worlds have to teach us?

Sources: *Lost Worlds*, History Channel      *The Exodus Decoded*, The History Channel  
Mavor, James W. *Voyage to Atlantis*. NY: G. P. Putnam's Sons (1967)  
Charles Pellegrino. *Unearthing Atlantis*. NY: Random House (1991)

**FOOTNOTE OF HISTORY:** The pharaoh TUTHMOSIS III is regarded as the Egyptian ruler who sent the Israelites out of bondage. His stepmother and co-regent, HATSHEPSUT was buried with great honor and put a curse on anyone who defiled her tomb or attempted to remove it from the shores of the Nile. TUTHMOSIS, who had the golden sculpture of her face chiseled away to prevent her resurrection and had her name erased from all records and public monuments to obscure her memory. Apparently, TUTHMOSIS was the first to feel her wrath; his bad luck from the Thera ash precipitated the plagues, the freeing of the Hebrews, and the destruction of his army. A strange series of deaths accompanied the sarcophagus into modern times. When her tomb was discovered in 1910, anyone who had the least connection with the tomb or the sarcophagus of the queen was plagued with bad luck or died suddenly. HATSHEPSUT's sarcophagus found its way to England, and was later bought by the American Museum of Natural History in New York, but the queen's curse continued. The ship on which the sarcophagus was shipped was the ill-fated *Titanic*. Charles Pellegrino. *Unearthing Atlantis*

**MT. VESUVIUS** in Italy erupted in 79 A. D. and buried the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in several feet of ash. Elaborate mosaic floors, fresco-covered walls, fine pottery, intricate jewelry, and bodies of people appear as if they were turned to stone under the thick ashes. From these artifacts, we can learn how ancient people lived and worked. One of the most amazing items recovered from Herculaneum was a primitive printing press! Pellegrino. *Unearthing Atlantis*



## FERRIES OF OLD IMPERIAL CALCASIEU PARISH

Continued from Vol. 30 #3

Researched and written by Anna Marie Hayes (Member #260) & Betty Rosteet (Member #78)

### STEAM FERRIES

Steam ferryboats plied their way up and down the Calcasieu River and across Lake Charles. They carried the mail, freight, and passengers. They ran on regular schedules and had regular routes and destinations. Their captains were reliable and experienced, responsible for the safety of passengers and cargo of all types...lumber, food, livestock, and luxury items. These steam ferries were important to the commerce of the area and to the convenience of the travelers. They played an important part in the history and development of southwest Louisiana.

### THE RAMOS

The *Ramos*, probably the first power boat to cross Lake Charles, was a steam tug. It was the earliest steamboat to transport passengers, freight, and mail from Lake Charles to Leesburg (Cameron) and Calcasieu Pass, and back. The trip was scheduled for 12 hours, but the owners advertised that the trip "was usually much less." It made tri-weekly trips, leaving from Lake Charles at 7:00 A.M. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and making the return trip on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The boat had accommodations for 25 passengers. Although the date when the *Ramos* was built is unknown, according to an advertisement in the *Lake Charles Echo*, it was rebuilt, refitted, and put back into service in September 1882.

THOMAS RUEBEN REYNOLDS was the master of the *Ramos*. He was born in 1844 in Norfolk, Virginia, and moved with his parents to Quebec, Canada. His father was a merchant and ship owner. REYNOLDS went to the West Indies and then to Mobile before coming to Lake Charles, and regularly sailed between Mobile and New Orleans. In 1856, REYNOLDS married LORETTA B. CHAPMAN, who died in 1874. Of their seven children, FRED S. REYNOLDS was the only one named in THOMAS R. REYNOLDS' obituary in 1905. REYNOLDS married again in 1883, to IDA V. RALPH; they had no children. He was a member of the Episcopal Church and was active in the Masonic Lodge. He died at the age of 72 on 20 June 1905. His obituary can be found in the *Lake Charles American Press* for 22-23 November 1905. Sources: *Lake Charles Echo* (Sept. 1882); *American Press* (11/22-23/1905; 8/15/1965)

### HALL'S FERRY

On 27 April 1876, Captain GREEN (GREIN) HALL was allowed a "charter for a ferry across Lake Charles and the Calcasieu River, starting from the Public Square in the Town of Lake Charles, and landing on the west side of the Calcasieu between A. J. PERKINS' store and the railroad bed, for a period of five years," with the following rates of ferriage:

Footman - 15¢	Man & Horse - 25¢	One-horse vehicle - 50¢
Two-horse vehicle - 75¢		Ox-cart or four-horse wagon - \$1.00

GREEN HALL was born about 1834 "on the Teche" in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana. He was the son of JOHN HALL, a native of Ireland, who, according to PERRIN, "came to Louisiana when he was comparatively a young man, and followed the trade of blacksmith." JOHN HALL married in Louisiana, but the name of his wife is not known. When he was "but a boy," GREEN HALL's parents died, and he was reared and schooled in Hamilton, Louisiana. When he was

quite young HALL began steamboating, and for some time was captain of the steamboat, *Elephant*, on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

Then, before the War Between the States, he went to Texas where he engaged in steamboating on the Trinity River. He was there at the outbreak of the war and joined the Confederate Marine Department. He was made captain of a gunboat on the Calcasieu River, and as a Captain in the Confederate States Navy, served as a gunboat captain on every river west of the Mississippi that emptied into the Gulf of Mexico. He was at the Battle of Sabine Pass in 1863, and was in command of the *J. A. Bell* when that vessel was captured. PERRIN states, "Some of his expeditions were very daring, but nearly always successful." One of his most successful feats was when he and his crew, unprotected by any other Confederate boats, ran the Union blockade of the Calcasieu River with a cargo of cotton while fifteen Federal gunboats guarded the river. GREEN HALL was on the list of Federal prisoners-of-war taken at Indianola on 6 April 1864. He was detained at New Orleans and was paroled there on 4 January 1865. Captain GREEN HALL was one of the few veterans of the Confederate States Navy/Marines who resided in the Lake Charles area.

After the war HALL went to Matamoros, Mexico, for a short time. He returned to Lake Charles, where he married Miss ERNESTINE NETTLEROD, who was born in 1845 in Louisiana and died in 1876. In 1878, GREEN HALL wed Mrs. SOPHIE PITTS WINTERHALDER (WINTERHALER, WINTERHALTER) of New Orleans; a native of Copenhagen, Denmark, and widow of EMILE WINTERHALDER. She brought three children to the marriage... CHARLES H. (born June 1866), EMMA (born ca 1870), and LILY (born April 1872; married \_\_\_\_\_ MONROE). The couple became the parents of three children. One died young, but LUDIE WICKIE HALL (born October 1878) and MARY HALL (born 1881), the other children of his second marriage, were still living in 1891.

In addition to being a steamboat captain, HALL was engaged in the lumber business for many years, and, in 1875, opened the Lake Hotel in Lake Charles. Captain GREEN HALL died in Lake Charles on 18 November 1890 at the age of fifty-six. He was buried in Orange Grove Cemetery in Lake Charles. A United Confederate Veterans marker is at the foot of his grave. His tombstone says, "A Veteran of the CS Navy. He died as he lived, a pure and upright man." PERRIN states, "Though leaving a competency for his family, he was not considered wealthy."

On 6 June 1881, the charter and ferry privileges which had been granted to GREEN HALL for a steam ferry across Lake Charles to West Lake Charles and Bagdad, were transferred to E. H. NICHOLS for five years, with the same terms which had been given to HALL, and HALL's Ferry became NICHOLS' Ferry.

Sources: Various newspaper articles; 1880, 1900 & 1911 censuses; Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Minutes

Booth. *La. Confederate Soldiers & La. Confederate Commands*

Perrin. *Southwest Louisiana Biographical & Historical (1891)*

Rosteet & Miguez. *The Civil War Veterans of Old Imperial Calcasieu Parish, La. (1994)*

#### **NICHOLS' FERRY-Steamboat Nettie**

On 6 June 1881, the charter and privileges which had previously been granted to GREEN HALL to run a steam ferry across Lake Charles were transferred to EDWARD H. NICHOLS for the term of five years. This ferry was located at the site of the ferry originally run by HALL.

According to the Lake Charles *Echo* of 28 October 1881, the steam ferryboat *Nettie* with E. H. NICHOLS as its master, "was again put into service last Thursday after undergoing thorough repairs. She has been enlarged and nicely repainted, and is looking as neat and as prim as a new calico dress and is very acceptable to the traveling public. She has resumed her regular trips between Lake Charles, West Lake Charles and Bagdad." The *Echo* of 6 December 1884 advertised: "Steamer *Nettie*. Having again resumed the ferry business, is ready now, new and complete. Will safely carry you to and from West Lake Charles." The 1880 census shows that EDWARD H. NICHOLS, a sailor, was living in the household of ROBERT KING. He was born in New York about 1853. He died on 7 March 1882, when he was about 35 years of age, at the home of Capt. J. S. HAWKINS in Lake Charles. NICHOLS was buried in Orange Grove Cemetery in Lake Charles. Later, the *Nettie* "burned to the waters' edge and was never rebuilt." Sources: Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Minutes; Lake Charles *Echo* (10/28/1881, 4/8/1882, 12/5/1884)

#### **KAOUGH BROTHERS' FERRY-Steambot *Little Minnie***

The *Little Minnie*, owned and operated by the KAOUGH brothers, was a well-known steamboat that transported freight and passengers from Lake Charles for two years. It was succeeded by the *Evangeline*. Source: *Lake Charles American Press* (4/1916; 4/23/1967)

#### **W. S. CARY FERRY-Steambot *Evangeline***

According to a newspaper article, about 1881, the steamer, *Evangeline*, captained by Capt. W. S. CARY (CAREY), took passengers and freight between Lake Charles, West Lake Charles and Bagdad. On 22 January 1883 (or 1885), the Police Jury Minutes recorded that "the petition of the citizens of Lake Charles and vicinity asking the Police Jury to grant to W. S. CARY the exclusive privilege of a Ferry Charter across the waters of Lake Charles was received and read," and on motion, was laid over until the next meeting. There is no other mention of this ferry in the Minutes. The *Evangeline* ran until 1888, when she was replaced by the *Hazel*. There was no W. S. CARY in either the 1870 or the 1880 census for Calcasieu Parish.

Sources: Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Minutes; Lake Charles *American Press* (4/1/1916; 4/1/1940; 4/23/1967)

#### **THE GEORGIA**

The *Georgia* was a little clipper ship that plied between Lake Charles and Westlake at the same time as the *Evangeline*. It was known to be operating in 1887, and was commanded by an experienced old English yachtsman. It departed from CARY's wharf and landed at MEYER's wharf. Source: Vertical file

#### **ADOLPH W. WEHRT'S STEAMER-The *Hazel***

On 10 June 1888, the *Hazel* replaced the *Ramos*

The *Hazel*, built by O. A. HARMANSON in Lake Charles, was operated by Captain ADOLPH W. WEHRT, who resided in Westlake and named the steamboat for his daughter. The *Hazel*, the largest boat on the river, was a double-hulled craft, eighty-nine feet long, with a thirty-seven foot beam, built entirely of cypress. She had two lower cabins and a comfortable upper deck for passengers. Her maximum speed was eleven miles per hour and she was allowed to transport 300 passengers. She left the landing at the foot of Perkins Street in Westlake and, like many other vessels, docked at the foot of Pujo Street in Lake Charles, making regular trips across the river about every hour. The *Hazel* also made regular trips from Lake Charles upriver to Moss Bluff, hauling freight and passengers. An entry in MAUDE REID's Scrapbook for 4 July 1888, states, "Grand Excursion and Basket Picnic up the river on the steamer *Hazel*, given by the

Pelican-Babcock Hook and Ladder Company. The boat leaves the wharf at 8:30 A. M. and will stop at West Lake Charles, Bagdad, HUTCHINS' Mill and Goosport for passengers. Persons missing the 8:30 boat can catch the boat at HUTCHINS' Mill an hour later." An 1888 entry in the diary of nine-year-old NELLIE FISHER, the daughter of CHARLES WILLARD FISHER, reported "We drove our covered wagon onto a big steamer ferry named the *Hazel*, to cross the lake, which was three miles wide." The FISHER family came to Lake Charles from Illinois by covered wagon. It is believed that the FISHER family crossed the original West Fork Ferry and then crossed the lake on the *Hazel*.

An article in the Lake Charles *American*, dated 6 April 1896, tells of Vinton Colony's "fourth outing on Good Friday 1895," when 80 persons, old and young, "took passage on the steamer, *Hazel*, where all enjoyed a fine time and a good dinner." On their fifth outing at 9 o'clock Good Friday morning 1896, they "boarded the steamer *Hazel* at the foot of Pujo Street for Moss Bluff, laden with 120 souls, 60 of whom hailed from Vinton, Iowa, and the other 60 from the four corners of the earth. The boat arrived at Moss Bluff at 11 o'clock and preparations were made for a genuine feast and until 3:30 o'clock did the entire party enjoy the good things they prepared the previous day from the hands of the fair sex, some few indulging in fishing in the meantime. The boat then started on the return trip and landed at Lake Charles at 5:30 o'clock. A most delightful time was had by all present."

On 2 April 1902, an advertisement stated, "Ferry privileges on the Calcasieu River for sale by Police Jury for rights from HORTMAN's Ferry south to a point two miles south of the landing of the ferry now owned & controlled by A. W. WEHRT, on condition purchaser maintain two wharfs in good condition, no less than six trips a day on steam ferry, with life rafts and life preservers." Rates were set at 15 cents per person or 25 cents round trip; for horse & rider, 25 cents; for horse, buggy & driver, 50 cents; Team wagon (not to exceed 2 occupants), 75 cents; Merchandise, packages, bundles, etc. 10 cents per hundred pounds.

The *Hazel* was in one collision in her 28 year career on the Calcasieu River. She crashed with the *Romeo* in a fog. Neither boat was damaged, and no passengers were injured. The *Hazel* remained in service until bridges were built in 1916, making an estimated 225,000 times across the lake and carrying 2,500,000 passengers. She consumed 100,000 cords of pine wood, and her owners paid out more than \$300,000 in wages. The *Hazel* covered 450,000 miles---a distance about twenty times the earth's circumference. Then, about 10 April 1916, the *Hazel* made her last trip on the Calcasieu River. She was taken to Port Allen, Louisiana, with Captain WEHRT piloting the steamer, assisted by captains FRANK FORD and G. ED WEHRT. The *Hazel*, renamed the *Port Allen*, served for many years at the Baton Rouge-Port Allen crossing. She later sank about 200 feet north of her dock and was salvaged during low water on the Mississippi River.

The captain of the *Hazel*, ADOLPH W. WEHRT, was born 11 December 1842 at Cuxhaven, Hamburg, Germany. Young ADOLPH left Germany when BISMARCK began grabbing power, and landed at Mobile in February 1861, just before the outbreak of the War Between the States. He joined the Confederate cause, and, when Union Admiral FARRAGUT battered his way into Mobile Bay, WEHRT was operating a salt-making plant on Dauphine Island at the lower entrance to the bay. Salt, which was essential to the South, was obtained by boiling sea water in

open kettles, and sold for \$1.00 a pound, Confederate money. The plant was wrecked by the Federals, and WEHRT was captured and held prisoner at Ship's Island until the end of the war. He came to Calcasieu Parish in 1868, and "engaged in trade on the River and Gulf as Captain and owner of a schooner until 1871." From 1871 until 1876, he was manager of the log business for ALLEN J. PERKINS. He was also a former owner of the Bunker Hill rice plantation, which had a valuable irrigation canal. He sold the property to PERKINS & MILLER.

He married MARY HAYES RYAN, who was born about 1858. She was the daughter of MARTIN W. RYAN and CHRISTINA BAHNSEN. The couple had six children, among whom were a daughter, HAZEL (born about 1884 in Calcasieu Parish, La.; for whom the steam ferry was named) and two sons, GEORGE EDWARD (born 1 August 1877, Prien Lake, Lake Charles; died 22 August 1927; buried Self Cemetery, Leesville, La.; married ETHEL GANDY) and CHARLES J. The 1880 Calcasieu Parish census shows ADOLPH W WEHRT (age 38, clerk, born in Germany, both parents born in Germany). His wife was Mary (age 21, keeping house, born in Tennessee, father being born in England). Also included in the household were their son EDWARD G. (age 3) and ANNIE RYAN, a cousin (age 12, born in Tennessee, parents born in England).

MARY HAYES RYAN WEHRT died 15 August 1914. ADOLPH W. WEHRT, who is sometimes seen as "Fred," died Sunday, 4 September 1921 at Lake Charles. His obituary, given in the *Lake Charles Weekly American* of 9 September 1921, follows:

#### DEATH OF CAPTAIN WEHRT

Reclining peacefully in a chair on his porch, Captain ADOLPH W. WEHRT, Calcasieu pioneer, died suddenly Sunday morning at 7:20, passing away as he had so often expressed a wish to do.

ADOLPH WEHRT was born in Cuxhaven, Hamburg, Germany on 11 December 1842, and was the sixteenth child of a family of twenty-one, of which, a brother, JOHN, is the sole survivor. Born in Hamburg's port, Captain WEHRT was early attracted to a seafaring life, and went to sea at the age of 16. He came to the United States when BISMARCK took over the free cities of Germany, landing at Mobile February 18, 1861, and four days later, on Washington's birthday, announced his intention of becoming an American citizen and was issued his declaration papers, always to him a cherished possession.

Captain WEHRT enlisted in the Confederate Army, serving actively with the "Lost Cause" until he was taken prisoner at Ship Island, being released at the end of the war, after which he entered the Gulf Coast schooner trade and came to Lake Charles on his own vessel in June 1868, and located here. He soon afterwards became identified with ALLEN J. PERKINS in the merchandise and logging business at West Fork, and later was one of the organizers of the firm of LOCK, MOORE, and (M. W.) RYAN & WEHRT, in the operation of a sawmill at Lockport. In 1888, he withdrew from the lumber firm, put in a temporary shipyard at Westlake, and built the steamer *Hazel*, long a familiar sight as it ferried passengers from Lake Charles to Westlake. The *Hazel* was put into service in June 1888, and was operated by WEHRT until May 1916, when it was sold to ED WEHRT, Captain WEHRT retiring to his Westlake home until August 1918, when he moved to Lake Charles, where he has since resided. He was one of the organizers of the First National Bank and one of its early officers.

Captain WEHRT was married at Westlake November 2, 1876, to Miss MARY H. RYAN,



daughter of M. W. RYAN, and to this union were born six children, of whom two survive---G. ED WEHRT of Leesville and CHARLES J. WEHRT of this city. Mrs. WEHRT died in 1914. The funeral services were conducted Monday afternoon by Rev. THEO WEGENER, pastor of the Lutheran Church, of which the captain had long been a faithful member. Interment was in Graceland cemetery.

Sources: *Lake Charles American Press*, Special Edition (1895); *Weekly American* (9/9/1921)

*Lake Charles American Press* (9/18/1914; 4/1/1916; 4/1/1940; 8/15/1965; 4/23/1967)

*Maude Reid Scrapbooks*, #2, #3, & #6; 1889 census, Calcasieu Parish

Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Minutes; Vertical file on Seafarers at SW La. Genealogical & Historical Library

Rosteet & Miguez. *Civil War Veterans of Old Imperial Calcasieu Parish, La.*

*Kinfolks*, Vol. 29 #3

### **THE ROMEO**

The schooner *Romeo* was one of the ferries that plied the waters of the Calcasieu taking passengers, the mail and cargoes back and forth to Cameron. It was owned and captained by ANGUS BOUIE McCAIN and BEN MOSS, who later were associated with the *Borealis Rex*. The *Hazel* crashed into the *Romeo* in a fog, Source: *Lake Charles American Press* (4/1/1916; 4/23/1967)

### **STEAMER PHARR**

On Good Friday 1894, a group of people from the town of Vinton took an outing, which included a trip up the West Fork of the Calcasieu River on the Steamer *Pharr*.

Source: *Maude Reid Scrapbook* #6, "History of the Vinton Colony" by A. A. WENTZ

### **THE BOREALIS REX**

The *Borealis Rex*, which replaced the *Romeo* as the U. S. mail packet to Cameron, also transported freight and passengers from Lake Charles to Cameron for about 25 years. In 1902, ANGUS BOUIE McCAIN, THOMAS C. McCAIN, and J. STUART THOMPSON formed the Lake Charles and Cameron Transportation Company. In 1905, they bought a Mississippi River steamboat, the *Borealis Rex*, in Morgan City, Louisiana for \$14,000.00 and brought her to southwest Louisiana. The double-decked sternwheeler had been built as a light packet by the River Transportation Company in 1888 in Stillwater, Minnesota, to run from LaSalle to Peoria, Illinois. Later, she was brought south by the Natchez Cotton Seed Oil Company, and operated as a towboat on the Red and Black Rivers out of Natchez.

She was 22 feet wide and 121.5 feet long, had graceful lines and two tall smokestacks mounted above the second deck. Behind the smokestacks stood an ornate pilothouse with an eight-foot steering wheel. The two boilers were fed by pine knots. At the stern was a paddlewheel that was taller than the second deck. However, even the sturdiest riverboats were not built for rough seas, so the owners had the *Rex* towed from Morgan City through the Gulf of Mexico to the mouth of the Calcasieu River by the tugboat *Della*, which was owned by J. ALBERT BEL. From there Capt. BEN MOSS of the *Romeo* and his engineer, Mr. BLAISDELL, took the boat up the Calcasieu River into Lake Charles. Captain MOSS later fell off a tugboat in Port Arthur and drowned.

Shortly after her arrival, the *Rex* began her route on the Calcasieu River. She became an important link in commerce and transportation between Lake Charles and Cameron Parish. In those days, there were virtually no roads in Cameron Parish, and water transportation was most important. In addition to transporting passengers and the mail, the *Rex* carried a variety of

cargoes---timber, food, goods to stock stores, hardware, livestock, buggies, automobiles, and farm machinery to Cameron. She brought back Cameron's agricultural products and seafood---oranges, cotton, rice, vegetables, shrimp, oysters, fish, livestock and supplies of wild geese or ducks that had been killed in the marshes. The local hotels usually bought the wild birds. Her schedule never varied. She made tri-weekly trips to Cameron [Leesburg], leaving Lake Charles on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 7:00 A.M., and leaving from Cameron on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 7:00 A.M. The trip took 12 hours. On "Boat Day," the days when the *Rex* arrived at Cameron with mail, visitors, and fresh supplies for the stores, people from Cameron flocked to meet the boat. People from Lake Charles also "went to meet the *Rex*."

The *Rex* took passengers on excursions to Big Lake, Lake Arthur, or the Gulf of Mexico, sometimes carrying as many as 100 passengers. The *Rex* was used for every convention and tour that occurred in southwest Louisiana. Parties and other festivities were also held aboard the *Rex*. At Big Lake, passengers often got off at FEAGIN's Wharf at Big Lake to swim, fish or dance, but dance bands also played aboard the *Rex* at night or on the weekends. Accounts of various excursions were written in the society columns of the local newspapers. One of the accounts tells about a tarpon jumping onto the lower deck of the steamboat.

The top deck of the boat was for passengers, and there was a large room called the "Salon" where the people dined and danced. Delicious family-style meals could be purchased for fifty cents each. Kerosene and electric lights operated by a generator lit up the Salon and the covered upper deck where passengers could stroll about in all kinds of weather. Everyone looked forward to nocturnal river cruises on weekends during the warm months, and many a romance blossomed during the moonlight cruises on the river. Although there were other larger steamboats on the river, none could match the top speed of the *Rex*---13 knots per hour.

Shifting currents and strong winds, high and low tides, sandbars and mudflats, thunderstorms and even hurricanes were hazards on the river. In winter, sometimes the water near Hackberry got so low that the *Rex* had to anchor as much as 300 feet from the wharf, and the passengers had to be taken to shore in small boats. In the 1918 hurricane, the *Rex* was plying her way upriver with 40 passengers when she ran aground at King's Point on Prien Lake. The crew all helped the passengers to safety at GEORGE M. KING's summer home, but when the hurricane reversed its direction, the strong winds broke the boat's mooring lines and pushed it about a mile downstream where it turned on its side and was sunk by the ten-foot waves.

But this was not the end of the *Rex*! A few weeks later, with the help of divers and heavy equipment, the old steamboat was raised and repaired at the CLOONEY shipyards in Lake Charles. It took ten months and cost \$15,000 for repair and renovations. She was put back into service on 29 April 1919, larger and more beautiful than ever, when it was reported that the "kitchen on board the *Rex* is just about the completest thing of its kind to be seen outside a large city apartment house. There are 252 life preservers [on board], 12 for the crew and 240 for the passengers." The safety record of the old *Rex* can be attributed to Captains BEN MOSS, ANGUS B. McCAIN, TOM McCAIN, R. E. "NED" McCAIN, and JIM HANSON, who served as her pilots, and to other men who served on her crews.

A series of economic factors spelled the doom of the old *Rex*. In 1920 the Cameron mail contract was lost to a faster gasoline-powered boat. About 1930, roads were built across the marsh to Cameron, and there was no longer a need for the *Rex* to connect Lake Charles and Cameron. The *Rex* was too expensive to keep up, and about 1930-31, was moored and left to rot at her berth on the lakefront at the foot of Pujoe Street. By 1935 she was merely a hulk, but during World War II, the proud old steamship became useful once more. Her boilers and engines were taken for scrap metal to help the war effort. The planks and ribs of the old vessel, along with the remains of other sunken craft, were buried in tons of mud and sand that were used to fill in land for the Lake Charles Civic Center

ANGUS BOUIE McCAIN, captain and co-owner of the *Rex*, was born in 1861 in Washington Parish, Louisiana. He arrived in Lake Charles in 1885. On 1 February 1888, McCAIN married CORA PEAKE, only child of Captain GEORGE PEAKE and IRIS PITHON, and granddaughter of MICHEL PITHON. The McCAIN family lived with her parents in the old PITHON home on the lakefront. They had four sons---GEORGE (married MIMA HEBERT), EDWARD, KENNETH and MAXWELL McCAIN---and five daughters, Mrs. V. L. HENNINGTON, Mrs. LESTER MORRIS, Mrs. J. T. MAGEE, Mrs. W. H. CARNAHAN, and Mrs. CHARLES TERRY. In 1919, A. B. McCAIN retired from the *Rex* because of ill health, and his brother, THOMAS McCAIN, captained the boat until it was retired. ANGUS BOUIE McCAIN died in July 1936 (Obituary in *Lake Charles American Press* for 17 July 1936). CORA PEAKE McCAIN preceded her husband in death, dying in January 1933 (Obituary in the *American Press* of 27 January 1933).

The wheel from the old *Rex* can be seen at the Imperial Calcasieu Museum in Lake Charles. The bell was given by the McCAIN family to PETE HENRY, Jr. of Cameron and was installed on the top of the Wakefield Methodist Church in Cameron. Although the church was destroyed in 1957 by Hurricane Audrey and again by Hurricane Rita in 2005, the old bell survived. In October 1993, a "memory time" was held on the grounds of the Civic Center, near the old landing of the *Rex* at the foot of Pujoe Street. A memorial plaque was erected there to honor the legendary *Borealis Rex*. Along with the wheel and bell, pictures of passengers and the stories they told are all that remain of the old *Borealis Rex*, the steamboat that served southwest Louisiana so faithfully for two and a-half decades.

Sources: *Lake Charles American Press* (3/27/1988; 10/24/1993; 3/30/1998)  
*Kinfolks* Vol. 23 #2; Vol. 25 #2; Vol. 25 #4; *Maude Reid Scrapbooks*

(To be continued)

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**THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL** is one of the most interesting features of the early history of southwestern Louisiana. An old map made by engineers of the Surveyor General's Office in 1830 was the first "official" map of the region and showed the trail entering Calcasieu Parish from Jefferson Davis Parish about two miles northeast of Iowa, thence west. With a slight sweep to the north, it curves southward again and crosses English Bayou near Chloe. Passing directly through the village, it swings southward about three-quarters of a mile, and then goes in a straight line westward to the point where Ryan Street in Lake Charles now crosses the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks. At that point, a short spur went down to Cantonment Atkinson on the lake shore at the foot of Lawrence Street.

*American Press* (6/30/1931; reprinted in *Our Past* 6/30/2006)

## **JAMES HANSON, CALCASIEU RIVERBOAT CAPTAIN**

Researched and written by Anna Hayes (Member #260) and Betty Rosteet (Member #78)

Captain JAMES HANSON was one of the most skilled pilots on the Calcasieu River during the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. HANSON was born 28 March 1874 in Aalborg, Denmark. The names of his parents are not known, but according to the 1910 and 1920 censuses, both were born in Denmark. According to Mrs. LORENA HANSON BUCKLEY, the daughter of Captain JAMES HANSON, after the death of his father, the remaining members of the family...JAMES, his mother and brother...joined JAMES' sister, who was living in Galveston, Texas. Unfortunately, their names are unknown. Mrs. BUCKLEY said that her father was twenty-one years old at that time, and that shortly after the family arrived in Galveston, JAMES' brother contracted pneumonia and died.

JAMES HANSON had a desire to follow the profession of his late father and went to school in Galveston to become a riverboat pilot. He was assigned to a boat that traded between Galveston and Cameron, Louisiana. At Cameron he met the girl who would become his wife, MAGGIE MAE ROGERS, the daughter of MILFORD and LOUISA ROGERS. MAGGIE MAE was born 8 August 1882.

The ROGERS family consisted of six girls. MILFORD ROGERS, the father of the family, was born about 1840 in New York and was the lighthouse keeper at Calcasieu Pass, located by the jetties near the town of Cameron. LOUISA ROGERS, whose maiden name is not known, was born October 1846 in England. Mrs. BUCKLEY said that the ROGERS family had come to Cameron from Lafayette. The 1910 and 1920 censuses for Cameron Parish show that MILFORD ROGERS was a native of New Jersey and that his wife, LOUISA, had been born in England. The ROGERS Hotel was operated by a sister of MAGGIE MAE ROGERS HANSON. It was a plain, small wooden establishment containing ten modest rooms, and was used by traveling salesmen, sportsmen visiting the area and vacationers to the Gulf.

JAMES HANSON and MAGGIE MAE ROGERS were married in Cameron Parish on 23 October 1900. They became the parents of four girls, CECILIA, DOROTHY, LORENA, and GERTRUDE, all born in Cameron. CECILIA HANSON, who was born about 1903, married JOHN SELLS. DOROTHY HANSON, born about 1907, married GEORGE LANDRY. LORENA HANSON was born in 1910 and married FREEMAN C. BUCKLEY. GERTRUDE HANSON, born about 1915, married LESTER LANDRY.

JAMES HANSON became the pilot for the *Borealis Rex*, the famous steam paddle-wheeler that made regular trips up and down the Calcasieu River between Cameron and Lake Charles for twenty-five years. The pilot's job was not an easy one. He had to steer the boat around sandbars, mudflats and half-sunken logs that sometimes were hidden by lily pads and had to contend with shifting currents and bad weather which often brought gale-force winds.

Mrs. BUCKLEY told that when her father came home from Lake Charles, he brought his daughters dolls and other treats from the Kress' Store, which was located on Ryan Street. One of her favorite memories is the time when her father took her aboard the *Rex* on its trip from Cameron to Lake Charles. She had her own little cabin and bed. Passengers and crew ate in

shifts at a very long oilcloth-covered table, which was anchored in place so it would not move with the movement of the boat. Dishes and glassware were plain and utilitarian, and the food...lots of it...was served family style. ED BRADLEY was in charge of the concession stand on the *Rex*, and sold candy, tobacco and soft drinks. Buckets of sand were placed strategically around the deck in case of fire; fire on a steamboat was a constant possibility.

The highlight of the trip was when little LORENA was allowed to blow the whistle to alert the bridge-keeper that the *Rex* was coming. When the *Rex* left its landing in the bend of the lake near downtown Lake Charles, three rings of the big bell signaled for the drawbridge to be opened immediately. The bell was not operated by pulling a string, but by pressing a device with a foot, and LORENA did it! The old bell was put on the steeple of the Wakefield Methodist Church in Cameron, and survived Hurricane Rita in September 2005. STEED's Fish Market was located next to the *Rex*'s dock; both were about where the Civic Center is now located. The *Rex* had small cabins for crew and passengers, mainly equipped with a bed that was screwed down so it would not move. There were bathrooms on board.

In 1920, when LORENA was ten years old, Captain HANSON decided to move his family to Lake Charles, where he spent the weekends, so that the family could have more time together. They found a home at 719 Pine Street. LORENA and her sisters attended Second Ward, Central, and Lake Charles High Schools. They had previously attended school in Cameron, which LORENA said was a very good school.

There were no roads from Cameron to Lake Charles in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Transportation was by water, and the *Rex* served as a mail boat, a freight boat, and an excursion boat. According to Mrs. BUCKLEY, TOMMY BONSALL was the proud owner of the first car in Cameron, which was brought in by the *Rex*. During the Hurricane of 1918 that devastated southwest Louisiana with winds of 100 miles an hour or more, the *Rex* ran aground in Prien Lake. Captain HANSON and other crew members helped the forty passengers aboard the boat across the mud to safety. Ladies were encumbered by their voluminous skirts and petticoats, so it was no easy task. But that was not the end of the *Rex*. Like the legendary phoenix, she was raised and reconditioned.

By 1935, roads had been built linking Lake Charles to Cameron, and it was cheaper to ship freight and mail overland than by boat. The *Rex* lost the mail contract and the end of her river career was in sight. After the *Rex* was retired from service, Captain HANSON took a job as pilot with another company to take boats from Louisiana to Orange, Texas. JAMES HANSON never signed his name "HANSEN" except when he signed his daughters' report cards. He spoke Danish, but probably had no one who understood the language.

Captain JAMES HANSON died at Lake Charles on 25 July 1957. His obituary states:

"Captain JAMES HANSON, well known river navigator and pilot of the steamer *Rex* for the last 15 years, died at St. Patrick's sanitarium this morning at 3:10 o'clock after an illness of only two weeks. He had been seriously ill for about a week.

"Having been captain of boats plying between Cameron and Lake Charles for years, Capt. HANSON was perhaps as well acquainted with the Calcasieu as anyone. He had been a resident of Lake Charles for the last five years, and before that time he lived at Cameron. Capt.



HANSON was born in Denmark on 28 March 1874. He is survived by his widow and four daughters, Mrs. JOHN SELLS of Miami, Fla., Mrs. GEORGE LANDRY, and Misses LORENA and GERTRUDE HANSON, all of Lake Charles, and two grandchildren, WARREN HANSON SELLS and MIRIAM SELLS of Miami, Fla.

"Funeral services will be held from the late residence, 719 Pine Street, at 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. Rev. G. G. HINES, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church will officiate. Burial will be in Graceland Cemetery."

After his death, his widow took in sewing to help support the family. LORENA HANSON BUCKLEY said she delivered the garments her mother finished on her bicycle. The 1930 Calcasieu Parish census for Lake Charles shows MAGGIE HANSON, age 46, as head of the household, with daughters LORENA (age 19) and GERTRUDE (age 15) living in her household. Also living in the house were JOHN A. SELLS (son-in-law, age 39), CECELIA SELLS (daughter, age 27), WARREN SELLS (grandson, age 6), and MIRIAM SELLS (granddaughter, age 5). All members of the household were born in Louisiana.

MAGGIE MAE ROGERS HANSON died at the end of September 1964 at the age of 82. Her obituary follows:

"Funeral services for Mrs. MAGGIE MAE HANSON, 82, will be at 2 P. M. Friday in the BURKE-HAMMER Funeral Home chapel. The Rev. GEORGE POMEROY, pastor of University Methodist Church, will officiate. The Rev. JAMES STOVALL, pastor of University Methodist Church will assist. Burial will be in Graceland Cemetery.

"Mrs. HANSON died at 6:15 P. M. Wednesday in a local hospital. She was a native of Cameron Parish and had lived in Lake Charles 43 years. She resided at 719 Pine Street. She was the widow of JAMES HANSON, an early area resident who was captain of the old *Rex Borealis*, well known on Big Lake and the Calcasieu River. Survivors are four daughters, Mrs. JOHN A. SELLS, Mrs. GEORGE E. LANDRY, Mrs. LESTER LANDRY, and Mrs. F. C. BUCKLEY, all of Lake Charles; eight grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren."

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Although many men with the name of JAMES HANSON/HANSEN were found on Danish censuses, ships' passenger lists, and other records, they were either too young or too old, or were from the wrong section of the country. Further information on Mrs. BUCKLEY's father was not found in our research.]

Sources: Interview with Lorena Hanson Buckley (7/25/2006)

*Seafarers*, vertical file at Southwest La. Genealogical & Historical Library, Lake Charles

1880, 1910 & 1920 Cameron Parish censuses; 1930 Calcasieu Parish census

*Lake Charles American Press* (7/25/1927; 10/1/1964)

**DANISH EMIGRANT DATABASE ONLINE** at [www.emiarch.dk/home.php3](http://www.emiarch.dk/home.php3) includes private letters, manuscripts, diaries, biographies, newspaper clippings, photographs, etc. in both English and Danish. There are also emigration lists from 1869 to 1940. Prior to 1868, there were scandals where Danish officials took advantage of emigrants, so a law was passed requiring the Copenhagen's Chief of Police to monitor all emigration agents and to authorize all overseas tickets issued in Denmark. One set of ledgers contains information for emigrants traveling directly to the U. S.; a second set deals with those traveling indirectly from other European harbors to overseas destinations. There are 394,000 records in the database.

Source: RootsWeb Review (7 Dec. 2003) via News 'n Notes, Vol. 38 #7 (July 2006) St. Louis, MO Gen. Society

**ITEMS FROM THE LAKE CHARLES WEEKLY AMERICAN (12/16/1896)**  
Information gathered by MICK HENDRIX, Member #1296

President GROVER CLEVELAND submitted his annual message to Congress this week. The outlook of the lumber industry in southwest Louisiana was encouraging. Money circulated freely in Lake Charles and the times were good. The sawmills of Lake Charles had the capacity of producing three million feet of lumber each week. The work of melting and pumping sulfur at the mines twelve miles west of Lake Charles was going steadily forward. The deposit of sulfur in these mines was the largest ever discovered, and the new process of mining, invented by Mr. FRASCH, was proving a complete success. These mines can supply the markets of the world with sulfur. A new industry was started in southwest Louisiana...the planting of Havana tobacco for making cigars; E. HAMAND was instrumental in the experimental farming. While southwest Louisiana had moderate temperatures, a great blizzard had swept over the Dakotas and Minnesota, leaving drifts from five to six feet deep in the towns.

Visitors to the city included: Miss MAYME SILING, J. F. CLINE, S. P. PERRY, D. W. DONAHUE, JOHN E. JONES and S. P. HENRY of Cameron; ABEL WEST of Vincent Settlement; Mrs. S. J. FENTON of Fenton; O. H. JOHNSON and family of Evansville, Indiana; E. MILLS of Moss Bluff; C. A. LOWRY and J. McCORKLE of Lake Arthur; GEORGE W. LAW of Lockport; F. T. ROBERTSON and ED KARR of Beaumont. FRANK BENTON of Lafayette was visiting his sister, Mrs. F. J. ISERINGHAUSEN. Mr. and Mrs. C. P. GIBSON of Norwood Plantation visited Mr. and Mrs. W. E. LEE. W. E. CLINE, bookkeeper for the commissary for LEWIS & ROBERTSON, visited his family. HERBERT L. DAVIS of Jennings was in town, procuring a license to marry. J. E. STROHM, of Decatur, Illinois, departed over the Watkins line; he is a member of the largest real estate firm in central Illinois, and hopes to increase the immigration from central Illinois to "this good land." Visitors from New York, St. Louis, Chicago, Atlanta, Topeka and other locations registered at the Howard House and the Walker House.

Several residents traveled to other places. CHARLES CHAVANNE spent time in Rayne. C. A. McCOY went to Jennings and J. B. NELBERT of the Press Printing Office went to Woodlawn. Mr. and Mrs. G. A. CRAMER went to Westlake, and Mrs. C. H. WINTERHALTER went there to visit Mrs. A. B. GOSS. THOMAS LAMONT went to New Orleans. W. E. RAMSAY went to Michigan to spend the holidays with his family. F. J. ISERINGHAUSEN visited friends in Lafayette. WILLIS WEBER of the Palace Grocery made a trip to Iowa, driving his new horse. Mrs. JOHN WALKER returned from a visit with relatives in Oberlin. Mrs. C. MONGER and her mother, Mrs. SWEARENGEN, left for a visit with relatives in Orange and other Texas towns. LOUIS CRUIKSHANK, who has been an employee of the Watkins Banking Co. for two years, will leave for Portland, Oregon for a post in the Oregon Railway & Navigation Co.

Business news included the opening of a new grocery store by G. C. HASTINGS, just east of the Reynolds' House. Mr. MARTIN of the Milligan Grocery Co. returned from a business trip to Beaumont and Houston. JAMES WARNER, formerly of Austin, Texas, accepted a position as clerk in the Milligan-Martin Grocery Store. D. W. RYAN sold his grocery store in order to give his entire attention to the mill business. CHARLES BUNKER sold his interest in 38,495 acres of land in Calcasieu Parish to J. ALBERT BEL, who made a business trip to Houston.

CHESTER BROWN attended the Lumbermen's Convention at Houston. HARRY LAKE of the Westlake Rice Mill went to Nebraska on business. C. E. SPENCE was back from Alexandria, where he combined business and pleasure. The Misses CHITWOOD and WATSON have moved their dressmaking establishment into one of Mr. WHITE's houses. CLARENCE CORRELL was newly employed by Wells Fargo Express Co. to help in the holiday rush. THOMAS LAMONT, who was engaged in the steam dredging business on the Mermentau River and its tributaries, purchased or leased the dredges. The railroad, ferris wheel and merchandise in the north window of Mrs. J. MULLER's store are attracting attention. Mr. FAROUX sold the Lake House to Mrs. GREEN HALL.

A church conference was held with the following representatives: Methodist Church-Rev. L. A. REED, Bishop HENDRIX, W. H. LAPRADE; Baptist Church-H. R. SINGLETON, H. O. WHITE, E. N. EVANS; Presbyterian-C. W. CARTER, J. A. PARKER; Colored Methodist-Rev. R. M. BLOCKER of Jeanerette, A. W. TURNER. Others attending included: Rev. GEORGE JACKSON, Rev. J. HOFFHANIE, Mrs. RANDLE, N. S. CORNELL, Rev. F. N. PARKER, Rev. T. K. FAUNT LeROY, of Morgan City, formerly of this city; I. T. REAMS, Lafayette; H. ARMSTRONG of Opelousas; J. S. SANDERS, Plaquemine Brule; W. J. PORIER, Prudhomme; J. NOTESTINE, Crowley; S. B. BEALL, Abbeyville; J. M. PEARY, New Iberia; W. W. DRAKE, Franklin; R. J. HARP, Lake Charles; A. J. S. NEILL, Jackson Street; W. G. EVANS, Patterson; W. B. PILLEY, Grand Cheniere; S. S. HOGAN, Indian Bayou; R. P. HOWELL, Lake Arthur; O. B. STEWARD, French Mission; H. B. THOMSON, Westlake. Rev. T. J. UPTON will go to Zacherie, Rev. J. A. PARKER to West Alexandria and Rev. H. W. MAY to Shreveport. Since Rev. HARP was at conference, Rev. W. E. CLINE preached at the Southern Methodist Church. The Baptists gave a social at the home of Mr. WELCH. The ladies of the Christian Church planned a social at the home of J. C. RAMSAY. The Circle of King's Daughters will give an entertainment in the home of Mrs. CHESTER BROWN.

Lake Charles was growing. A number of new residences were going up in different parts of the city, and two grocery stores were starting up for business. N. MUDGEIS was finishing the inside of his house. JOE MOSS was erecting a nice cottage on South Ryan Street. Mrs. MARSH built a nice fence around her beautiful cottage on Kirkman Street, and THAD MAYO was improving the looks of his home on Hodges Street. Mr. GOUDEAU's handsome residence on the corner of Pujo and Hodges Streets was nearing completion and will be ready when he and his bride return from their wedding trip. Contractor BOAZ just completed a new barn for Attorney MILLER. Deputy Sheriff ANDRUS was also building a new barn.

E. MILLS, who lived five miles north of the town near Moss Bluff, had new Irish potatoes that were planted in the fall. The widow SUTHERLAND had 1,800 strawberry plants set on her rented place near the Catholic cemetery. An advertisement stated: "Three gardens all ready for work will be rented reasonably. Apply at once." A carload of fine horses arrived from Surprise, Nebraska, in care of H. J. CRAPPENHAUPT. The case of ENNIS BUXTON and DEMPSEY ASHWORTH for stealing hogs was up for trial.

On the sick list was Mrs. ADA PRICE; her daughter was teaching in her place. L. BERNARD and BERT BARNETT had recovered and "were on the streets again." Doctors A. N. PIERCE and M. F. HOWE advertised that they made "a specialty of the medical and surgical diseases of

women and children." JULES ANDRUS of Jennings, brother of the deputy sheriff MORGAN ANDRUS, died. S. R. WALKER, who shot Mr. KIRKMAN, was brought from Crowley where he had been confined since the shooting occurred. Mr. WALKER refused to say anything concerning the affair, but said that when the trial comes "he will come clear."

Mr. TUTTLE's face is all smiles since the arrival of his new bicycle; unless you are on a good wheel, "you are not in it." Several of our northern visitors, accompanied by some of our home people, went on a special dummy train to Bon Air and enjoyed a picnic together. A taffy pull for a number of young people was held at the home of Miss DAISY BAKER, three and a half miles south of town; Mr. REED's feed wagon had been secured to carry the jovial crowd to their destination on a moonlit night. The Lake Charles Business College was completed, with Prof. J. H. HENDRICKS as president. The following officers were elected by the Lake Charles Chapter No. 47 of the Royal Arch Masons: LEO SUGAR, I. REINAUER, WILLIAM MURRAY, A. RIGMAIDEN, SIM MARX, C. A. MCCOY, W. H. ALBERTSON, A. M. MAYO, D. M. FOSTER, W. S. WHITMAN and JOHN H. POE.

Marriage licenses were issued for the week ending 15 December 1896 for the following couples:

December 9- BENJAMIN BERTRARD and CORRINE L. BROUSSARD

December 10- DOCKA WITHERWAX and CLARINDA MILLER; PHILLIP BREAUX  
and JOSIE INEZ BURNETT; JARVEY HEBERT and ORTENCIE HEBERT;  
MALCOLM A. SHARP and SILOES D. DAVIS

December 14- BENJAMIN A. SELLERS and LOUVENA COOLEY

December 13- HEBERT L. DAVIS and MAUD MARIE EVERTS

A quiet but pretty wedding took place in the home of Mr. and Mrs. BURNETT last Thursday at 8:00. Father VAN de VAN united in marriage PHILLIP BREAUX and Miss JOSIE INEZ BURNETT. Many were the costly presents bestowed on this popular couple.

Runaways were a very scarce thing in Lake Charles, but in the vicinity of the new Episcopal Church, FRED JONES was driving a team that belonged to LOXLEY & MARTIN; as they passed over a culvert, the boards broke and frightened the horses. After running full speed for some distance, the wagon ran against an iron post, which caused the driver to loose his balance and fall across the wagon tongue. This frightened the horses more and one of them began to kick, hitting Mr. JONES on the back of his head. After being dragged for some distance, he slipped off the tongue, and the wheels ran over his body. On examination, it was found that the injuries were external; no bones were broken, but Mr. JONES was badly bruised.

New from the South Side, written by "One of Them," tells that T. C. McCAIN from Mermentau visited his brothers last week. Mrs. Charles FITZENREITER visited friends and relatives in Lockport, and Mr. SIMPSON of Lockport visited Mrs. FITZENREITER. Mr. SUDDUTH was building a fence around his new residence. Ex-district Attorney MILLER was building a barn on his lot, where he expected to "erect a handsome new residence in the near future."

A bit of humor appeared when the newspaper reported that the editor of a Western paper recently printed the following ambiguous announcement: "On account of lack of space, a number of deaths have been postponed."  
(continued next issue)

## **CITY DIRECTORIES**

These surveys give a record of every business place and house in a town. They give the name of the owners of the business and the street address for the business. For residences, names of the inhabitants and the address for the house are given, along with the occupation of the male head-of-household, and sometimes for all the working people in the household. You can see how long a family lived in a particular house and how long they stayed in the town. If you do not find the male in the city directory for the next period of time, but find his family there, you may assume that he died. This gives you a time period to check for obituaries, cemetery records, etc. If you do not find the family listed in the next city directory, you may assume they moved on. By checking these city directories and finding the part of town in which a family lived, you will find clues to their economic lifestyle.

### **CITY DIRECTORY LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA 1911-1912**

**Continued from Vol. 30 No. 3**

## **OFFICIAL DIRECTORY – MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION**

### **CHURCHES AND LODGES**

#### **CHURCHES**

**CHRISTIAN.** First Christian Church, Cor. Hodges and Kirby, Rev. WESTBROOK, pastor. Sunday school every Sunday, 9:45 a.m.; preaching at 21 a.m.[?] and 7:30 p.m.; prayer meeting every Wednesday at 8 p.m.

**BAPTIST.** First Baptist Church, Cor. Pujo and Hodges, Rev. H. H. SHELL, pastor. Sunday school every Sunday 9:45; services at 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. by the pastor; B. Y. P. U. every Sunday 6:30 p.m.; prayer meeting Wednesday evenings, 8 p.m.

Second Baptist, Cor. Cessford and Lyons, Goosport, Rev. S. O. OLIVIER, pastor. Sunday school every Sunday 9:30 a.m.; preaching at 11 a.m. and 7:45 p.m.

**EPISCOPAL.** Church of the Good Shepherd, Cor. Division and Kirkman, Rev. C. B. K. WEST, rector. Holy Communion, 7:45 a.m.; Sunday school 9:45 a.m.; services 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

**HEBREW.** Temple Sinai, Hodges, near Broad, Rabbi Dr. ZEISSLER. Sabbath school Saturdays, 9 a.m.; services, Friday 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 p.m.

**CONGREGATIONAL.** First Congregational Church, Cor. Ford and North,....., pastor. Sunday school every Sunday at 10 a.m.; preaching and services, 11 a.m. and 8 p.m.

**METHODIST.** First Methodist Church, Cor. Broad and Bilbo. Rev. H. WINANS DRAKE, pastor. Sunday school every Sunday 9:45 a.m.; preaching at 11 a.m. and 7:45 p.m.; Epworth league 6:45 p.m.; prayer meeting every Wednesday 7:45 p.m.

First M. E. Church, Cor. Pujo and Common, Rev. HENRY H. McCAIN, pastor. Sunday school every Sunday 9:45; preaching 11 a.m. and 8 p.m.; Epworth league, 7 p.m.; prayer meeting every Thursday 8 p.m.

**PRESBYTERIAN.** First Presbyterian Church, Cor. Broad and Ford, Rev. J. Y. ALLISON, pastor. Sunday school every Sunday 9:45; services 11 a.m. and 7:45 p.m.; Christian endeavor 7 p.m.

**LUTHERAN.** St. John's Lutheran Church, Ford Street, between Mill and Pine, Rev. K. TROUTMANN, pastor. Sunday school 10 a.m.; services 11 a.m. and 8 p.m.; prayer service Wednesdays 7:45.

**ROMAN CATHOLIC.** Church of the Immaculate Conception, Rev. Father H. CRAMERS, rector. Low mass 7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.; High mass 10 a.m.; benediction 4 p.m.

#### **FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**B. P. O. E.** Lake Charles Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, No. 435. Lodge and club rooms, cor. Broad and Hodges. R. L. KNOX, exalted ruler; GEO. D. NEELY, secretary; J. P. BARREMORE, treasurer. Meets second and fourth Thursdays in each month.

**B'NAI B'RITH.** Calcasieu Lodge, No. 506. A. LEVY, president; S. REINAUER, vice president; S. LEVY, secretary; SAM KAUFMAN, treasurer; A. BLUESTEIN, guard. Meets first and third Wednesdays, I. O. O. F. Hall.

**I. O. O. F.** Martha Rebekah Lodge, No. 11. Miss MAUD HEMENWAY, N. G.; A. E. SAYES, sec. Meets first and third Wednesdays, I. O. O. F. Hall.

Anchor Lodge, No. 59. SAN KINDER, N. G.; TITUS MILLER, sec. Meets every Friday night at POE'S Hall.

Centennial Encampment, No. 22. I. VANSCOY, C.P.; A. E. SAYERS, scribe. Meets every second and fourth Wednesdays at POE's Hall.

Lend-A-Hand Society of Martha Rebekah Lodge, No. 11. Mrs. IRENE SMITH, president; Mrs. EULA L. SAYERS, sec. Meets every second and fourth Wednesdays. Place at call of president.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS.** Calcasieu Council, No. 1207. Meets second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at American-Press Hall. T. C. PLAUCHE, G. K.; OTTO SCHINDLER, T.S.; J. E. QUINN, R.

**KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.** Peace Lodge, No. 43, W. F. DIETZ, C. C.; E. J. RUSILLON, K. of R and S.; O. McNEESE, M. of F. Meets every Monday night in K. of P. Hall, American-Press building.



**KNIGHTS AND LADIES OF HONOR.** Louisiana Lodge, No. 2289. T. F. BLAYLOCK, protector; J. W. MOLER, financial and recording secretary; A. E. FERREN, treasurer. Meets every second and fourth Mondays at POE's Hall.

**K. O. T. M.** Mt. Hope Tent, No. 1. J. F. REESE, Sr. K. COM.; J. H. HUSTON, R. K.

**MASONIC.** Lake Charles Lodge, No. 165, F. & A. M. H. K. RAMSEY, W. M.; ADOLPH MEYER, sec. Meets first and third Thursdays of each month at Masonic Temple.

Lake Charles Chapter, No. 47, R. A. M. E. F. GAYLE, E. H. P.; M. A. QUILTY, sec. Meets second and fourth Mondays of each month at Masonic Temple.

Calcasieu Council, R. & S. M. No. 19. R. KRAUSE, T. I. M.; L. C. CARTER, recorder. Meets third Monday in each month at Masonic Temple.

Malta Commandry, Knights Templar, No. 12. Meets first Monday of each month at Masonic Temple.

Ruth Chapter, No. 16, O. E. S. J. H. WIGZELL, W. P.; Mrs. GEO. KING, W. M.; Mrs. J. H. HOLLEMAN, A. M.; Mrs. SUSAN TUTTLE, treasurer, Mrs. ABBIE DODSON, secretary. Communications every second and fourth Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Masonic Temple.

**UNITED CONFEDERATE VETERANS.** Calcasieu Camp, No. 62. Meets first Monday in each month.

**UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY.** R. E. LEE Chapter, No. 305. Mrs. T. S. BENNETT, president; Mrs. J. R. GREEN, secretary. Meets second Thursday in each month.

**WOODMEN OF THE WORLD.** Louisiana Camp, No. 1. Meets second and fourth Thursday in each month at K. of P. lodge rooms. F. H. GREEN, C. C.; F. H. BEARDSLEY, clerk.

Goosport Camp, No. 234. Meets second and fourth Friday, W. O. W. Hall. H. L. BLACKWELL, C. C.; CLAUD COURTNEY, clerk.

**LABOR AND TRADES COUNCILS.** Lake Charles Typographical Union, No. 568. FRANK A. SMITH, president; ARTHUR T. HAYES, secretary. Meets first Sunday in each month at 2:30 p.m., POE's Hall:

#### **MILITARY**

Company K, Louisiana National Guard, meets every Tuesday night at Armory. Visitors cordially invited. Captain BRET W. EDDY, commanding.

First Regiment Band. Rehearsals Mondays and Thursdays at Armory, room 16, Kaufman building. HUGO H. SEE, chief musician; EDMUND H. SEE, leader.

#### **RAILROADS**

Kansas City Southern, depot Ryan and Lawrence. Commercial and city ticket office, Commercial building.

Missouri Pacific, (St. Louis, Watkins & Gulf) Offices, Majestic Hotel and Lake Charles National Bank building. Passenger depot, cor. Broad and Louisiana. Freight depot, Clarence and Ryan.

(continued next issue)

## LeBLEU CEMETERY

Location: I-10 east to Chloe/Cameron exit, go north, back over the interstate. Cross Contraband Bayou, then left on LeBleu Cemetery Road. Cemetery is at end of road. Land for LeBleu Cemetery was donated by ALEXISE JANISE on 1 Oct. 1860.

Cemetery was read on 25 March 1997 by MARGARET MOORE, Member #1066,  
and JAN CRAVEN, Member #1018

In some cases the headstone was no longer there or not readable. In those cases the information was taken from a previous reading in 1971 by the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society, Inc., with their permission. In recent burials, whose headstone had not been put up yet, the obituary from the *Lake Charles American Press*, our local newspaper, was used, with their permission. The *Lake Charles American Press* publishes the obituaries with the information given to them by the indicated funeral home and is no way responsible for misgiven information. There were 30 adult and 5 children graves that were unmarked.

Continued from Vol. 30 No. 3

LeBLEU, JULIA MAE, b. 10 May 1922, d. 15 Dec. 1990. Wife of THEO JOSEPH FONTENOT. Marriage date is 21 June 1940. Children listed on joint headstone were JOHN, JUDY, JANET, JOANN, LARRY & JOYCE. This record is also recorded under FONTENOT.

LeBLEU, JULIA ROBIRTHA, b. 26 Dec. 1909, d. 19 June 1910. Daughter of LOUIS O. & VALENTINE LeBLEU. Tombstone not found in 1997 reading.

LeBLEU, JULIUS, b. 9 July 1890, d. 20 Nov. 1922

LeBLEU, LEOLA, b. 11 Jan. 1923, d. no date. Married to HEBERT. This record is also recorded under HEBERT.

LeBLEU, LILLIAN, b. 6 Mar. 1917, d. 15 Jan. 1992. Married to MILLER. On the same slab with EUZEB MILLER. This record is also recorded under MILLER.

LeBLEU, LILLIE, b. 4 Sept. 1892, d. 27 Feb. 1963

LeBLEU, LORENA HAY, b. 30 July 1896, d. 17 May 1960

LeBLEU, LOUIS A., b. 2 Jan. 1893, d. 13 Jan. 1893. Son of JULIE & ARTEMESE LeBLEU.

LeBLEU, Mrs. LOUIS M., b. 19 Jan. 1935, d. 24 July 1966

LeBLEU, LOUIS O., b. 24 July 1869, d. 14 Dec. 1914

LeBLEU, LOVENIA, b. 4 Aug. 1894, d. 3 Mar. 1970

LeBLEU, LUCY, b. & d. 3 Apr. 1902

LeBLEU, LUCY, b. 16 Aug. 1876, d. 1902. Death date unreadable in 1997. The year listed here is from previous reading.

LeBLEU, LUCY MAE, b. 26 June 1903, d. 11 Oct. 1977. Wife of McCOY LeBLEU.

LeBLEU, M. F., b. 22 July 1851, d. 14 Feb. 1915. Aged 64 yrs. 8 mos. 22 days.

LeBLEU, MARGARET H., b. 2 Jan. 1907, d. 8 July 1979

LeBLEU, MARTIN, b. 4 Feb. 1894, d. 18 Mar. 1978

LeBLEU, MARTIN NORA, b. 6 Sep. 1882, d. 2 Apr. 1957

LeBLEU, MARTIN W. H., b. 21 Aug. 1879, d. 9 Apr. 1938. Age 59. Next to CLARA LeBLEU.

LeBLEU, MARY G., b. 23 Aug. 1883, d. 9 Feb. 1975

LeBLEU, MARY THERESA, b. & d. 4 Oct. 1958. Daughter of CLIFF & VIRGIE LeBLEU.

LeBLEU, MATHIEU 'Pete', b. 15 June 1926, d. 16 Sep. 1987. On the same slab with MILDRED K. WISE LeBLEU.

LeBLEU, MAUD P., b. 8 Oct. 1875, d. 11 Aug. 1953

LeBLEU, McCOY, b. 8 May 1898, d. 18 Apr. 1986. Husband of LUCY MAE LeBLEU.

LeBLEU, MERLIN H., b. 28 May 1853, d. 7 Apr. 1924. First name is very hard to read, could be MARSHAL.

LeBLEU, MILDRED K. WISE, b. 20 July 1924, d. 13 Apr. 1996. Born WISE. On the same slab with MATHIEU 'Pete' LeBLEU. This record is also recorded under WISE.

LeBLEU, MITCHELL, b. 16 Mar. 1876, d. 23 Jan. 1936

LeBLEU, MITCHELL L., b. no date, d. 18 Mar. 1997. *Lake Charles American Press* wrote:  
 Funeral service for MITCHELL L. LeBLEU, 76, of LeBLEU Settlement will be at 11:30 a.m., Friday, March 21, in Johnson Funeral Home. The Rev. DANNY TORRES will officiate. Burial will be in LeBLEU Cemetery in Chloe. Visitation is from 1-10 p.m.; and from 8 a.m. Friday in the funeral home. Mr. LeBLEU died at 6:51 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, 1997, in a Lake Charles hospital. A lifelong resident of LeBLEU Settlement and an Army veteran of World War II, he was a lifetime member of VFW Post 2130, a member of Painters Local 783, and a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church. Survivors are two sons, PHILLIP D. and MITCHELL L. LeBLEU Jr., both of LeBLEU Settlement; two daughters JUANITA LeBLEU and THERESA BROWN, both of LeBLEU Settlement; two brothers, FREDERICK LeBLEU of LeBLEU Settlement and CURTIS JOHN LeBLEU of Sulphur; four sisters MARSLIETTE FONTENOT, VIOLA VIDRINE, OLA OGEA and BERTHA HAMMOND, all of LeBLEU Settlement; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

LeBLEU, MITCHELL LONZA, Sr., b. 18 Feb. 1921, d. Mar. 1997

LeBLEU, MITCHELL SILTON, b. 24 Jan. 1909, d. 26 Dec. 1995

LeBLEU, MOISE, b. 24 Feb. 1862, d. 29 Apr. 1938

LeBLEU, MOISE, Jr., b. 4 July 1887, d. 18 Jan. 1961. Next to EDNA GORE – headstones match.

LeBLEU, MONDAY, b. 16 Aug. 1875, d. 7 July 1929

LeBLEU, MORRIS, b. 29 June 1896, d. 9 Oct. 1908. Son of COLEMAN & GRACE LeBLEU.

LeBLEU, MURPHY, b. 2 July 1912, d. 20 Oct. 1927

LeBLEU, NARCESSE, b. 5 Apr. 1878, d. 29 July 1933

LeBLEU, NASON, b. 5 Oct. 1903, d. 11 July 1968. LA Pvt. Medical Dept. WWII

LeBLEU, NORMA LEE, b. 27 Oct. 1920, d. 26 Oct. 1995. Married to DRODDY. See NORMA LEE LeBLEU DRODDY.

LeBLEU, NORRIS J., b. 9 Jan. 1897, d. 14 Oct. 1987

LeBLEU, OLENA BREAUX, b. 15 May 1860, d. 3 Dec. 1922

LeBLEU, ORALENE, b. 7 Sep. 1882, d. 13 Oct. 1960. Headstone not found in 1997 reading.

LeBLEU, ORALENE, b. no date, d. 1901. Death date is only date. Age 60 years.

LeBLEU, ORENA SAUCIER, b. 9 Oct. 1916, d. 3 Mar. 1994. On the same slab with VERNON LESTER LeBLEU and ERVIN V. LeBLEU.

LeBLEU, ORETA P., b. 29 May 1901, d. 20 Nov. 1980. US Army WWII

LeBLEU, PAUL V., b. 19 Aug. 1919, d. 6 Oct. 1996. Next to ADA S. LeBLEU.

LeBLEU, PAULENE M., b. 23 Oct. 1868, d. 17 Sep. 1939

LeBLEU, PRUDENCE, b. 19 Aug. 1897, d. 21 Dec. 1962. On the same slab with JOSEPH L. LeBLEU.

LeBLEU, RAYMOND, b. 31 Dec. 1891, d. 16 Oct. 1918. Son of DESIRE & OLENA LeBLEU.  
 Young soldier was inscribed over the name. LA Pvt. Med. Dept.

LeBLEU, ROGER, b. 21 May 1870, d. 26 Sep. 1903. Headstone not found in 1997 reading.

LeBLEU, ROGER, b. 8 Jan. 1860, d. 8 Feb. 1936

LeBLEU, ROMEO, b. 1 Apr. 1851, d. 24 Oct. 1932

LeBLEU, Mrs. ROMEO, d. 16 Nov. 1900. Age 38 yrs.

LeBLEU, ROSE, b. 13 Mar. 1891, d. 12 Dec. 1965

LeBLEU, SALLY A., b. 21 Jan. 1915, d. 6 Oct. 1995. Wife of WESLEY J. LeBLEU, Sr.

LeBLEU, SHIRLEY, b. 8 Dec. 1903, d. 27 Aug. 1981

LeBLEU, SILTON F., b. 13 Sep. 1941, d. 5 Nov. 1988

LeBLEU, SKEEM M., b. 18 Sep. 1896, d. 8 Sep. 1960. LA Pfc Co B 28 Infantry WWI-SS-PH

LeBLEU, Unknown, b. no dates, d. no dates. Tombstone not found in the 1997 reading.

LeBLEU, Unknown, b. 15 Apr. 1868, d. 29 July 1933. Tombstone not found in the 1997 reading.

LeBLEU, V. C., b. 16 Aug. 1876, d. 1902. Tombstone not found in the 1997 reading.

LeBLEU, V. D., b. Mar. 1892, d. Aug. 1916. Age 26 years old.

LeBLEU, VALENTINE, b. 19 Apr. 1872, d. 12 Dec. 1953

LeBLEU, VERNON LESTER. b. 29 Aug. 1935, d. 29 Nov. 1935. Son of Mr. & Mrs. ERVIN V. LeBLEU. On the same slab with ORENA LeBLEU & ERVIN V. LeBLEU.

LeBLEU, VEVIA, b. 19 Apr. 1896, d. 6 Apr. 1954. Wife of GOLDMAN LeDOUX. This record also under LeDOUX.

LeBLEU, VIRGIE MAE JOHNSON, b. 26 Sep. 1932, d. 15 Sep. 1996. Born JOHNSON. Wife of JOSEPH CLIFTON LeBLEU. Children are MARY THERESA, LORI, DIANNA, & BARBARA were listed on joining headstone. Also recorded under JOHNSON.

LeBLEU, VIRGIE MAE JOHNSON, b. 27 May 1926, d. 19 Apr. 1992. This record is also recorded under JOHNSON.

LeBLEU, VIRGINIA, b. 22 Jan. 1906, d. 12 Jan. 1959

LeBLEU, VOLSAN, b. 8 Nov. 1878, d. 23 Dec. 1963

LeBLEU, WESLEY J., b. 25 July 1909, d. 14 Feb. 1986. Husband of SALLY A. LeBLEU.

LeBLEU, WILLETT, b. 24 Dec. 1891, d. 24 Dec. 1910. Son of Mrs. & ROGERS LeBLEU. Age 19 yrs.

LeBLUE, IRMA L., b. 24 Aug. 1928, d. 26 Aug. 1988. This record is also recorded under HOWARD. Next to J. P. HOWARD.

LeBRUN, JOSEPH, b. 31 July 1911, d. 31 Dec. 1995

LeDOUX, AGNES M., b. 9 Sep. 1890, d. 13 Jan. 1977. Next to SIMION MAYO LeDOUX.

LeDOUX, ANNIE MAE MORGAN, b. 8 June 1919, d. 22 Jan. 1984. This record also under MORGAN.

LeDOUX, ARMOS, b. no dates, d. no dates. Next to DAMOND LeDOUX.

LeDOUX, DAMON, b. no dates, d. no dates. Tombstone not found in 1997 reading.

LeDOUX, DAMOND, b. 1851, d. no dates. Next to ARMOS LeDOUX.

LeDOUX, JOSEPH GOLDMAN, b. 24 Aug. 1896, d. 14 Nov. 1978. US Army WWI

LeDOUX, LOUIS, b. 21 Mar. 1883, d. 9 Jan. 1970. On the same slab with ORLEAN LeDOUX.

LeDOUX, MAUDE LUCILLE, b. 25 Apr. 1922, d. 21 May 1924. Dau. of Mr. & Mrs. GOLDMAN LeDOUX.

LeDOUX, Mrs. GOLDMAN, b. no dates, d. 17 Sept. 1958

LeDOUX, ORLEAN, b. 18 Oct. 1893, d. 1 Apr. 1966. On the same slab with LOUIS LeDOUX.

LeDOUX, SIMEON MAYO, b. 16 Mar. 1885, d. 16 July 1934 (continued next issue)

## INFORMATION FROM EXCHANGES

**NINE MONTHS MEN AT PORT HUDSON: Did they Make A Difference?** In August of 1862, LINCOLN issued a call for more three-year volunteers and for 300,000 militiamen to serve for nine months, varying by state because of population and quota. The government paid a bounty of \$25 for nine-months men and \$100 for three-year volunteers. Local and state governments added what they could to the bounties; therefore, the enlistment money varied from state to state and from town to town, sometimes by as much as \$100. If men did not sign up for nine months, they could be drafted for thirteen months. The nine-months men were brought into the Union Army in the fall of 1862 and organized into regiments that served in various theaters of operation. There were twenty-one nine-months regiments in General NATHANIEL BANKS' forces when he came to Louisiana. Because most of the men who had come to Louisiana a year earlier with General BENJAMIN BUTLER had died of disease, had been wounded or killed, or had been discharged because of disabilities, BANKS' nine-months men made up about one-third of the Department of the Gulf.

Some of BANKS' men pushed Confederate General RICHARD TAYLOR and his troops up the Bayou Teche, through Vermilionville and past Alexandria, then descended the Red River and crossed the Mississippi near Bayou Sara. On 22 May 1863, BANKS' men met the 6,000 Confederate forces under General FRANKLIN GARDNER at Port Hudson, Louisiana. With the men he brought from Alexandria and replacements from Baton Rouge, BANKS forces numbered about 31,000 men, about a third of whom were nine-months men. Because of his superior numbers and the fact that the terms of many of the nine-month men were about to expire, BANKS ordered an all-out assault on Port Hudson, but the first and second assaults ended in disaster for the Union forces. Realizing that Port Hudson could not be taken by a frontal assault, BANKS ordered a siege. The sieges of Vicksburg and Port Hudson lasted longer than the Yankees expected. Vicksburg surrendered on 4 July 1863, and Port Hudson surrendered five days later. BANKS and other Union officers complained that the nine-months men did not fight as hard as they should have, but BANKS knew when they left the size of his army would decrease drastically. The nine-month soldiers sent to Louisiana were more likely to die in service than those stationed anywhere else. Surely their service made a difference, especially to the families who lost their men and to the men they fought against.

Hollandsworth. *Louisiana History*, Vol. XLIV #1 (Winter 2005), LA Historical Society, Lafayette, LA

**THE LINEAGES OF JOHN TIBEAUDO (THIBODEAU) and JOSEPH LeBLANC** are given in Burke's *Dictionary of Landed Gentry of Great Britain & Ireland*. Both men were Acadians. For more information on the Louisiana families that have royal lineages, including the LeBLANC family and their connection with royalty, visit [www.lalgenweb.org](http://www.lalgenweb.org). Then click on Iberville and go to 1883 Dickinson Survey. *Acadian Genealogy Exchange* Vol. XXXV #1 (May 2006)

### QUERY??? MOSS, HARMON, HAYES, LYONS

Need ancestry of both Dr. JAMES DILLARD MOSS and wife, MARTHA HARMON, parents of ABRAM HUGH MOSS. Am tracing descendants of the MOSS, HAYES, and LYONS families of southwest Louisiana. RICHARD D. CULBERTSON, 6428 Arthur Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76134 or e-mail [Rculbe6429@aol.com](mailto:Rculbe6429@aol.com)

**TIME TO RENEW YOUR SWLGS DUES!**

## THE TWELVE DAYS OF A GENEALOGY CHRISTMAS

On the twelfth day of Christmas,  
My true love gave to me,  
Twelve census searches,  
Eleven printer ribbons,  
Ten e-mail contacts,  
Nine headstone rubbings,  
Eight birth and death dates,  
Seven town clerks sighing,  
Six second cousins,  
Five coats of arms,  
Four GEDCOM files,  
Three old wills,  
Two CD-ROMS,  
And a branch in my family tree.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE!!

(Author Unknown)

\*\*\*\*\*

## RESOLUTIONS FOR A NEW YEAR

- AS I BEGIN** my research in genealogy I will try to get as much information as I can from my family and especially the oldest living members.
- AS I ASK** questions I will try to get complete dates, and especially references to places, so that I can confirm all information from original sources in city, county, or state archives, etc.
- AS I EXAMINE RECORDS** on microfilm or in the original books, I will be sure to read completely each document – then note when and where it was recorded.
- I WILL TRY** to be aware of the fact that while I know that the family surname has always been of the same spelling – other persons and the county recorder, might have spelled our name another way. Therefore in my searching I will check indexes and files for variable spellings and make notes accordingly.
- AFTER I HAVE PREPARED MYSELF** for a visit to a library, and especially a genealogical library, I will give the reference librarians the opportunity to assist me in my searching. I know that they are specialists in their field and their services will save me time and money.
- I WILL TRY** to remember that my correspondents in research can be most helpful, but, if they will, I will ask them for their sources of information that I might document my own records for all time.

Source: Mid-Cities Genealogical Society Newsletter, Bedford, TX via Everton's Genealogical Helper (Sept-Oct. 1997)



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### GRANDMA'S APRON SERVED IN MANY, MANY WAYS

The principle use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, but along with that, it served as a holder for removing hot pans from the oven:

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears.

From the chicken-coop the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

And when the weather was cold, Grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled I carried out the hulls. In the fall the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the tree.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that "old-time apron" that served so many purposes.

Remember this! "Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw."

*Cameron Pilot, 12/30/2004*



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